

ROBERT KIRKMAN • RYAN OTTLEY • CORY WALKER

INVINCIBLE™

COMPENDIUM THREE



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INVINCIBLE

COMPENDIUM THREE

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**RYAN
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[chapters 97-126, chapters
133-143, chapter 144 pgs 1-24]

inker

[chapters 107-108, chapter
116 pg 8 & 17, chapters 117-
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chapters 125-126, chapters
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chapter 140]
covers [97-144]

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[chapters 127-132, chapter
144 pgs 25-48]

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inker

[chapters 97-106, 109-
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[chapters 138-139,
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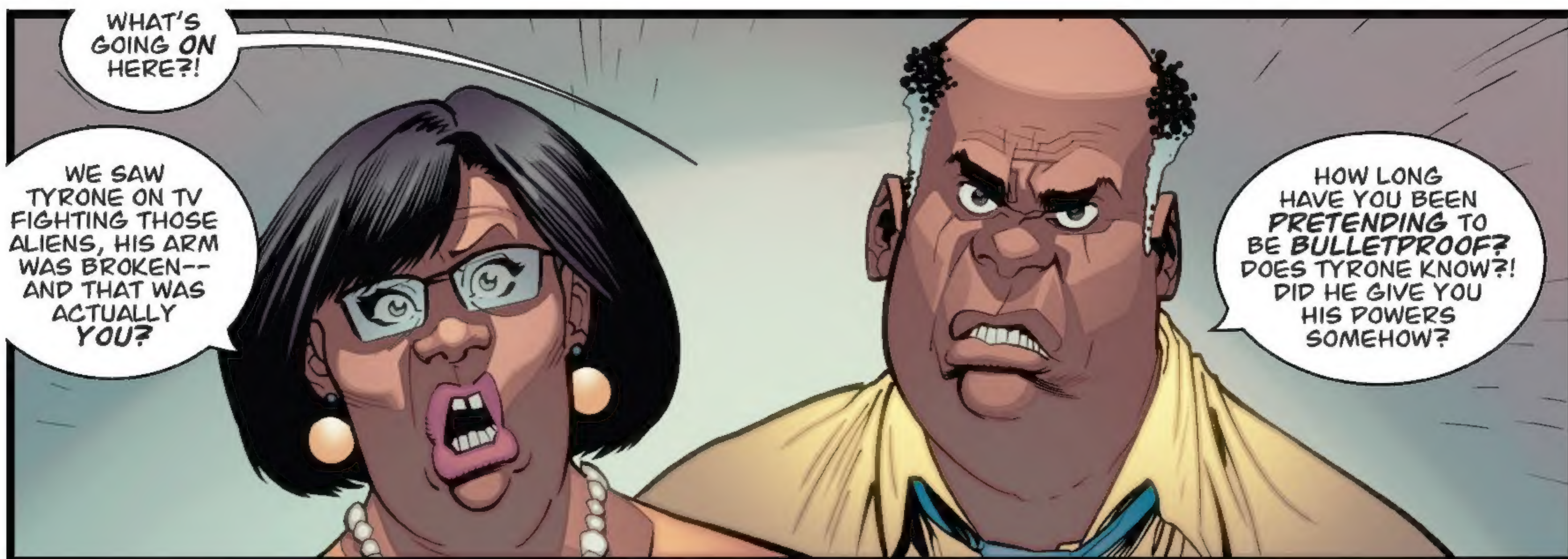
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CHAPTER 97



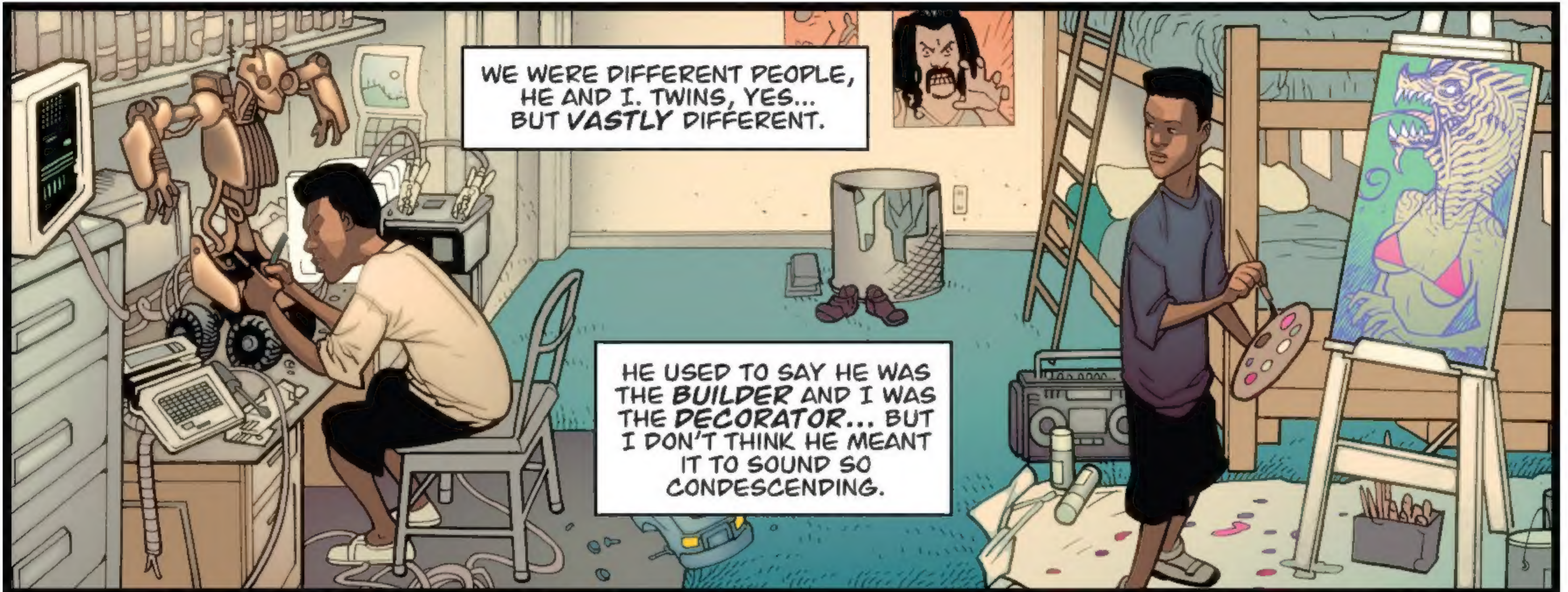
RYAN
RAUCH





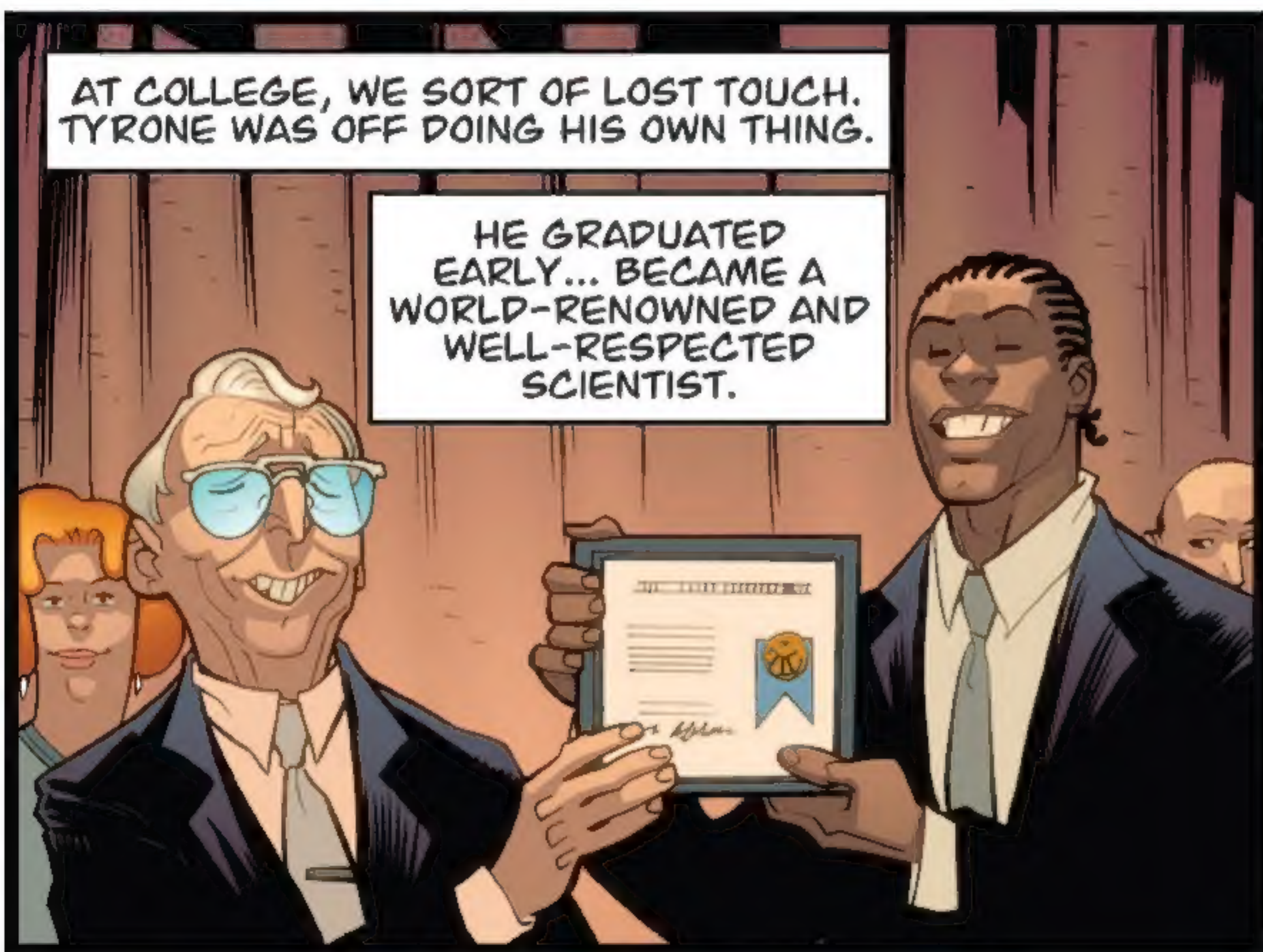
YOU GUYS HAVE NO IDEA HOW HARD IT WAS... GROWING UP IN TYRONE'S SHADOW.

HE WAS **BRILLIANT**... ALWAYS WAS. I DON'T DENY THAT.



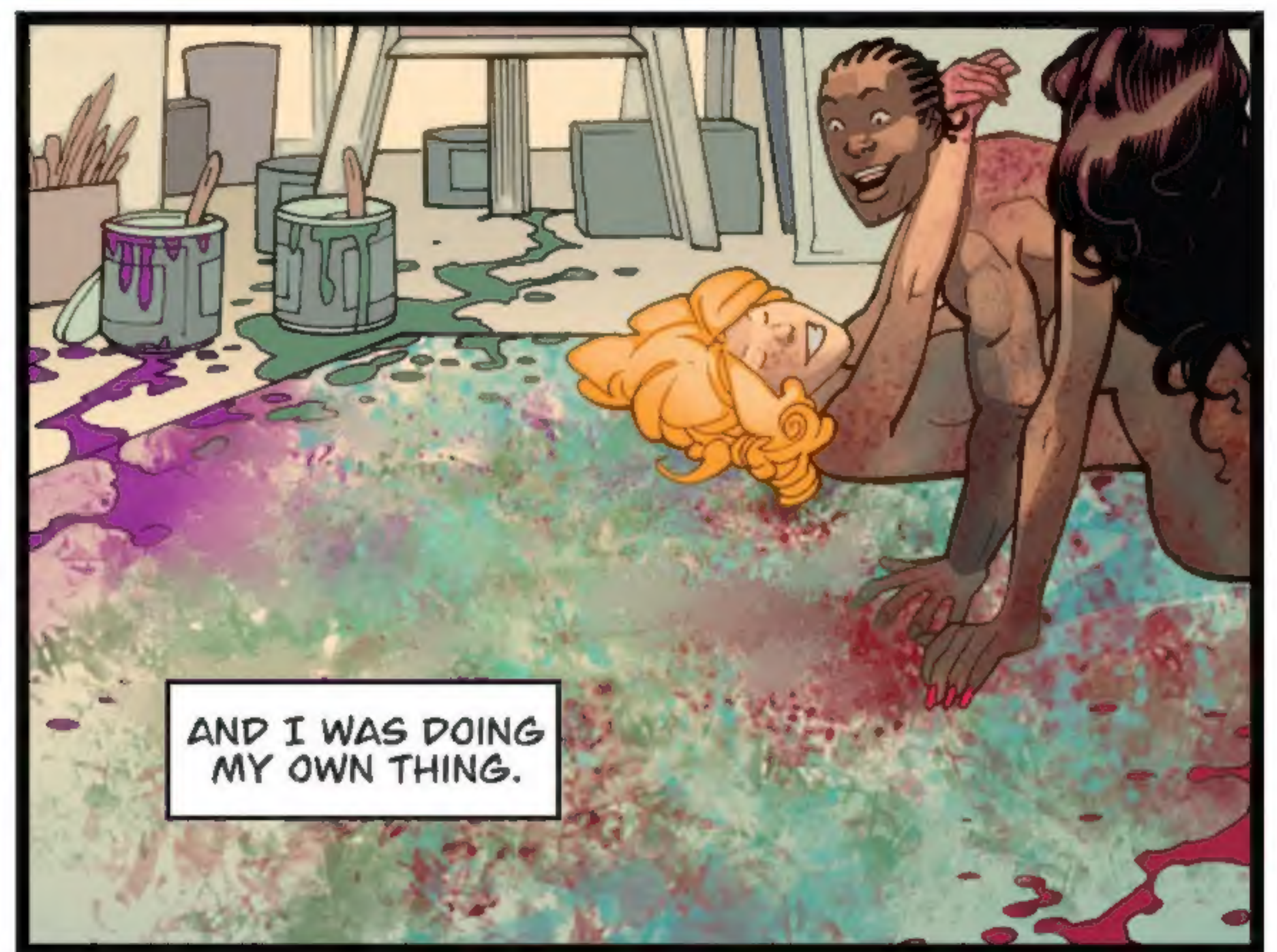
WE WERE DIFFERENT PEOPLE, HE AND I. TWINS, YES... BUT VASTLY DIFFERENT.

HE USED TO SAY HE WAS THE **BUILDER** AND I WAS THE **DECORATOR**... BUT I DON'T THINK HE MEANT IT TO SOUND SO CONDESCENDING.

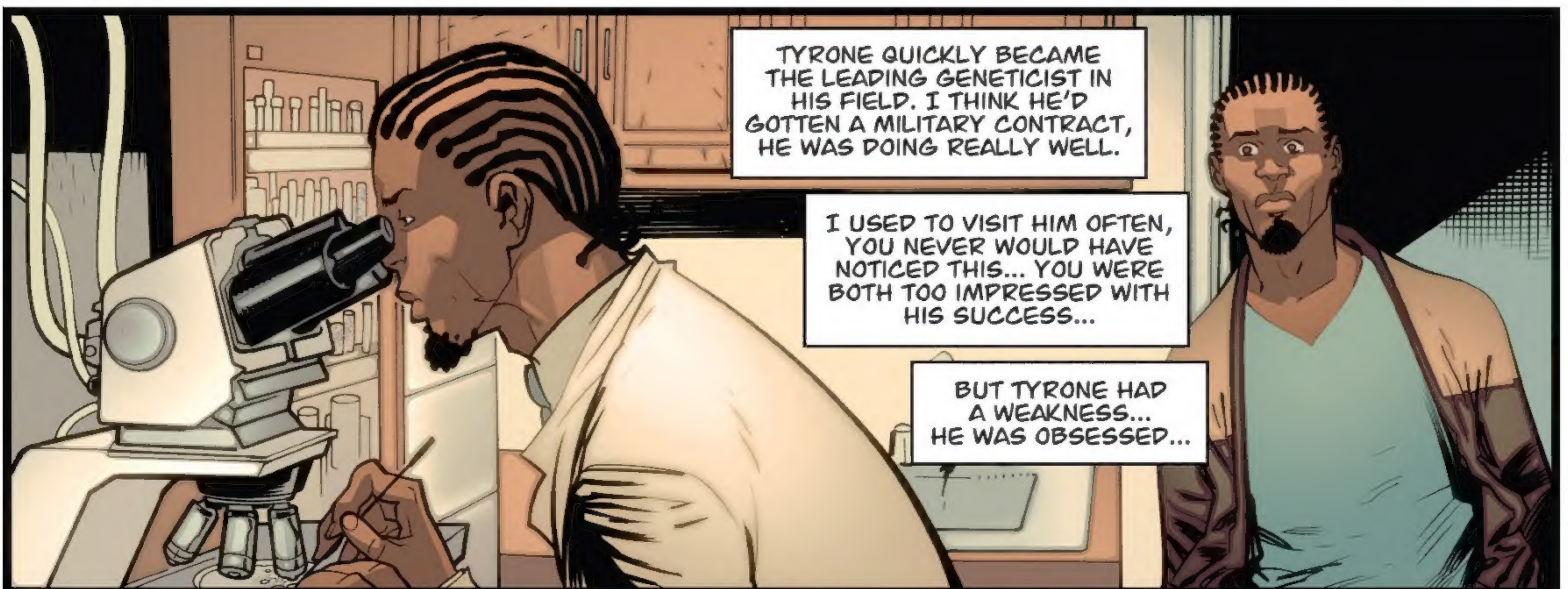


AT COLLEGE, WE SORT OF LOST TOUCH. TYRONE WAS OFF DOING HIS OWN THING.

HE GRADUATED EARLY... BECAME A WORLD-RENOVED AND WELL-RESPECTED SCIENTIST.



AND I WAS DOING MY OWN THING.



TYRONE QUICKLY BECAME THE LEADING GENETICIST IN HIS FIELD. I THINK HE'D GOTTEN A MILITARY CONTRACT, HE WAS DOING REALLY WELL.

I USED TO VISIT HIM OFTEN, YOU NEVER WOULD HAVE NOTICED THIS... YOU WERE BOTH TOO IMPRESSED WITH HIS SUCCESS...

BUT TYRONE HAD A WEAKNESS... HE WAS OBSESSED...



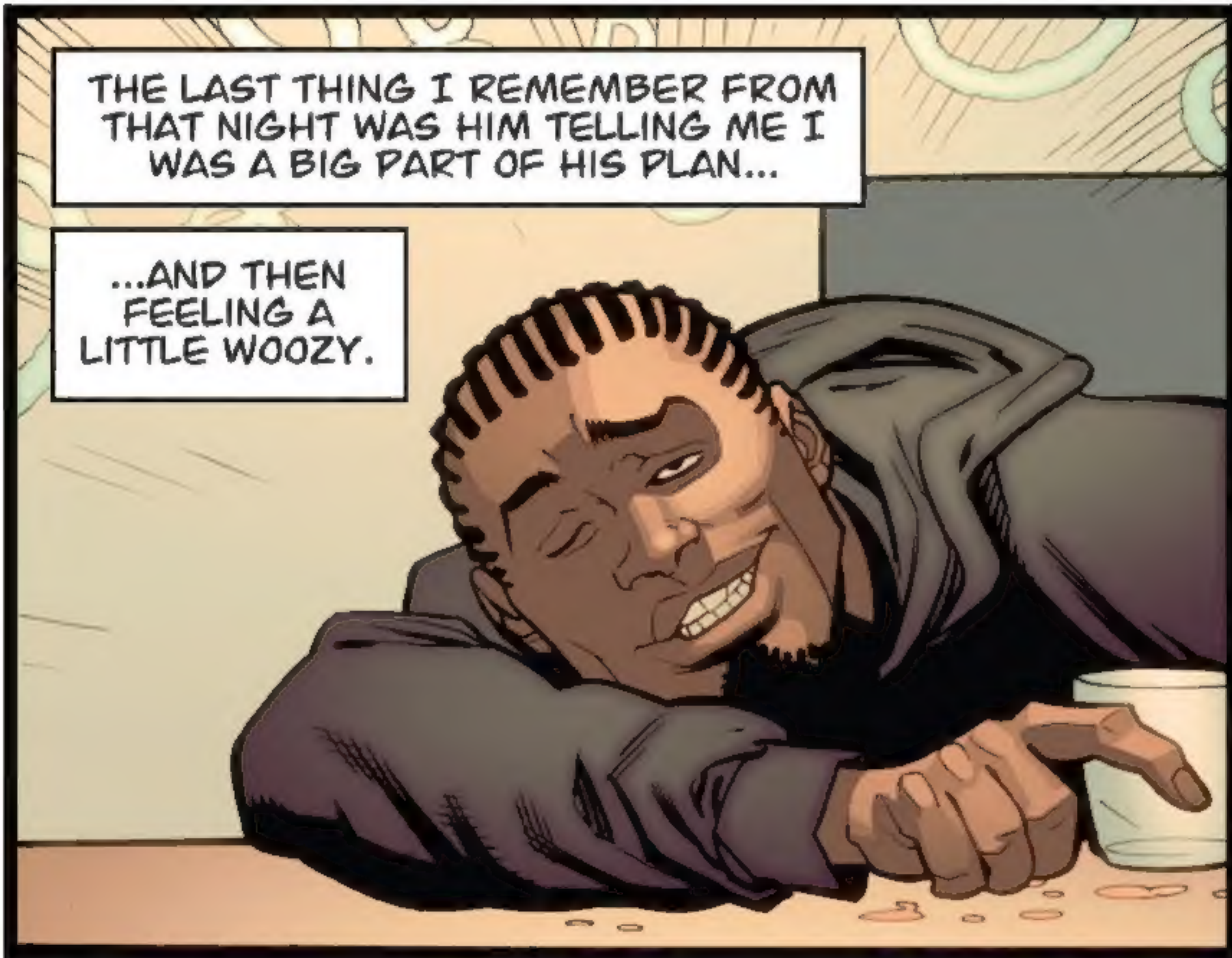
...WITH **SUPER POWERS**.

HE WAS SPENDING EVERY WAKING MOMENT STUDYING SUPER HEROES AND VILLAINS, TRYING TO DETERMINE THE SOURCE OF THEIR POWERS, SO THAT HE COULD RECREATE THEM.



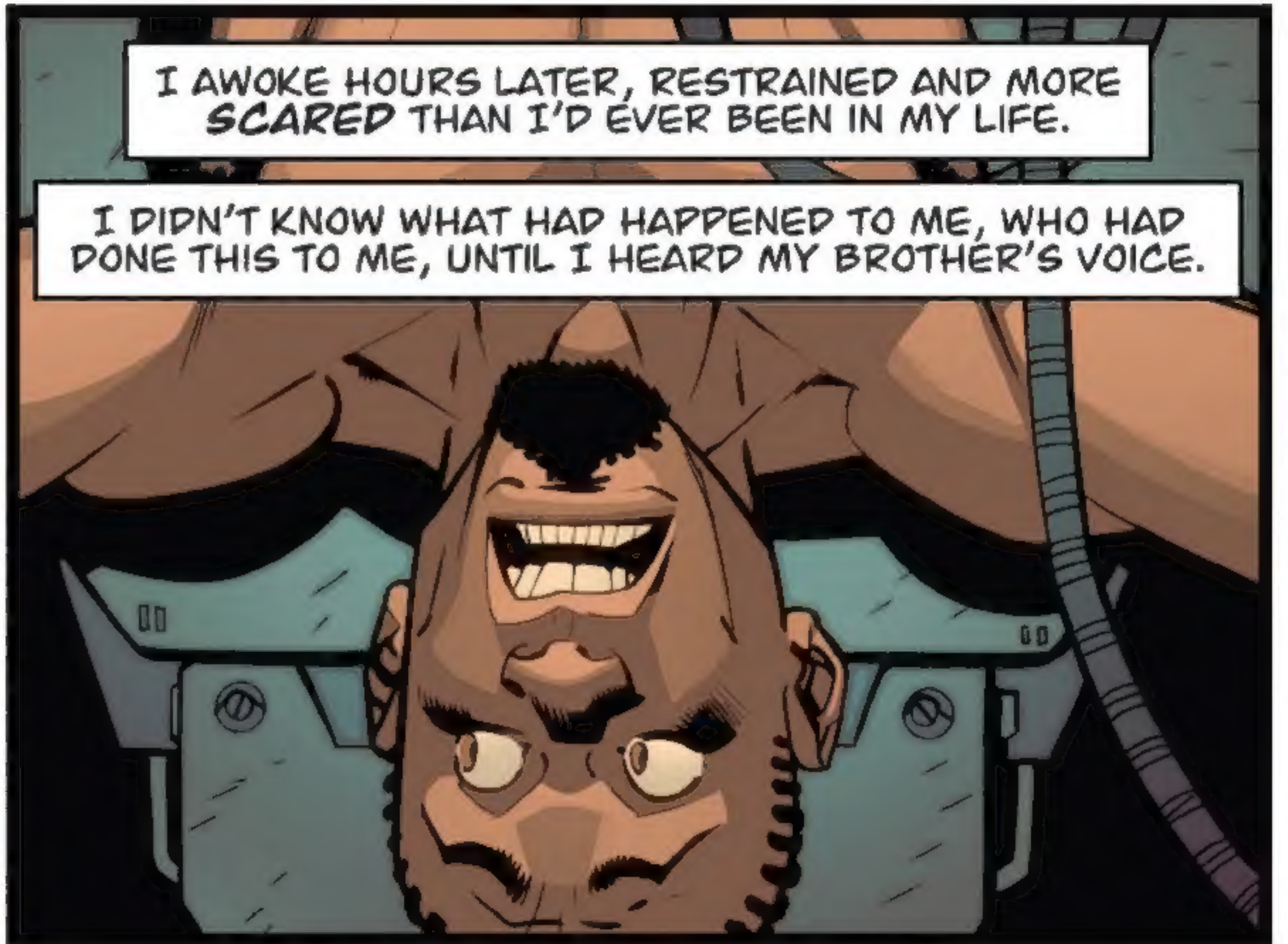
I NEVER REALIZED HOW OBSESSED HE'D BECOME, HOW FAR HE WAS WILLING TO GO, OR HOW MUCH HE ALLOWED HIS QUEST TO CHANGE HIM.

UNTIL ONE NIGHT WHEN WE WERE HAVING DINNER TOGETHER AT HIS HOUSE... ALL HE COULD TALK ABOUT WAS HOW CLOSE HE'D GOTTEN.



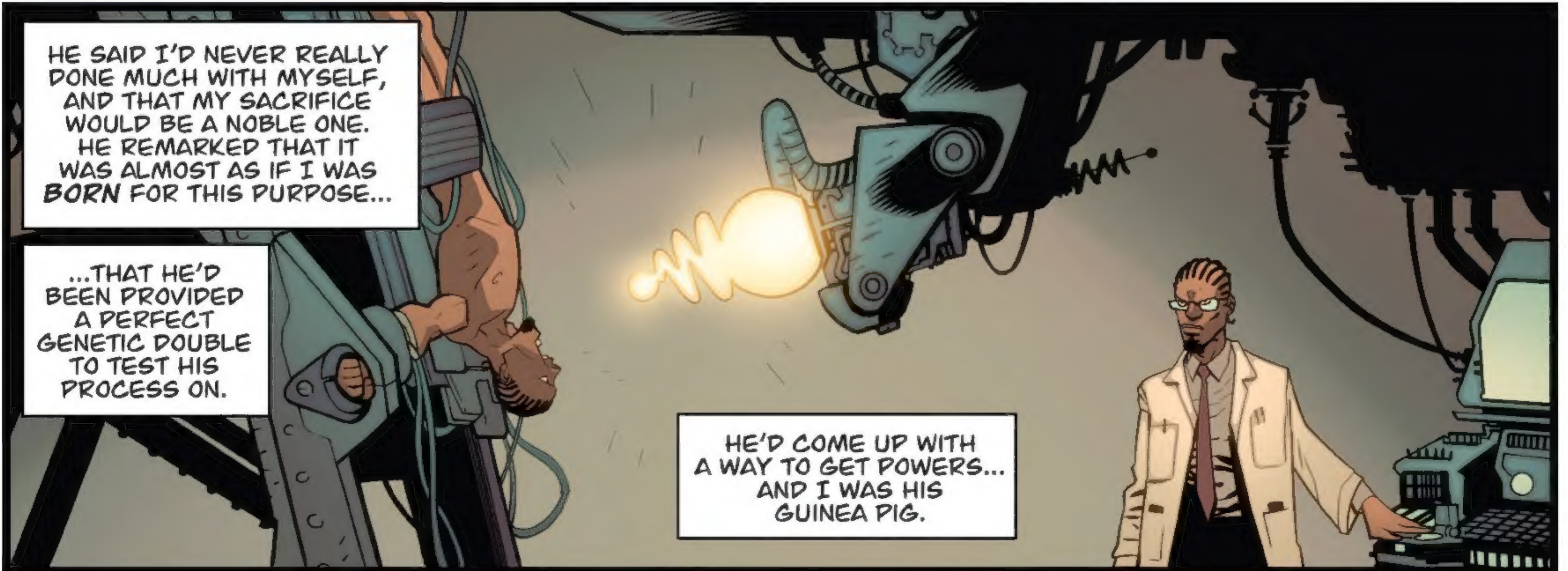
THE LAST THING I REMEMBER FROM THAT NIGHT WAS HIM TELLING ME I WAS A BIG PART OF HIS PLAN...

...AND THEN FEELING A LITTLE WOZZY.



I AWOKE HOURS LATER, RESTRAINED AND MORE **SCARED** THAN I'D EVER BEEN IN MY LIFE.

I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT HAD HAPPENED TO ME, WHO HAD DONE THIS TO ME, UNTIL I HEARD MY BROTHER'S VOICE.



HE SAID I'D NEVER REALLY DONE MUCH WITH MYSELF, AND THAT MY SACRIFICE WOULD BE A NOBLE ONE. HE REMARKED THAT IT WAS ALMOST AS IF I WAS BORN FOR THIS PURPOSE...

...THAT HE'D BEEN PROVIDED A PERFECT GENETIC DOUBLE TO TEST HIS PROCESS ON.

HE'D COME UP WITH A WAY TO GET POWERS... AND I WAS HIS GUINEA PIG.

IT DIDN'T WORK
OUT AS PLANNED.



HIS PROCESS
SUCCEEDED... IT
GAVE ME POWERS.

BUT IT
KILLED
HIM.



I'D JUST LOST MY BROTHER,
DESPITE WHAT HE'D DONE
TO ME... I WAS DISTRAUGHT.

I DIDN'T KNOW
WHAT TO DO.



HIS REMAINS WERE DESTROYED.
I THOUGHT IF I TOLD ANYONE...
THEY WOULDN'T BELIEVE ME.

I JUST...
PRETENDED
IT HADN'T
HAPPENED.





MOM... DAD... YOU LOVED HIM SO MUCH. SO MUCH MORE THAN ME. I COULDN'T BRING MYSELF TO TELL YOU WHAT HE'D DONE.

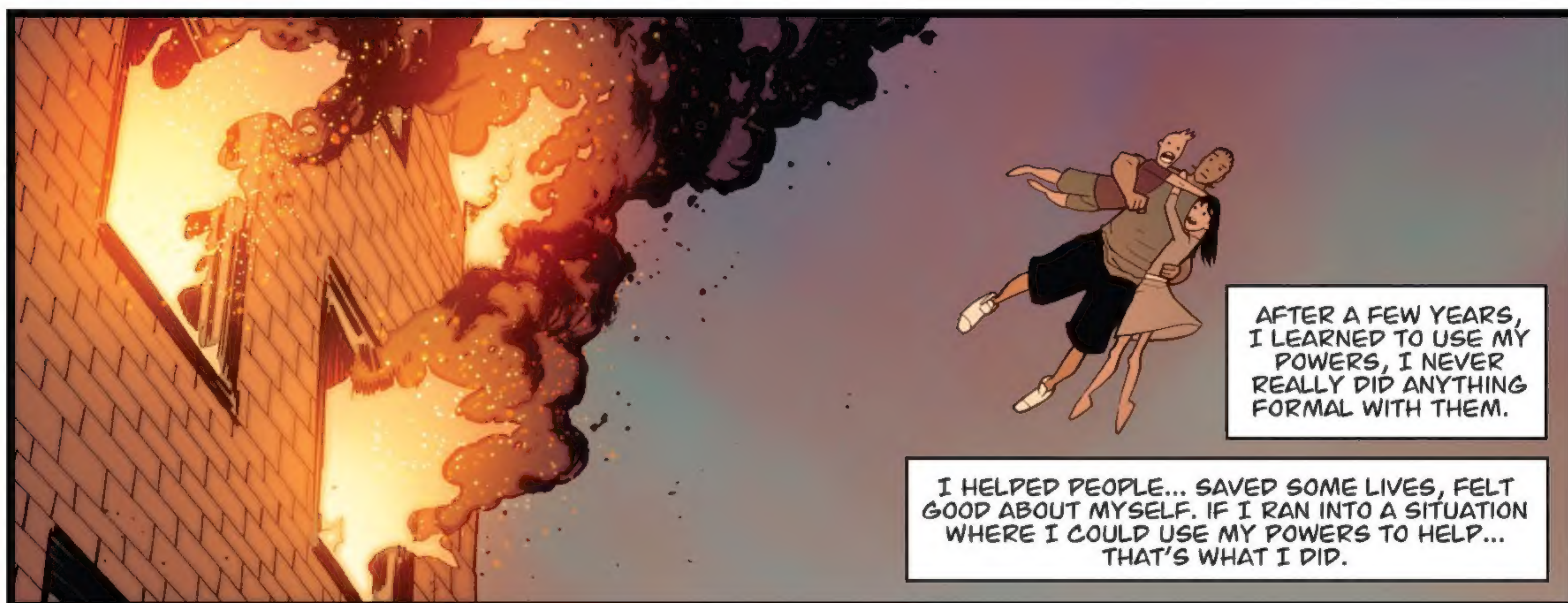
SO I PRETENDED TO BE HIM.

HE'D SPENT SO MUCH TIME AWAY FROM YOU, LOST IN WORK... THAT IT WASN'T HARD TO CONVINCE YOU.



I KNEW IT WASN'T RIGHT. I KNEW I SHOULDN'T HAVE DONE IT.

BUT I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT ELSE TO DO.



AFTER A FEW YEARS, I LEARNED TO USE MY POWERS, I NEVER REALLY DID ANYTHING FORMAL WITH THEM.

I HELPED PEOPLE... SAVED SOME LIVES, FELT GOOD ABOUT MYSELF. IF I RAN INTO A SITUATION WHERE I COULD USE MY POWERS TO HELP... THAT'S WHAT I DID.



IT WAS A LONG TIME BEFORE I BECAME BULLETPROOF.

BEFORE I REALIZED HOW MUCH GOOD I COULD DO WITH THESE POWERS I WAS GIVEN.



I THOUGHT IT WOULD BE MORE BELIEVABLE IF I TOLD YOU TYRONE HAD BECOME BULLETPROOF.

IT WOULD ALSO GIVE YOU ANOTHER REASON TO THINK HE WAS ALWAYS BUSY, SO YOU DIDN'T SEE HIM MUCH.



I'VE LIVED TWO LIVES FOR SO LONG NOW. I'VE MADE MY ART, DONE MY THING, MET CARLA... SHE'S BEEN SO GOOD FOR ME.

I'VE LIVED FIRSTHAND THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN HOW YOU THINK OF ME, HOW YOU TREAT ME.



AND HOW YOU TREAT TYRONE.

THAT LOVE, THAT CARE... THE TIME WE SPENT TOGETHER WHEN YOU THOUGHT I WAS HIM.

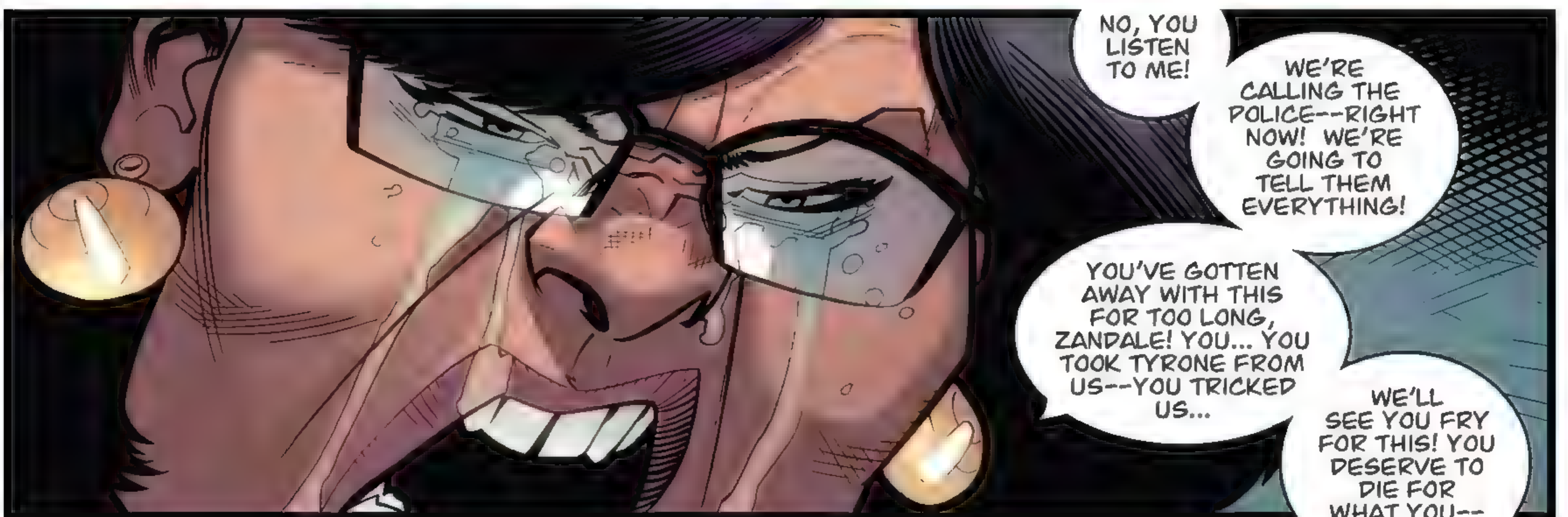
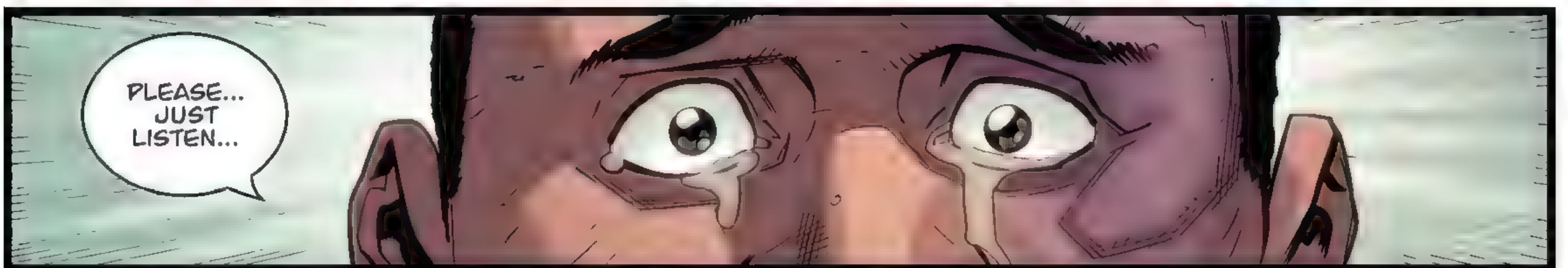
IT WAS ALL I EVER WANTED.

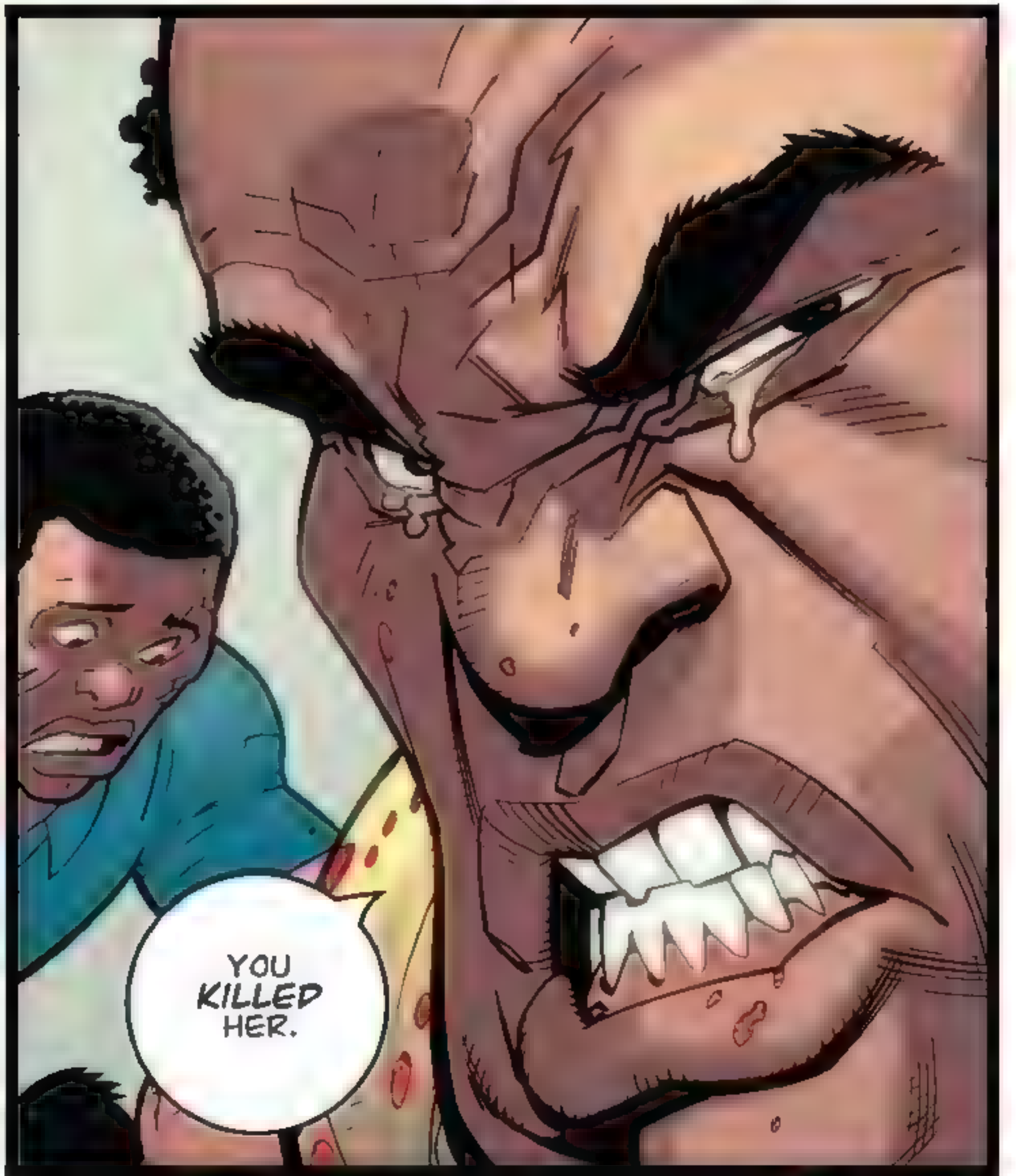


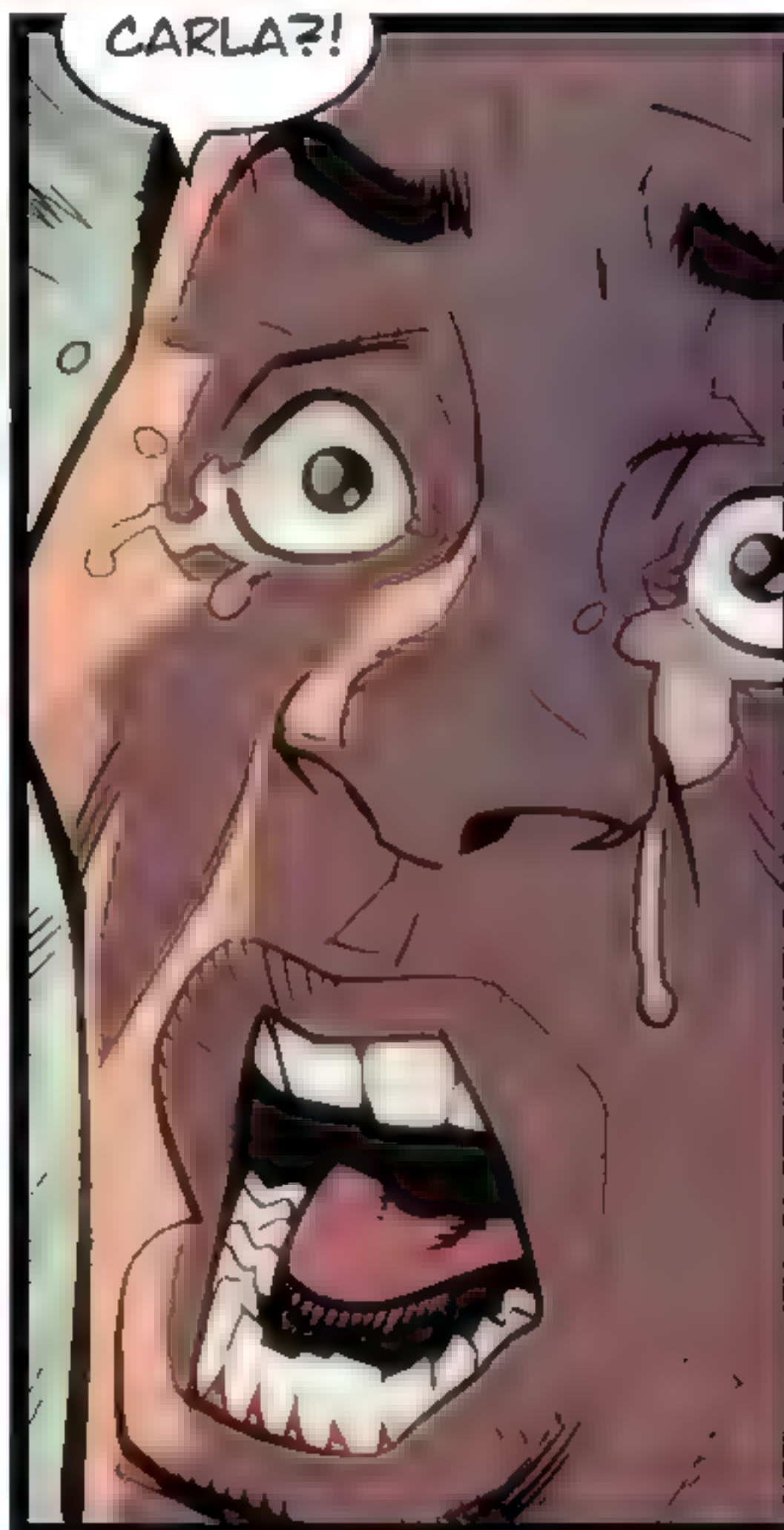
I COULD NEVER BRING MYSELF TO TELL YOU... WHAT THE SON YOU LOVED HAD BECOME.

HOW HE'D KIDNAPPED ME, TRIED TO KILL ME, AND HAD BEEN KILLED IN THE PROCESS. I KNEW HOW MUCH HE MEANT TO YOU.

I'M SO SORRY.









HEAVY
HANDED?
JARRING? OVERLY
DARK? HELL, OUT OF
PLACE EVEN. ALL OF
THE ABOVE. I
COMPLETELY
AGREE.

IT'S A LOT OF
THINGS AT WORK
REALLY. I **CREATED**
THE BOOK, I OWN THE
BOOK, I CAN DO WHAT I
WANT, INCLUDING CRAZY
THINGS THAT I'D NEVER BE
ALLOWED TO DO ON A
CORPORATE COMIC BOOK.
THAT LEADS TO CRAZY
THINGS SOMETIMES... IT
MAKES ME WANT TO
SPREAD MY WINGS
FROM TIME TO
TIME, SO TO
SPEAK.

THE OTHER
THING IS WE
WERE RAMPING
UP TO OUR
ONE-HUNDREDTH
ISSUE. YOU GET TO
THAT POINT AND YOU
KIND OF WANT TO
SHAKE THINGS UP...
DO SOMETHING, I
DON'T KNOW...
SHOCKING.

DID I RUN THE
RISK OF ALIENATING
READERS? OF
COURSE. THE ONLY
THING YOU CAN DO IS TRY
AND GET BACK TO THE
LIGHT-HEARTED TONE OF THE
BOOK AS **QUICKLY** AS
POSSIBLE TO REMIND
READERS THAT IT'S NOT AN
OVERALL CHANGE, SOME
KIND OF NEW STATUS
QUO--IT WAS JUST AN,
I DON'T KNOW...

INTRIGUING
INTERLUDE.

I FIGURED
IF I CONVINCED
THEM OF THAT, I
WOULDN'T LOSE
ANY READERS.

Booth boy

Holds sharp.es etc...

EXHIBITOR

Phillip Schaff

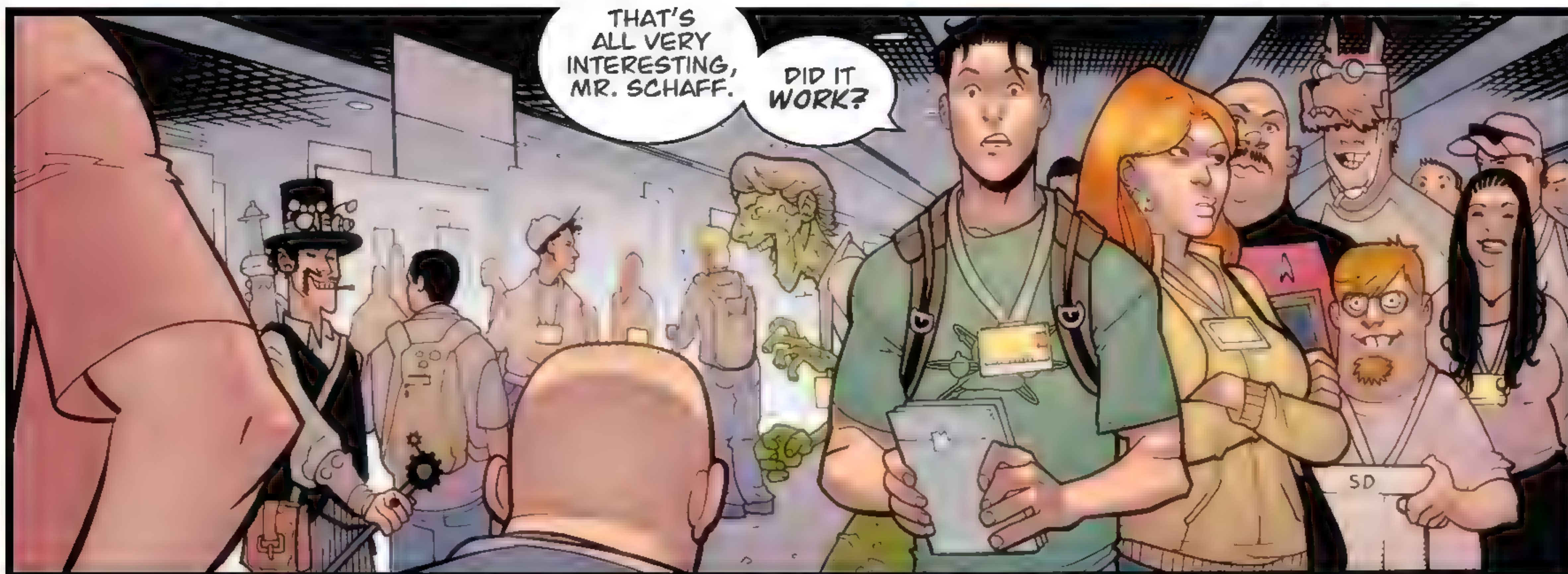
Science dog Creator

EXHIBITOR

ZOMBIES

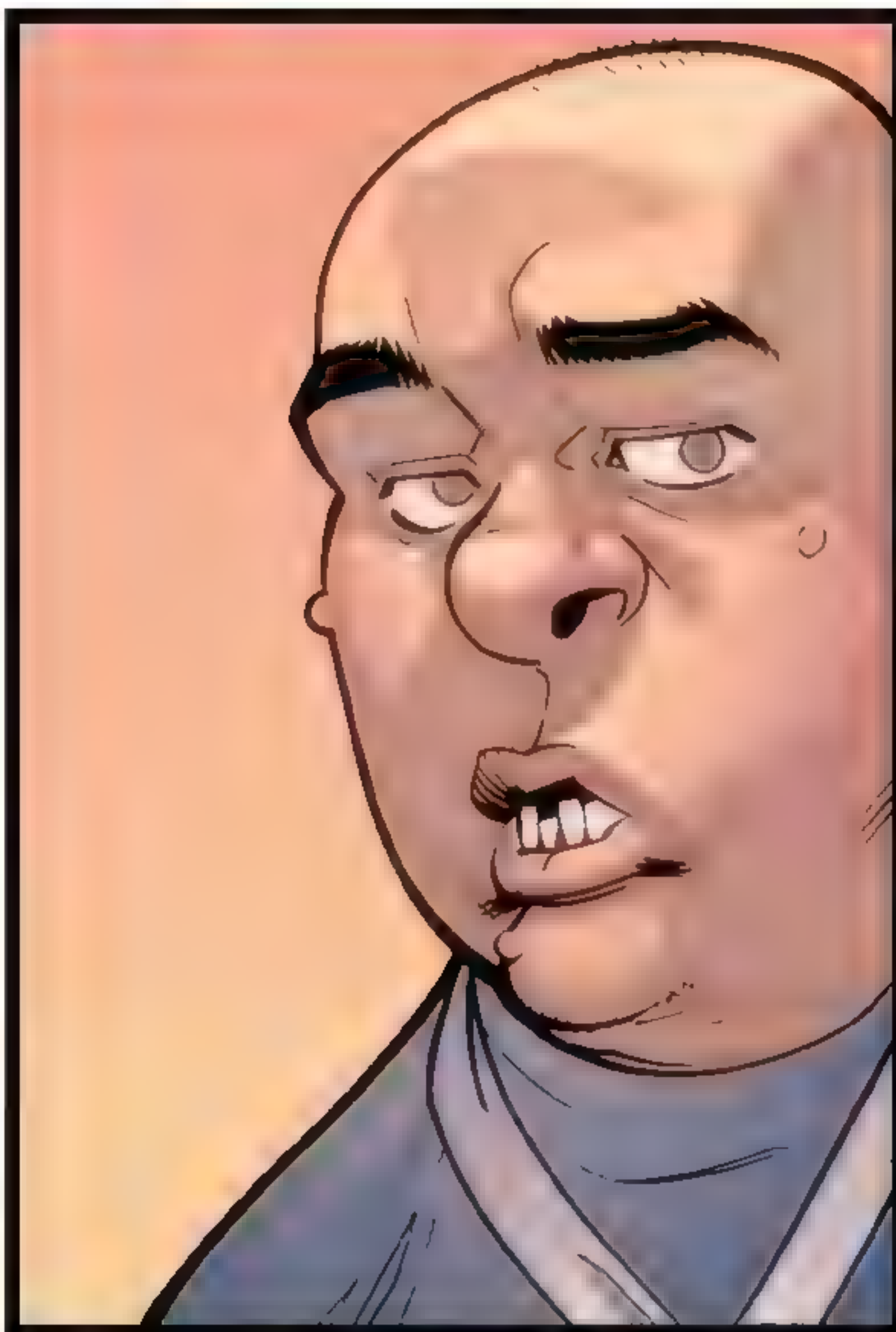
SUCK

THE DEATH OF



THAT'S ALL VERY INTERESTING, MR. SCHAFF.

DID IT WORK?



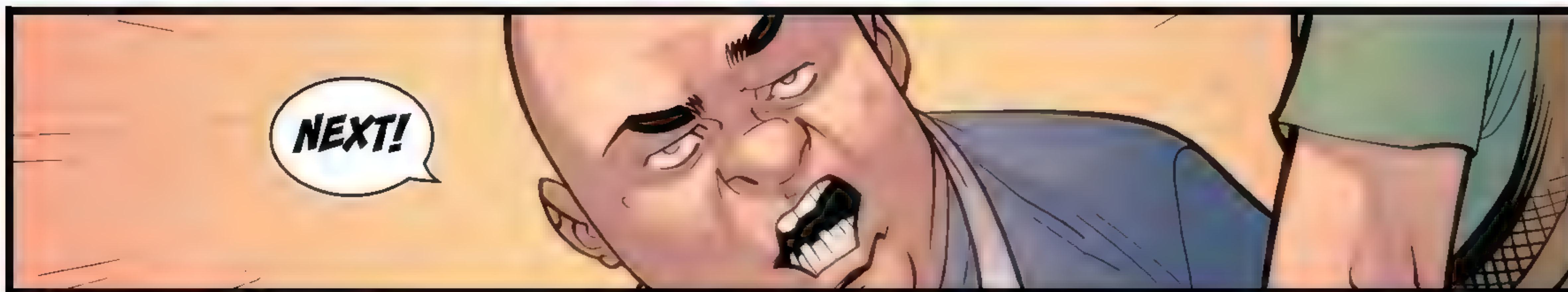
NOT REALLY.

BUT HEY, WE RELEASED SCIENCE DOG ONE HUNDRED, AND IT BROKE ALL KINDS OF RECORDS. FOR AN INDEPENDENT COMIC THAT'S A PRETTY BIG DEAL. THERE AREN'T A LOT OF BOOKS THAT HIT THAT KIND OF NUMBER.

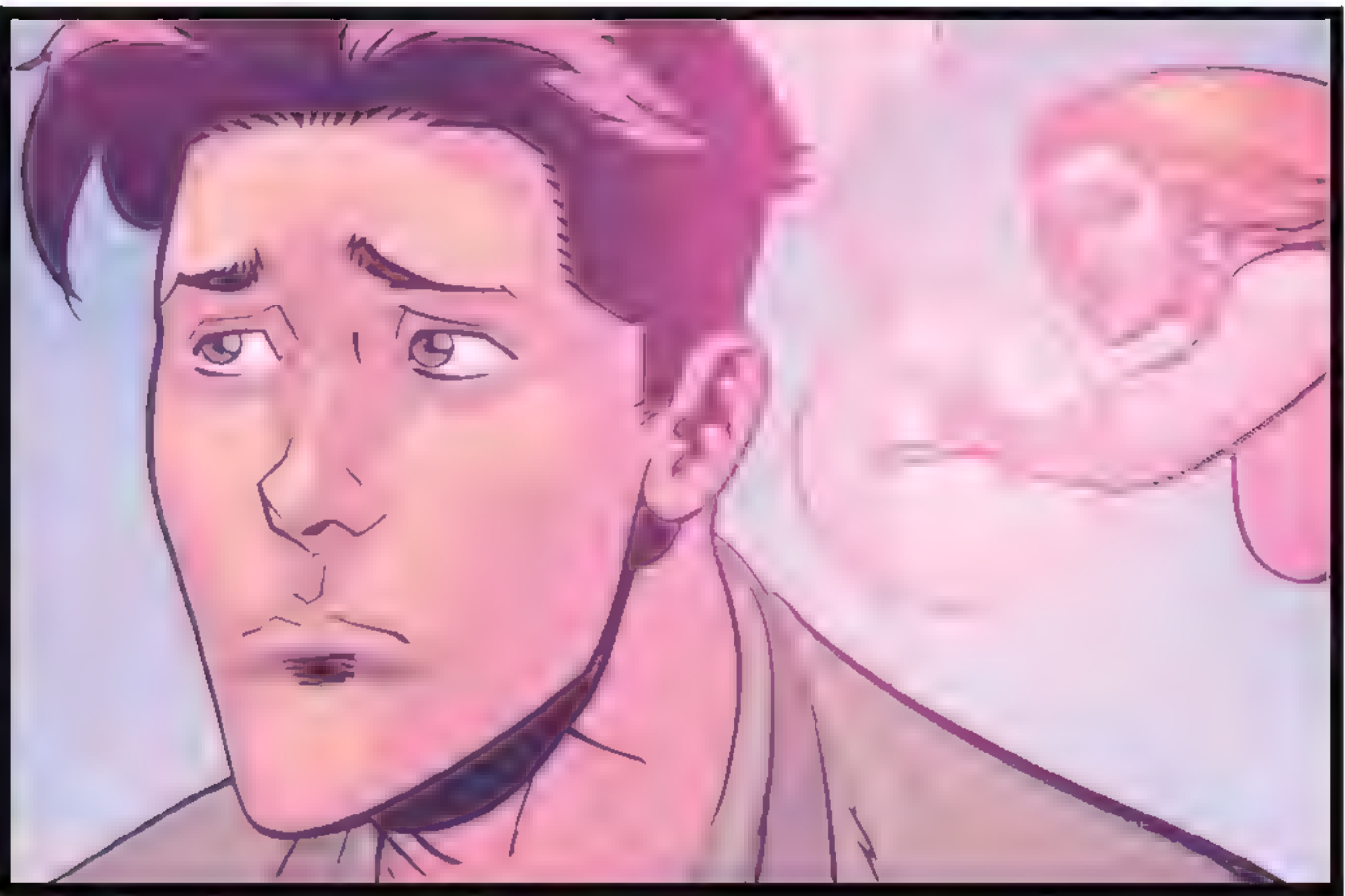


YEAH, BUT DID YOU HAVE TO DO FIFTEEN COVERS? I MEAN, AS A FAN, I FEEL OBLIGATED TO BUY THEM ALL, AND THAT'S NOT EASY FOR A NUMBER OF REASONS, AND WELL...

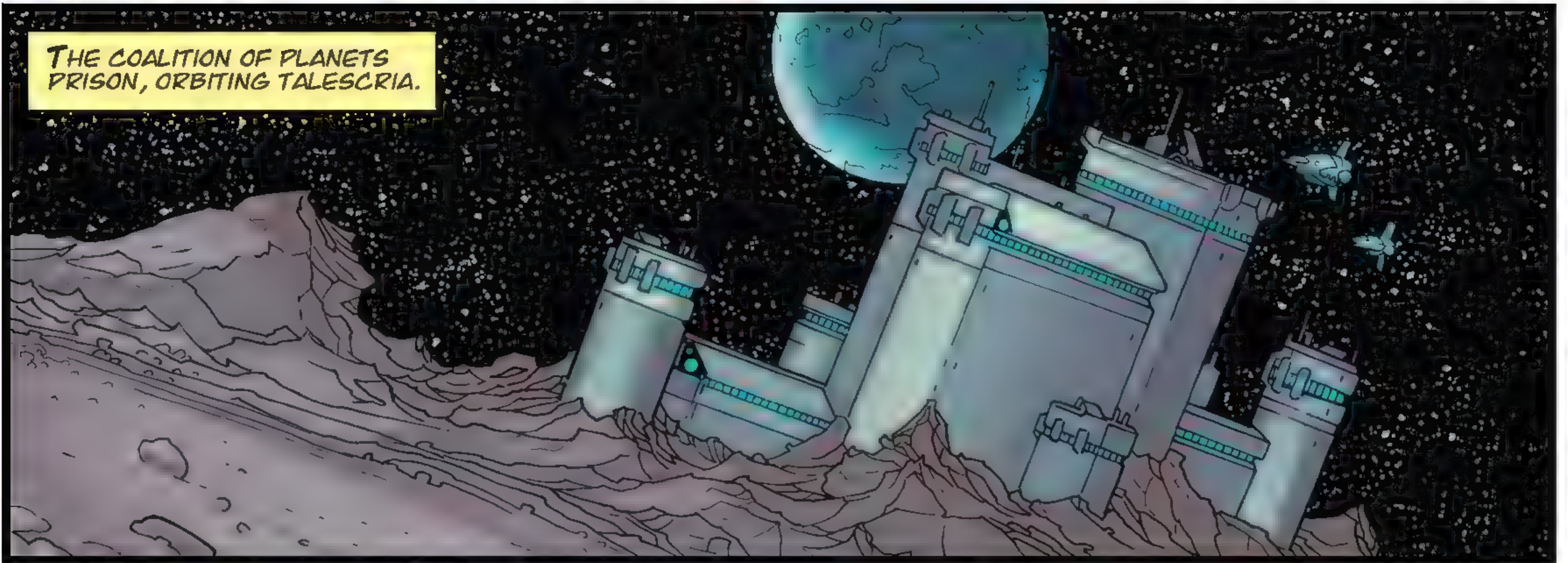
IT'S NOT FAIR TO ESSENTIALLY FORCE DIE-HARD FANS WHO ARE COMPLETISTS BY NATURE TO BUY ALL THOSE VERSIONS OF THE SAME COMIC TO COMPLETE THEIR COLLECTION... JUST SO YOU CAN LINE YOUR POCKETS... Y'KNOW?



NEXT!



THE COALITION OF PLANETS
PRISON, ORBITING TALESRIA.



IF MY
SON IS DEAD,
I WILL FIND A
WAY OUT OF
HERE, AND I
WILL KILL
YOU.



THE PRESSURE OF TAKING OVER
THE COALITION OF PLANETS WAS
IMMENSE. I WAS BEING PUSHED
IN ALL DIRECTIONS AND WHEN A
SOLUTION PRESENTED
ITSELF, I ACTED.

AND I
WAS MISTAKEN.
THANKFULLY, YOUR
SON WAS ABLE TO
PREVENT MY FOLLY--
WHAT WOULD HAVE
BEEN MY
GREATEST
MISTAKE.

I'M
TRULY
SORRY.

ALL
CHARGES
ARE BEING
DROPPED. YOU
ARE BEING
RELEASED.







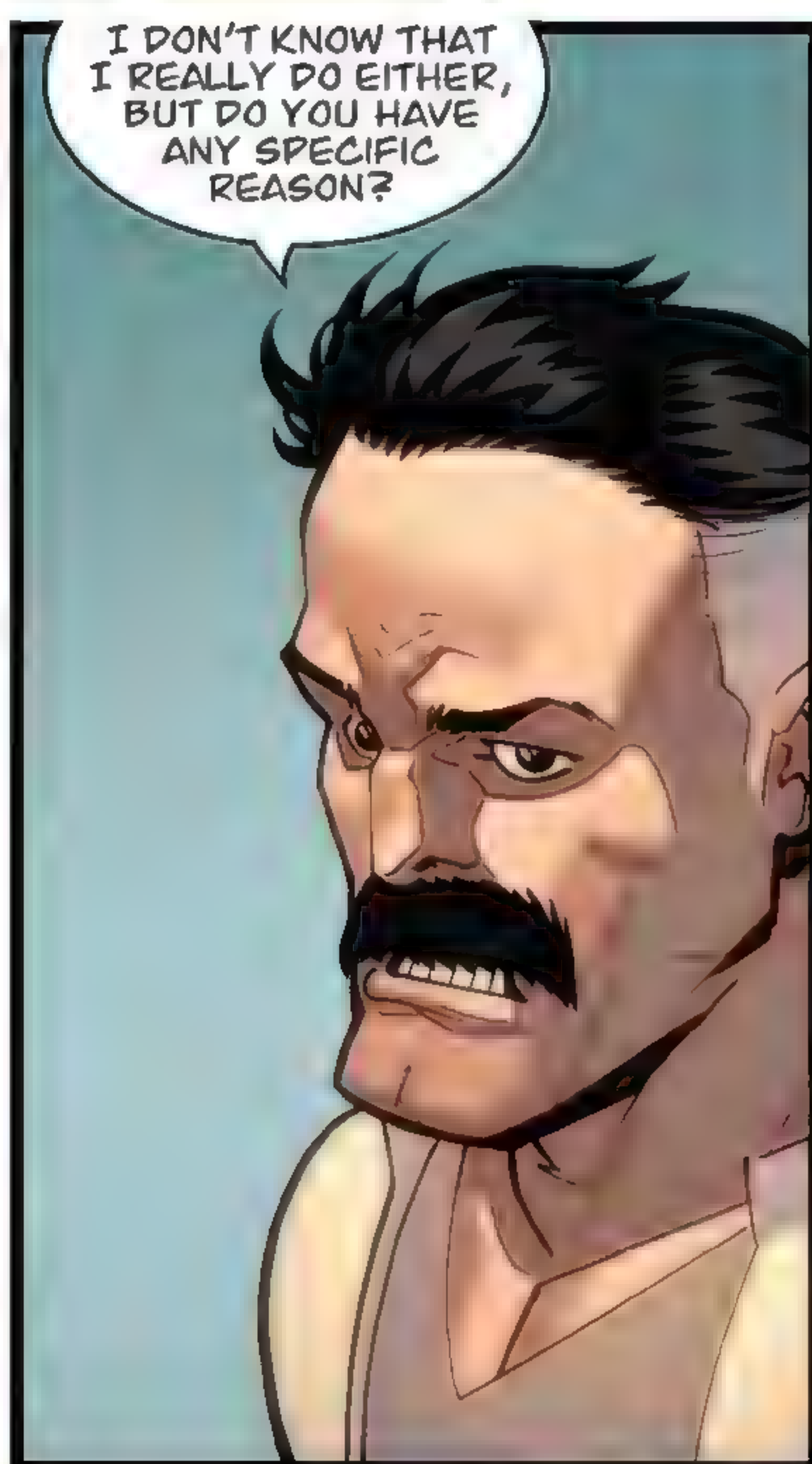
HE'S A GOOD KID, THAT ONE. DON'T HOLD THIS AGAINST HIM.

OF COURSE NOT. HE STANDS UP FOR HIS BELIEFS, THAT'S SOMETHING I'M PROUD TO SEE IN BOTH OF MY SONS.

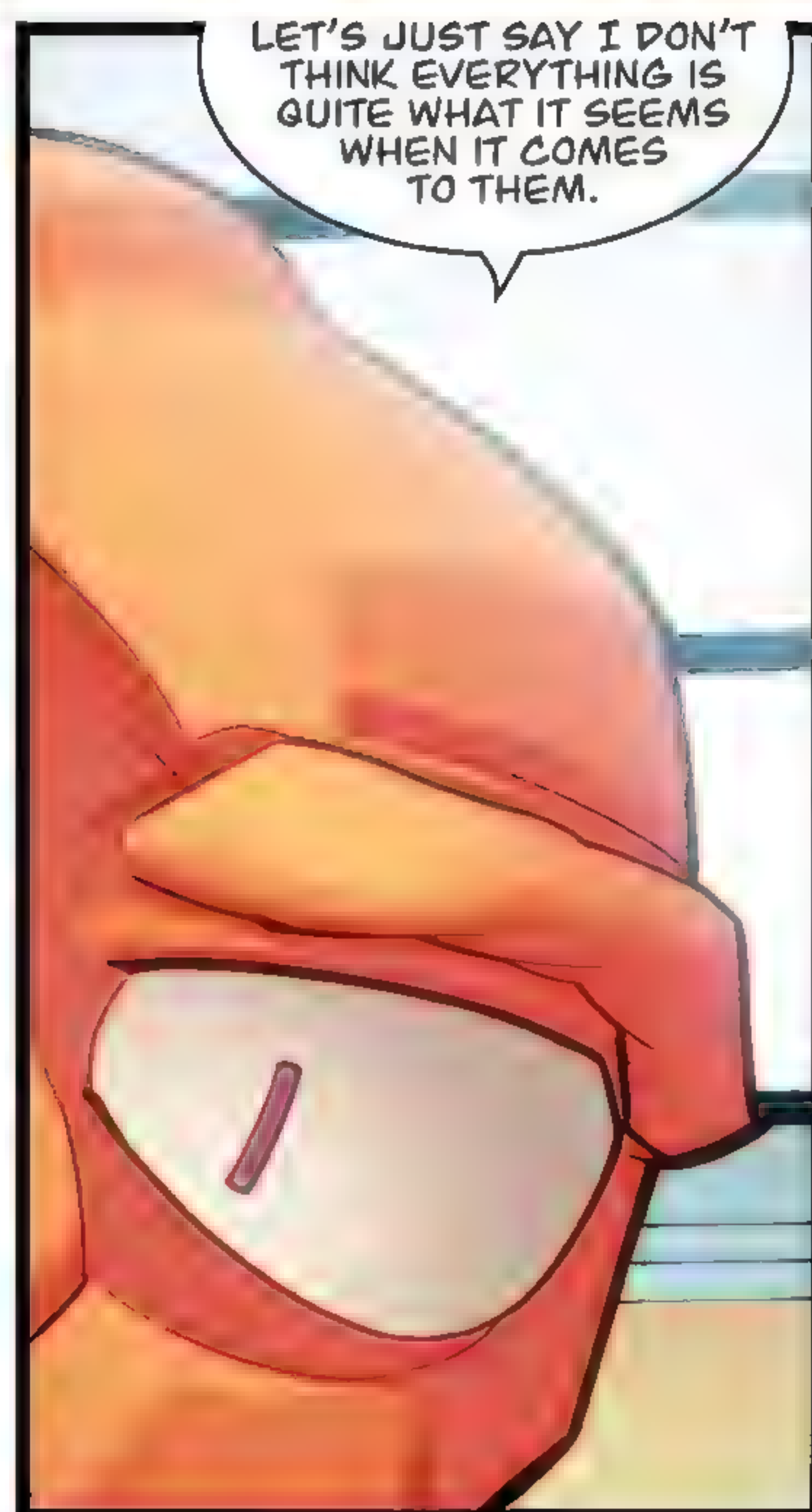


I REALLY NEED TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT THE VILTRUMITE SITUATION ON EARTH.

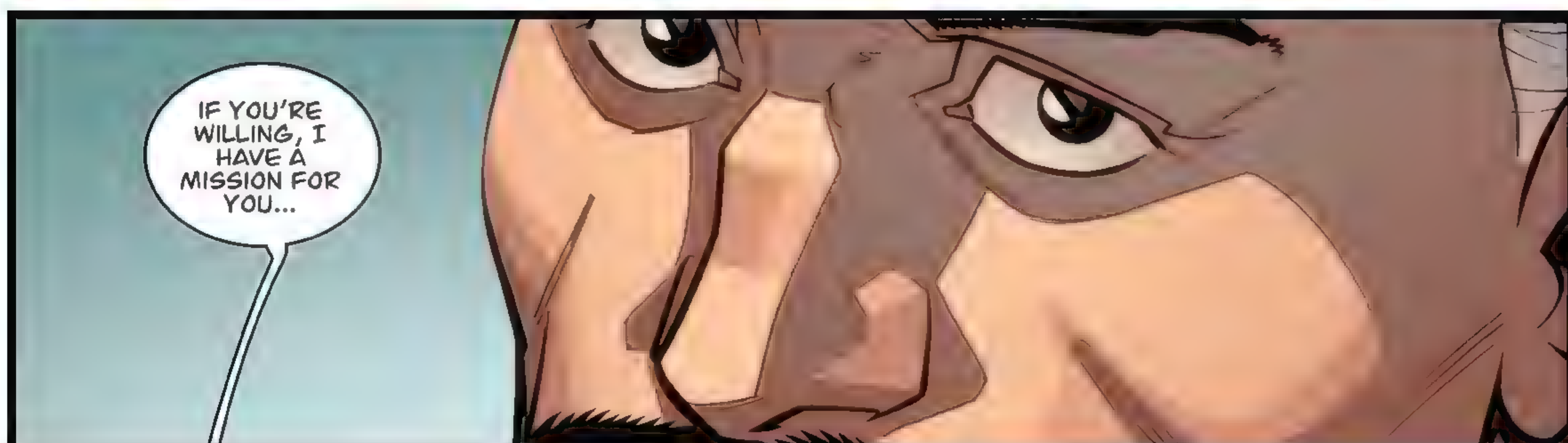
I DON'T TRUST THEM...



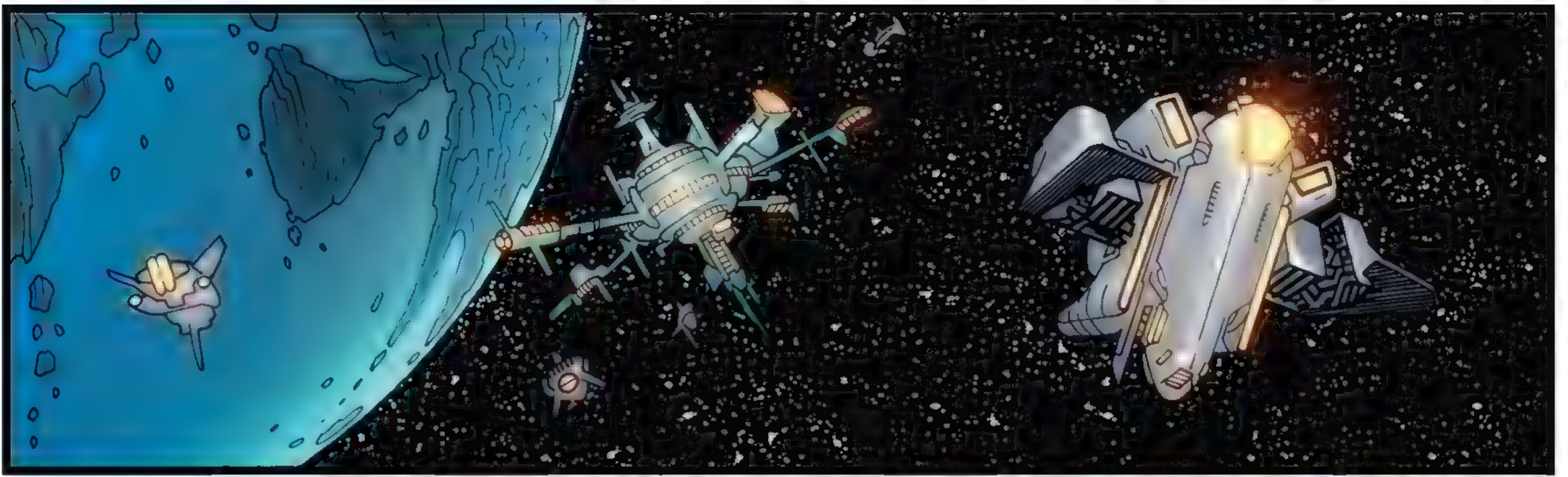
I DON'T KNOW THAT I REALLY DO EITHER, BUT DO YOU HAVE ANY SPECIFIC REASON?

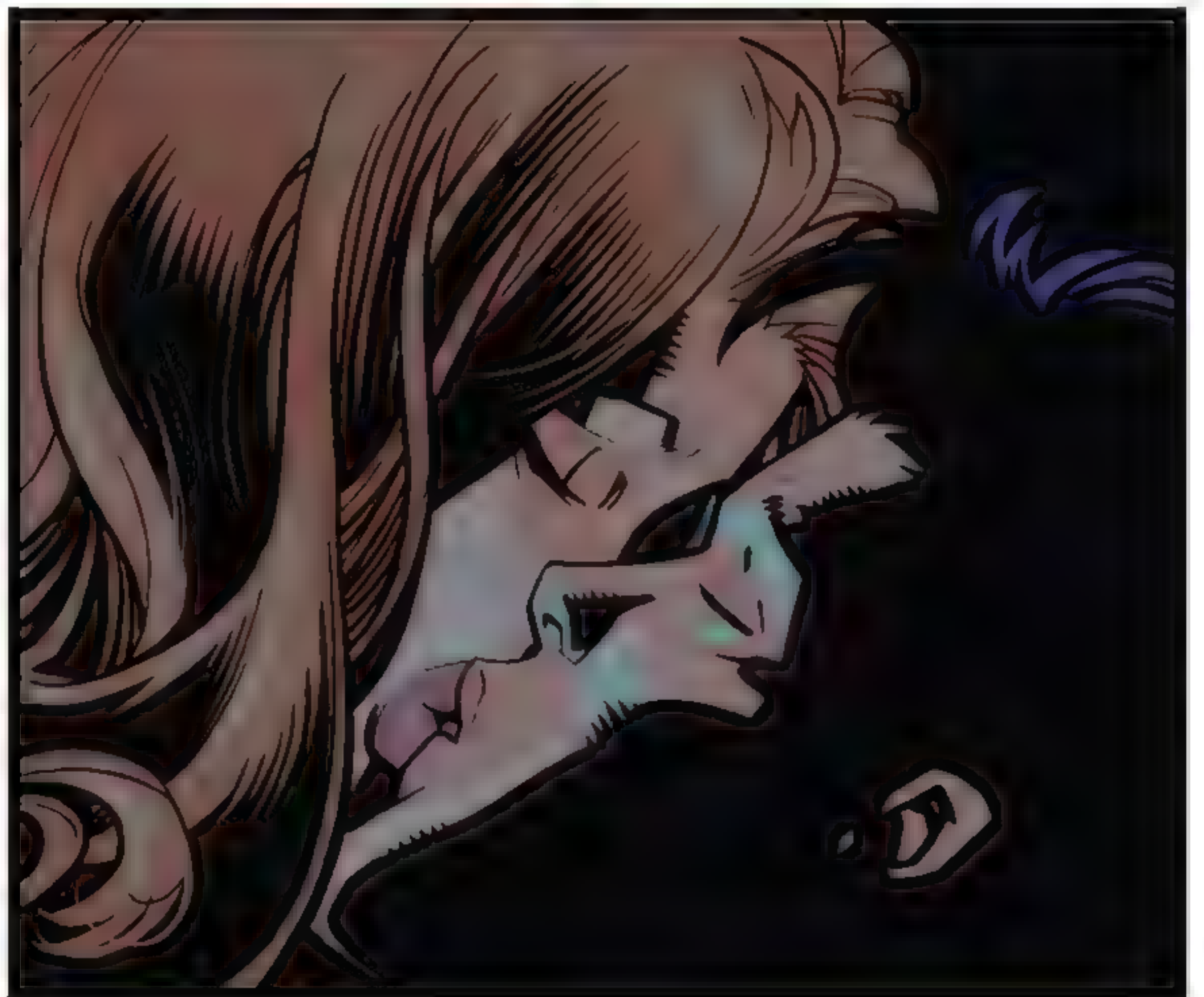
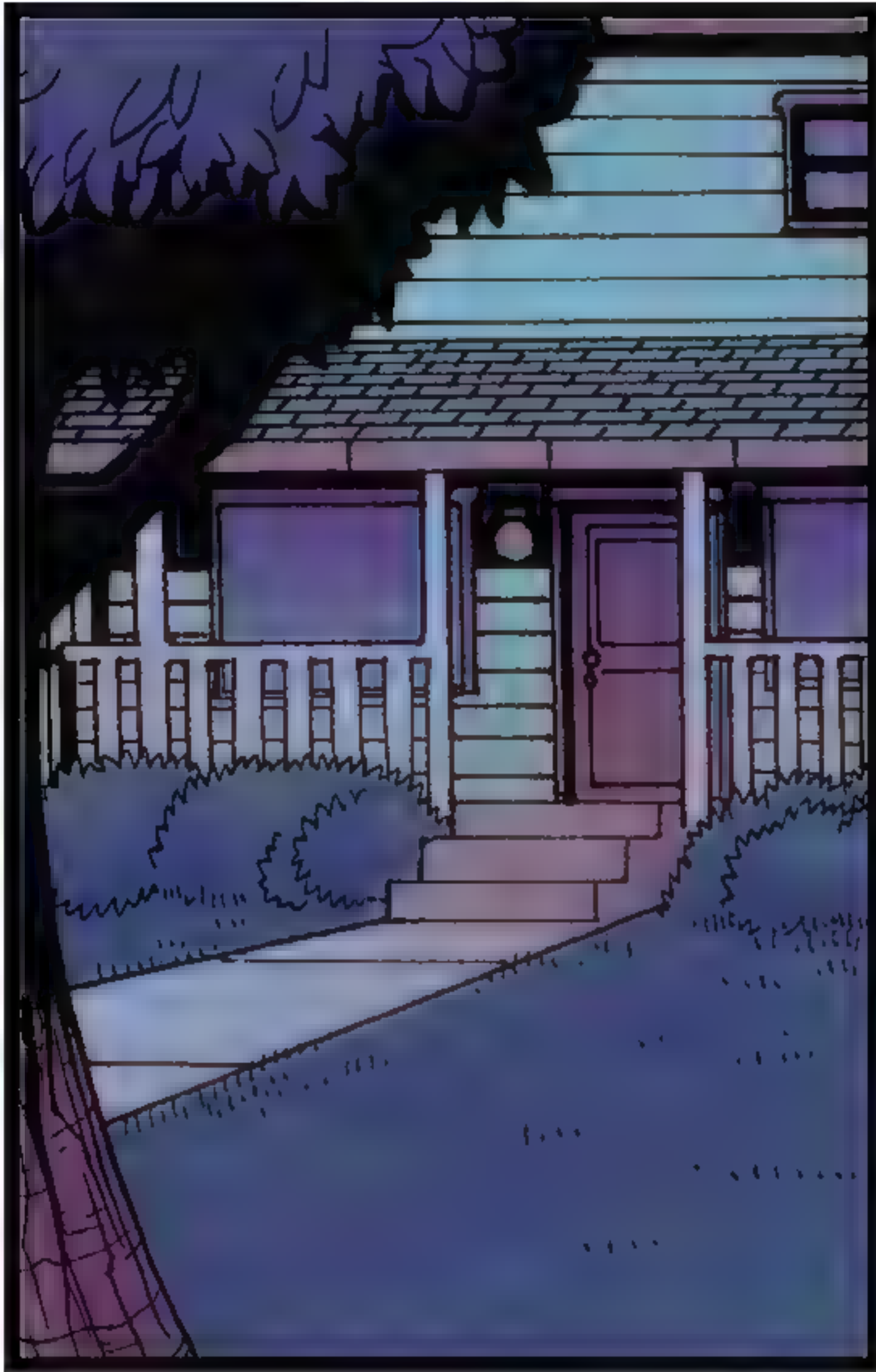


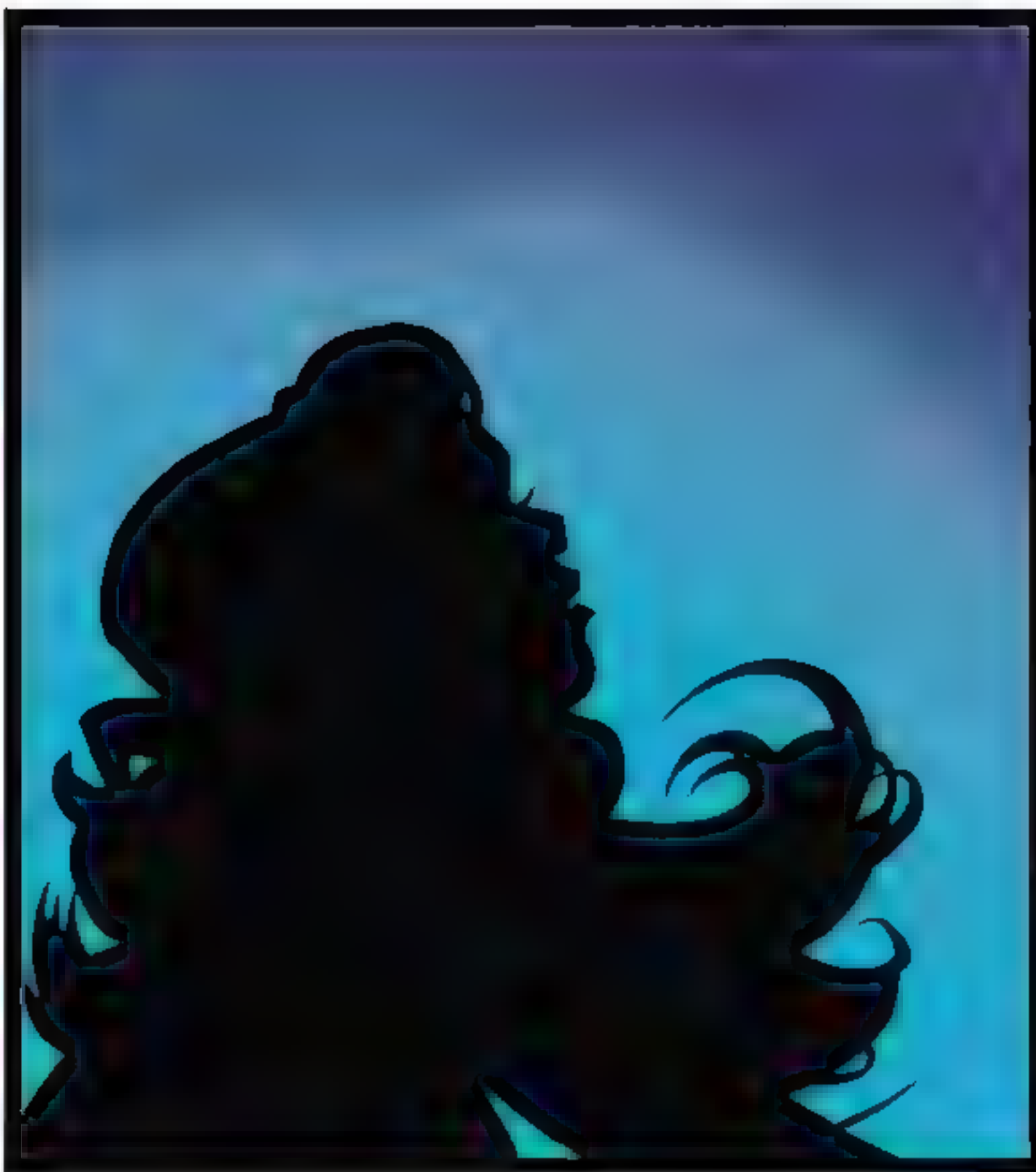
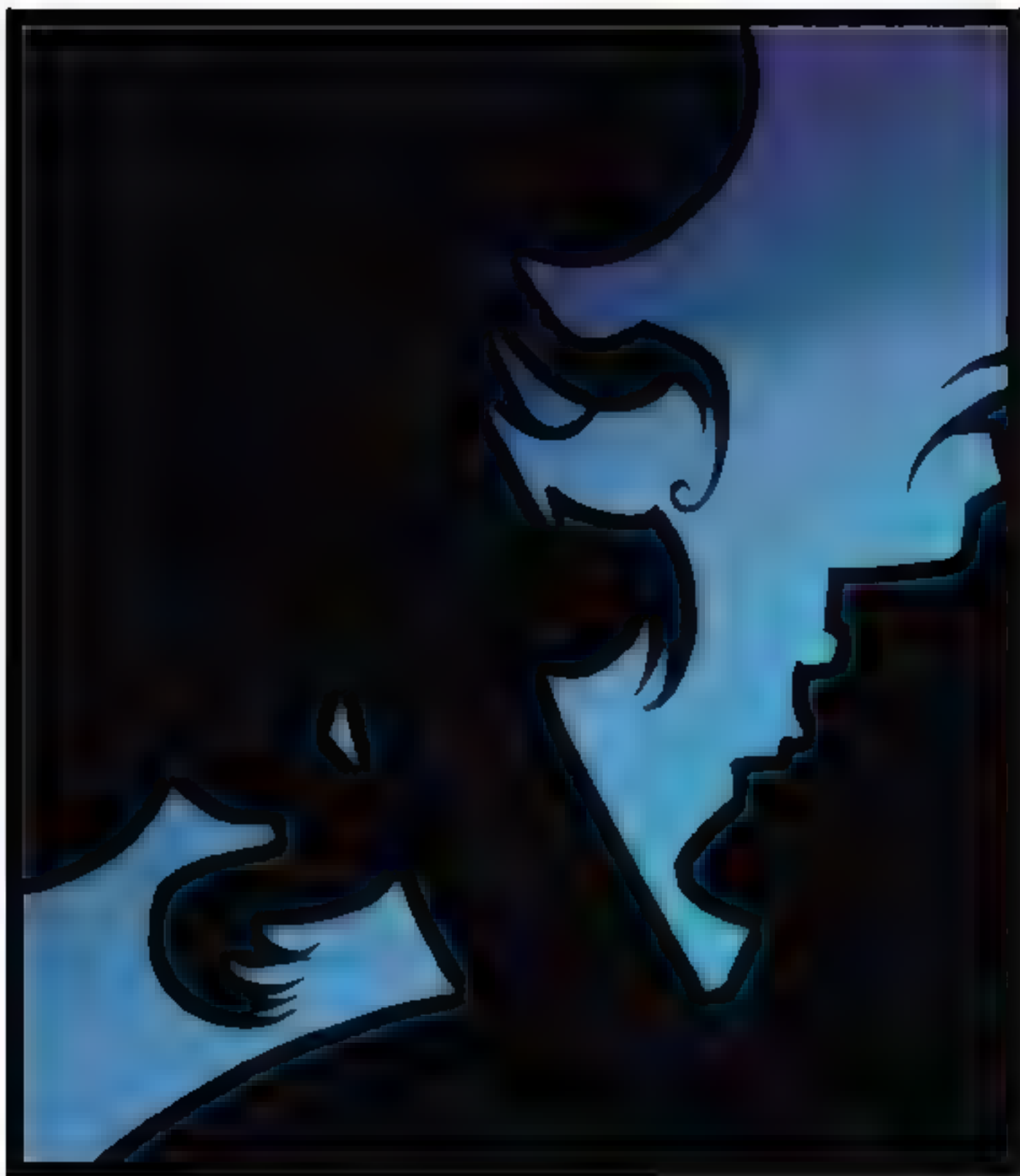
LET'S JUST SAY I DON'T THINK EVERYTHING IS QUITE WHAT IT SEEMS WHEN IT COMES TO THEM.



IF YOU'RE WILLING, I HAVE A MISSION FOR YOU...



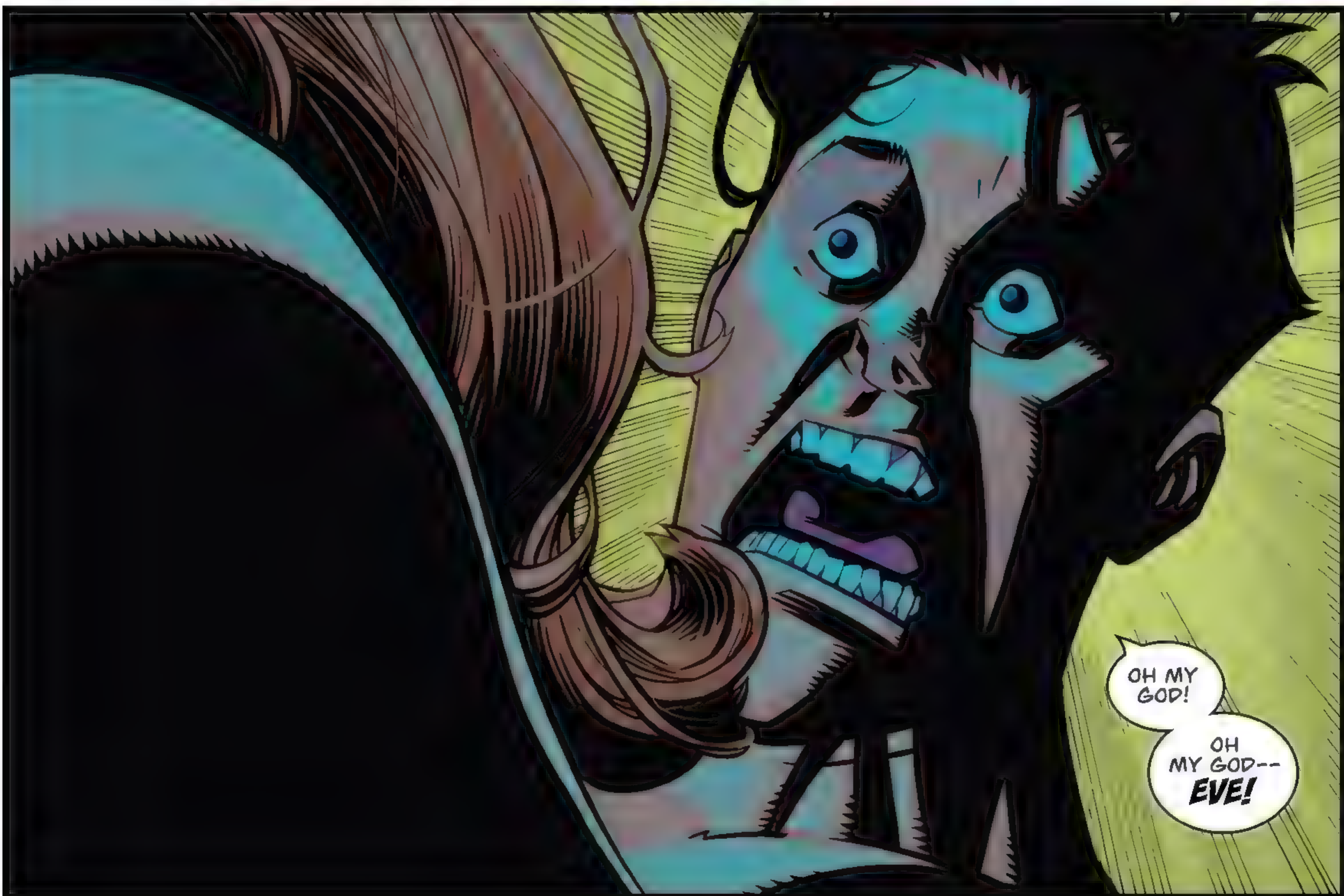




WHAT IS---?

YES!

YES!



OH MY GOD---
EVE!



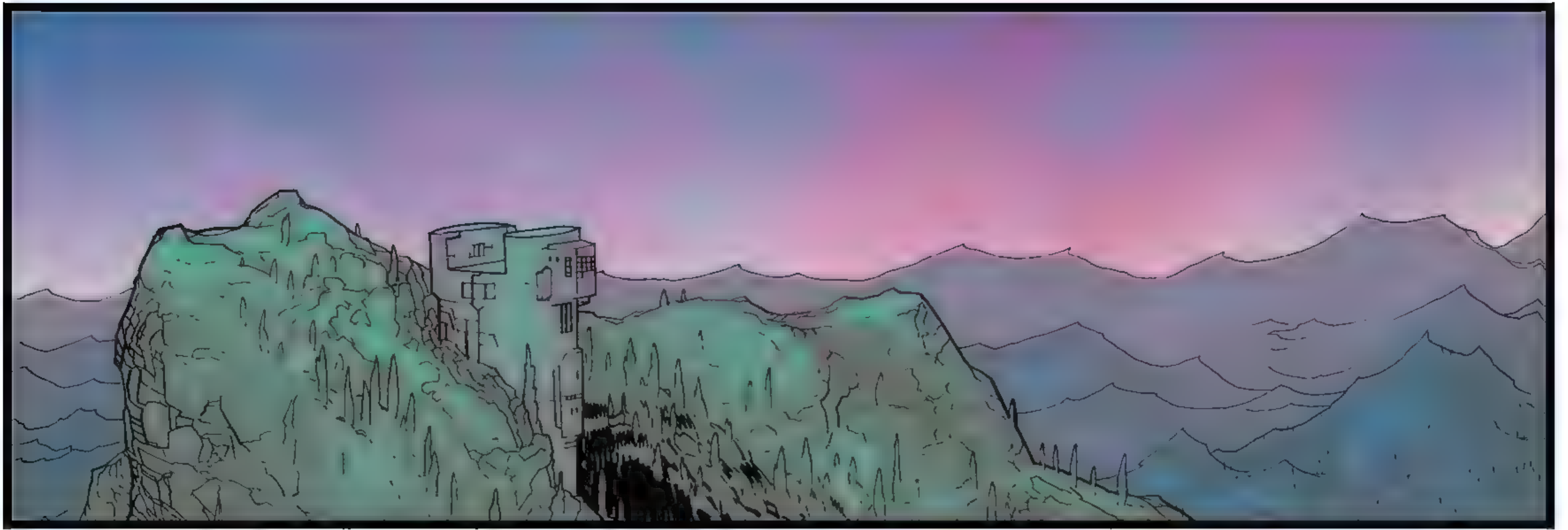
MY
POWERS
ARE
BACK,
BABY!



CHAPTER 98









WHAT
HAVE I
MISSED?

WHAT,
DINOSAURUS?
WHAT IS IT?



YOU WERE POWERLESS,
IT WAS UNCLEAR IF YOUR
ABILITIES WOULD EVER
RETURN. IF I'D ONLY
KNOWN, IF I COULD HAVE
JUST FORESEEN...
ALL OF THIS COULD
HAVE BEEN
AVOIDED.

MAYBE THINGS
COULD HAVE BEEN
DIFFERENT IF WE'D
BEEN ABLE TO WORK
TOGETHER TO
SOLVE THESE
PROBLEMS.



WHAT ARE
YOU TALKING
ABOUT?! ISN'T
THAT WHAT
WE'RE
DOING?!



THERE WAS
NO TIME TO
WAIT, I HAD
TO ACT.

THIS WAS
THE ONLY
WAY...

YOU HAVE
TO BELIEVE ME,
I'VE ANALYZED
THE DATA FOR
COUNTLESS
HOURS...
DAYS.



WHAT
ARE YOU
SAYING?!

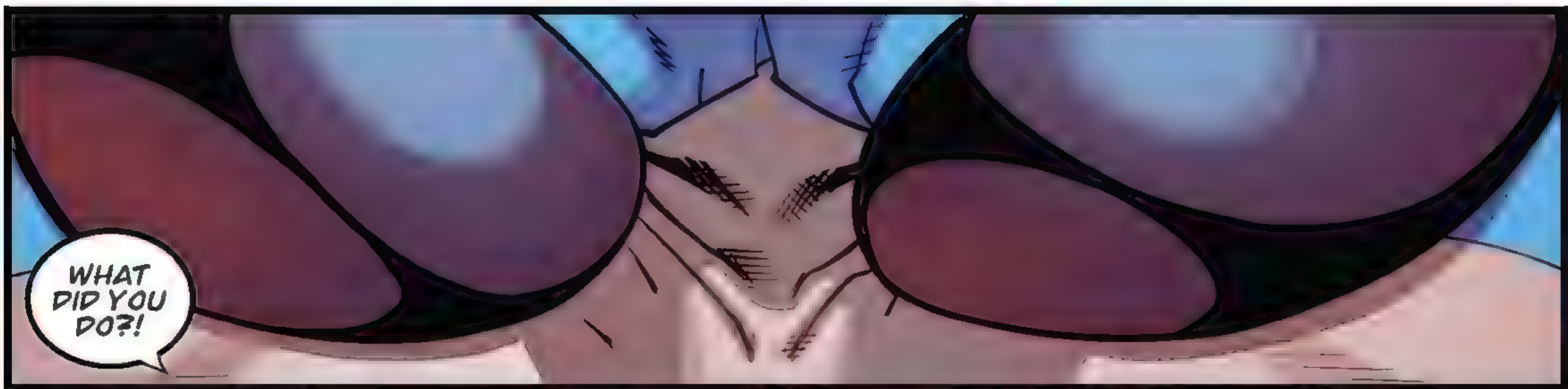
WHAT
HAVE YOU
DONE?!



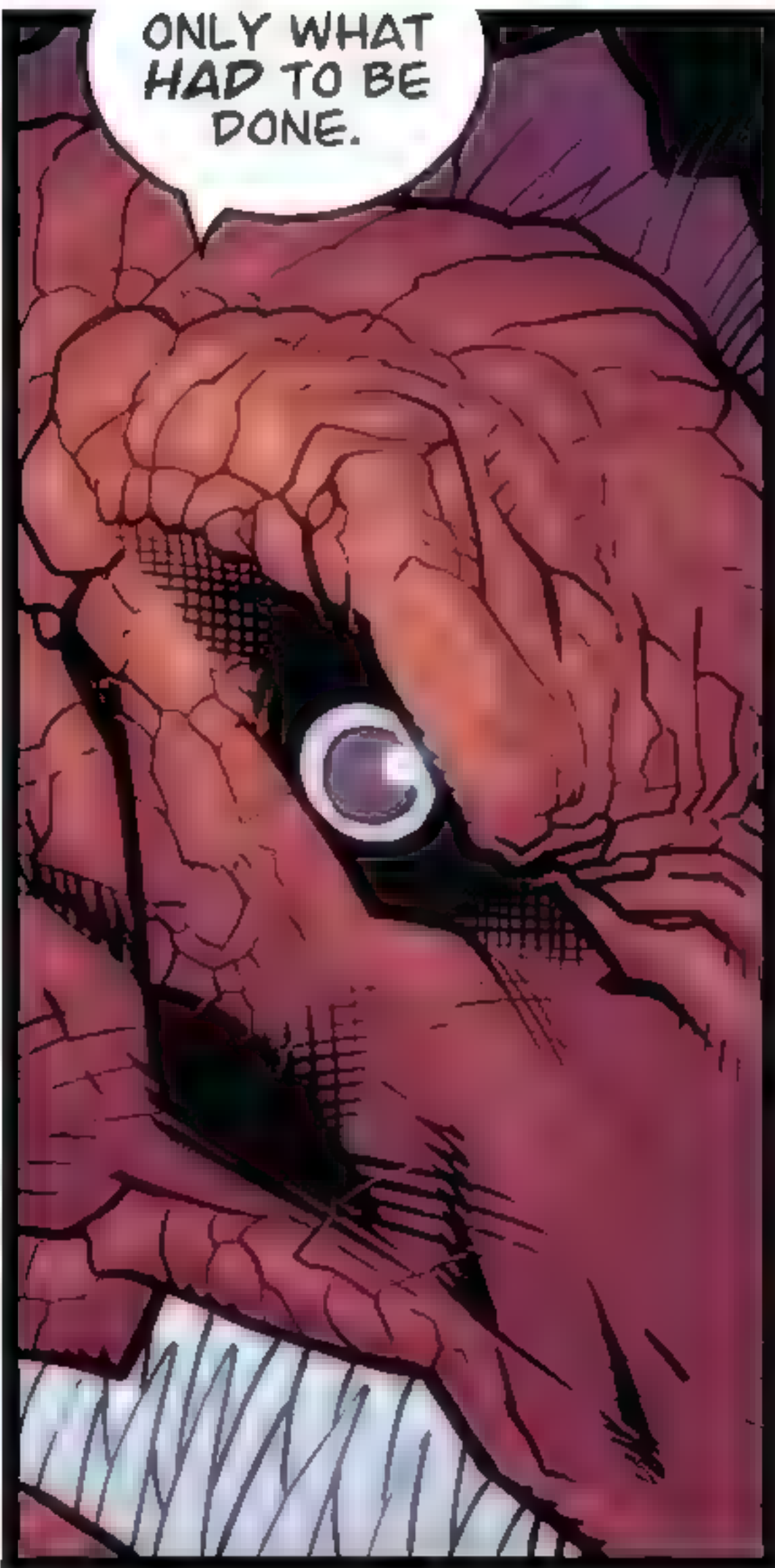
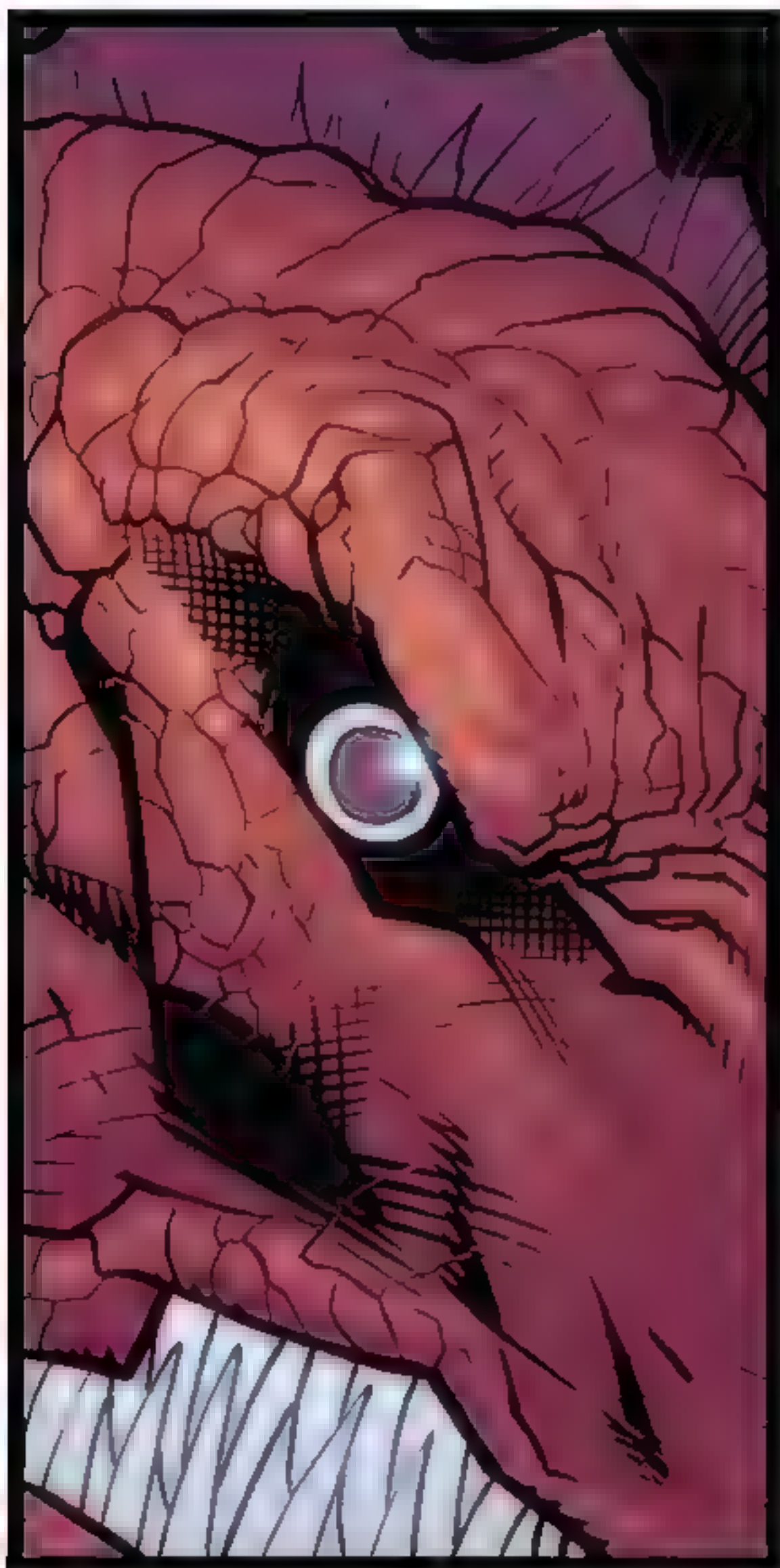
WE REACHED A TIPPING POINT... I DON'T KNOW HOW I DIDN'T SEE IT COMING SOONER. I'VE DONE THE MATH AND I'VE GOTTEN IT DOWN TO THE MINUTE... WE ARE A MATTER OF **WEEKS** AWAY FROM THE DISASTROUS CHANGES IN OUR CLIMATE NOT ONLY BEING IRREVERSIBLE... BUT **ACCELERATING**.

THE WORLD POPULATION WOULD BE CUT BY **EIGHTY PERCENT** OVER THE NEXT CENTURY DUE TO WORLDWIDE FAMINE AND DROUGHT... OUR SPECIES WOULD FACE **EXTINCTION**.

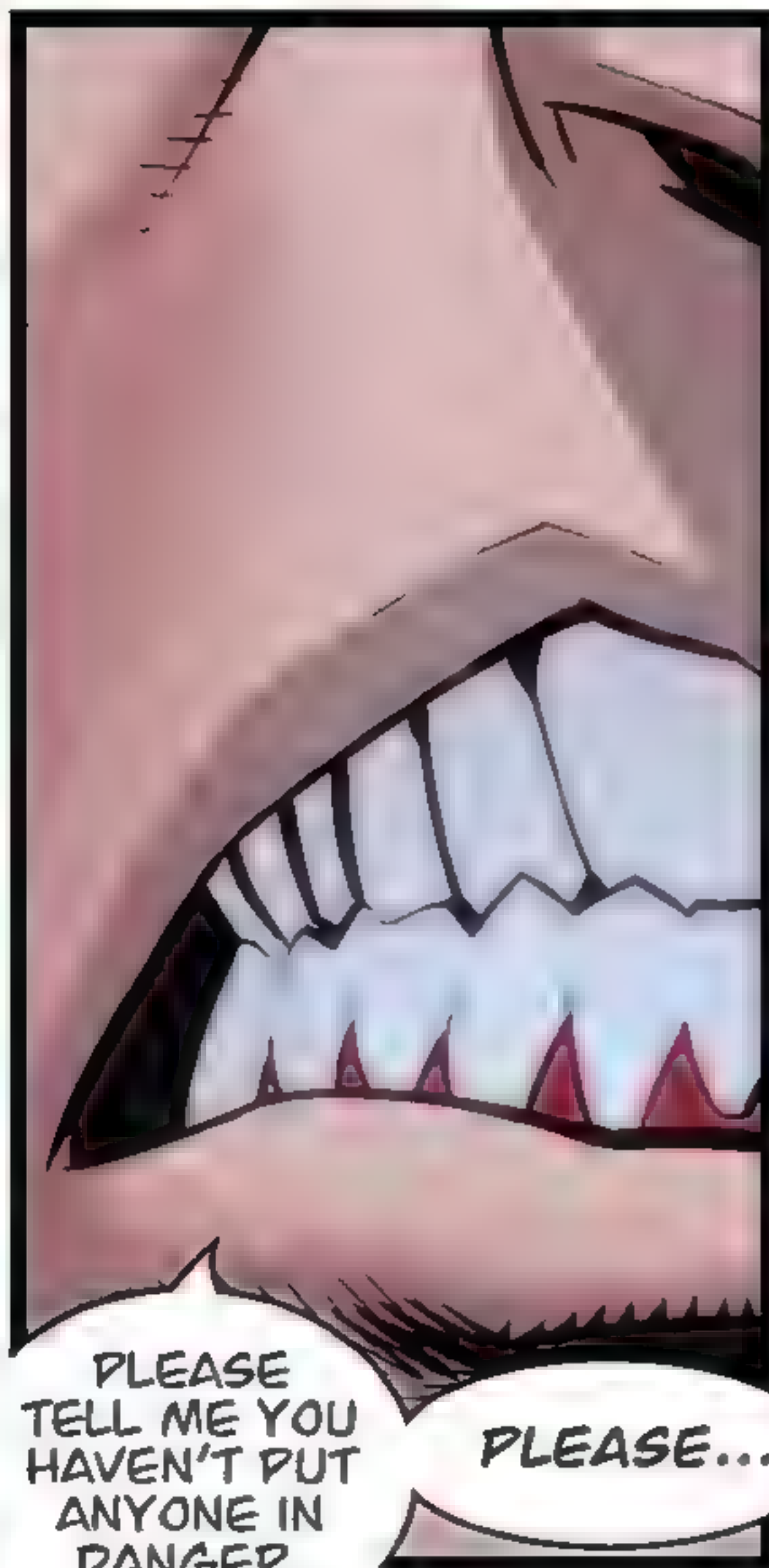
THERE WAS NO TIME, I COULDN'T WAIT TO SPEAK TO YOU, I HAD TO ACT.



WHAT DID YOU DO?!

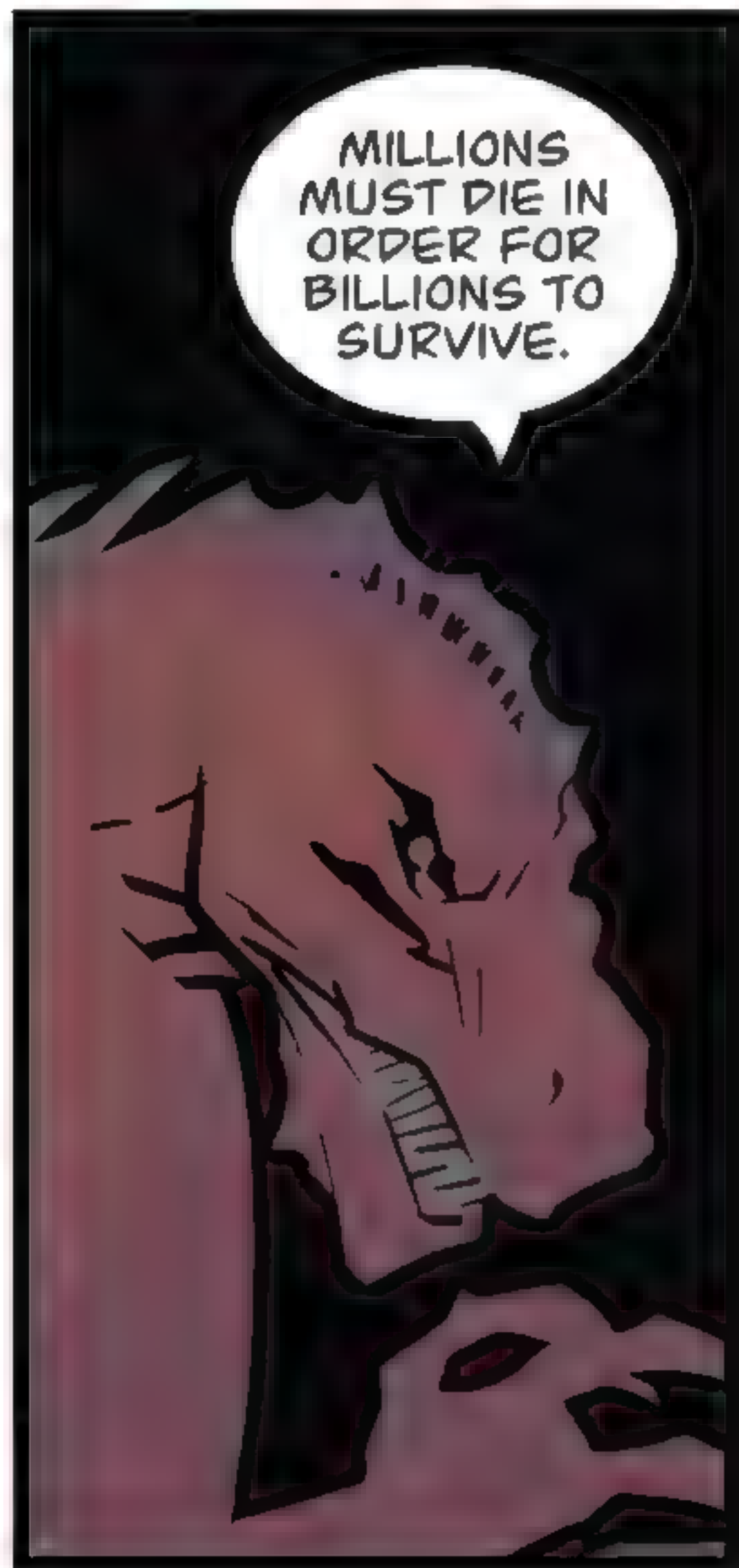


ONLY WHAT HAD TO BE DONE.

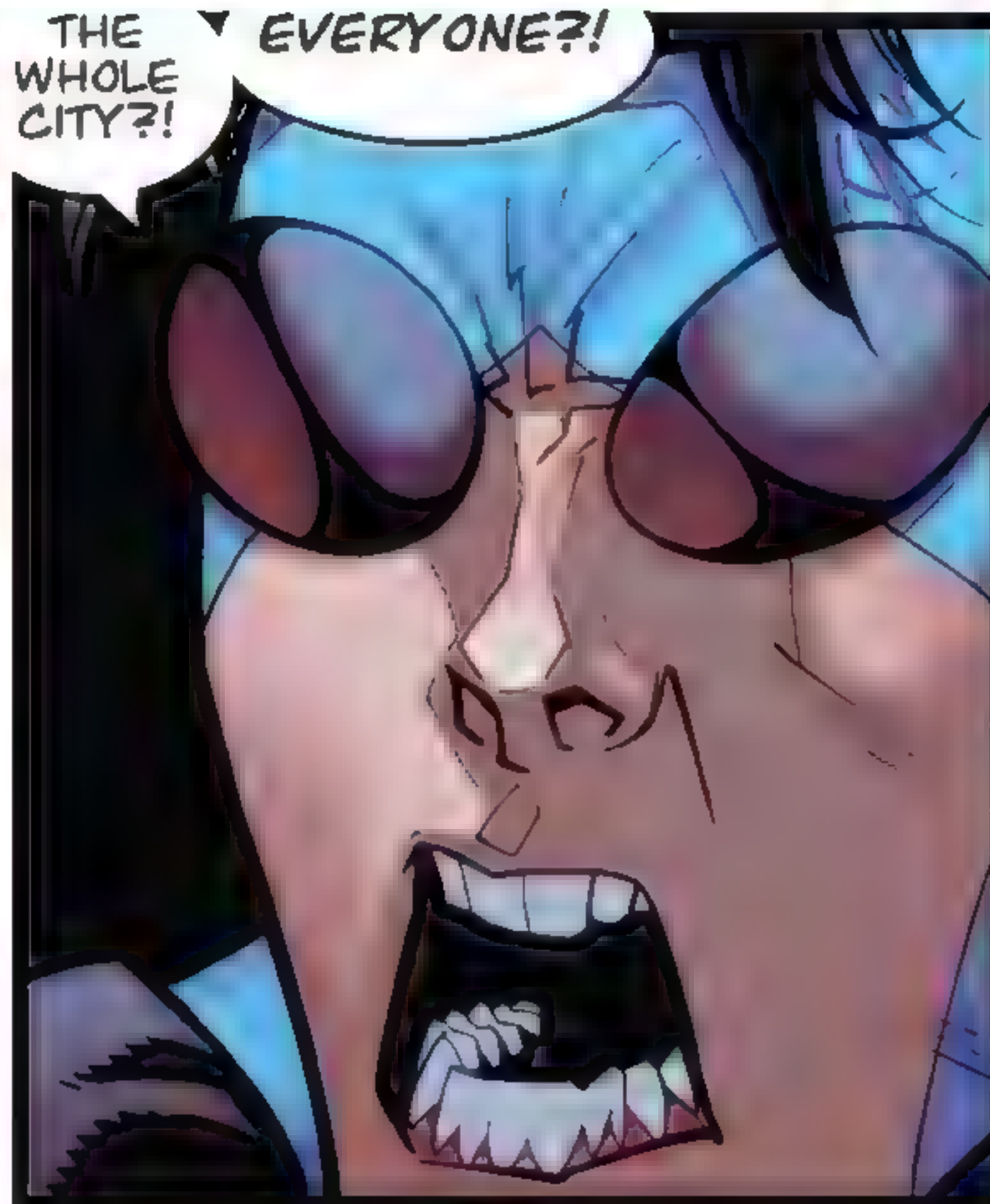


PLEASE TELL ME YOU HAVEN'T PUT ANYONE IN DANGER.

PLEASE...



MILLIONS MUST DIE IN ORDER FOR BILLIONS TO SURVIVE.





I MUST
HAVE MY
REVENGE!

I HAVE
WAITED
LONG
ENOUGH!



DO NOT FORGET
WHO IS IN
CONTROL HERE,
ANGSTROM.

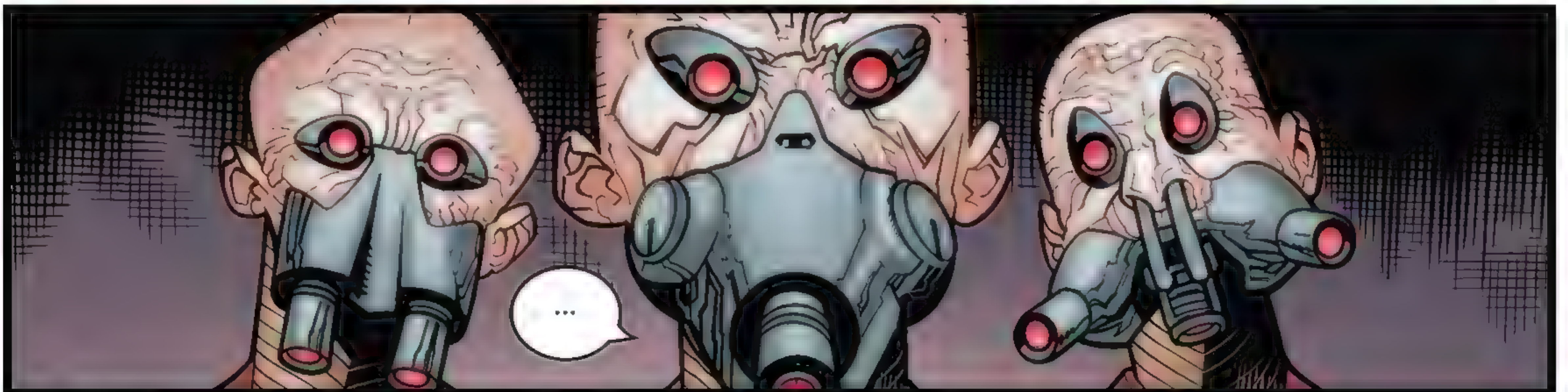
THESE
OUTBURSTS
WILL NOT BE
TOLERATED.



I HAVE TRANSFORMED YOUR
WORLD! PROVIDED YOU WITH
A POPULATION WHO WORSHIP
YOU AS GODS!

YOUR EVERY
WANT AND DESIRE
IS ATTENDED TO!
YOU HAVE **LIMITLESS**
RESOURCES! I HAVE
WORKED **TIRELESSLY**
TO CONSTRUCT A
PERFECT WORLD FOR
YOU--PULLED FROM
COUNTLESS
DIMENSIONS!

WHAT
MORE COULD
YOU POSSIBLY
WANT FROM
ME?!

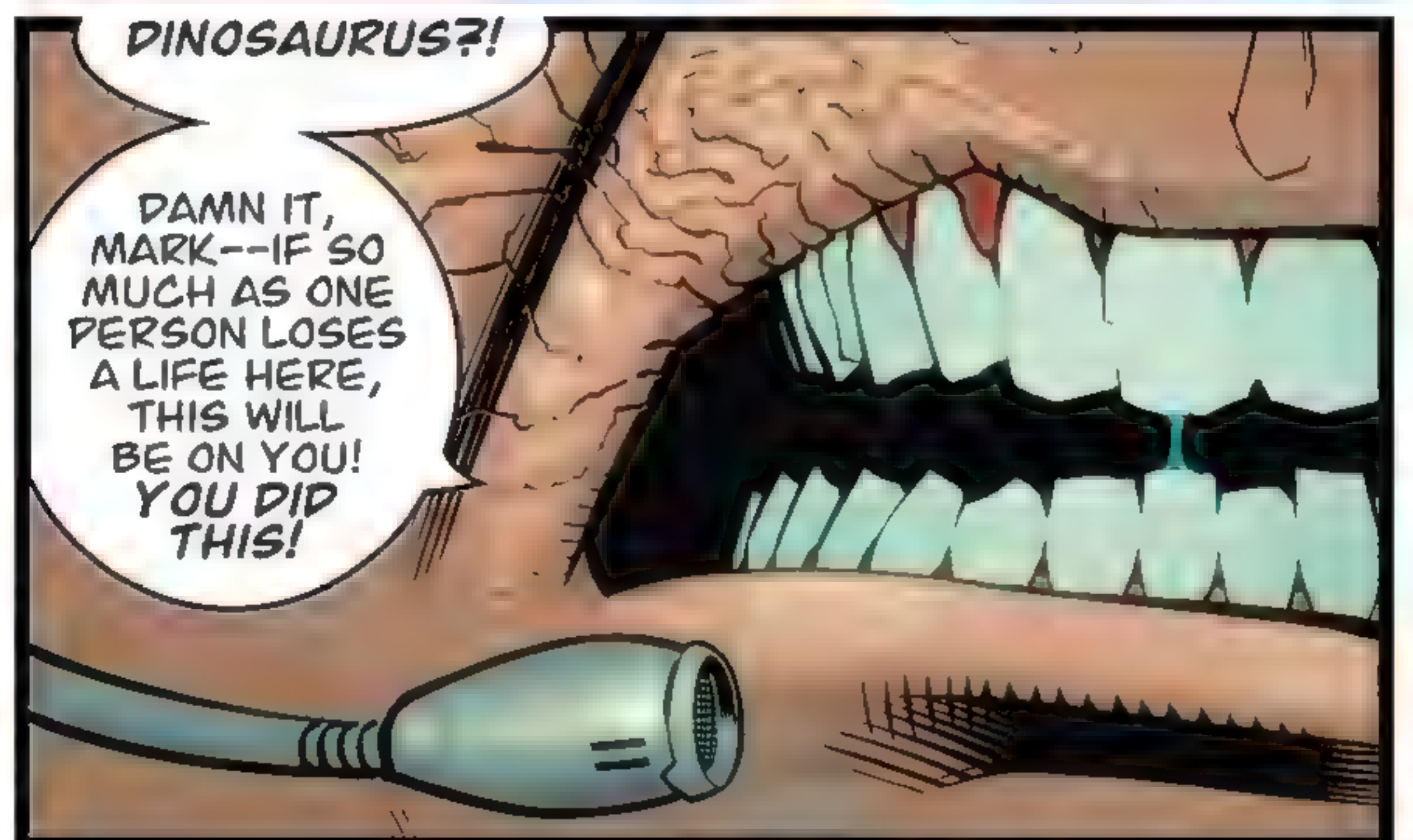
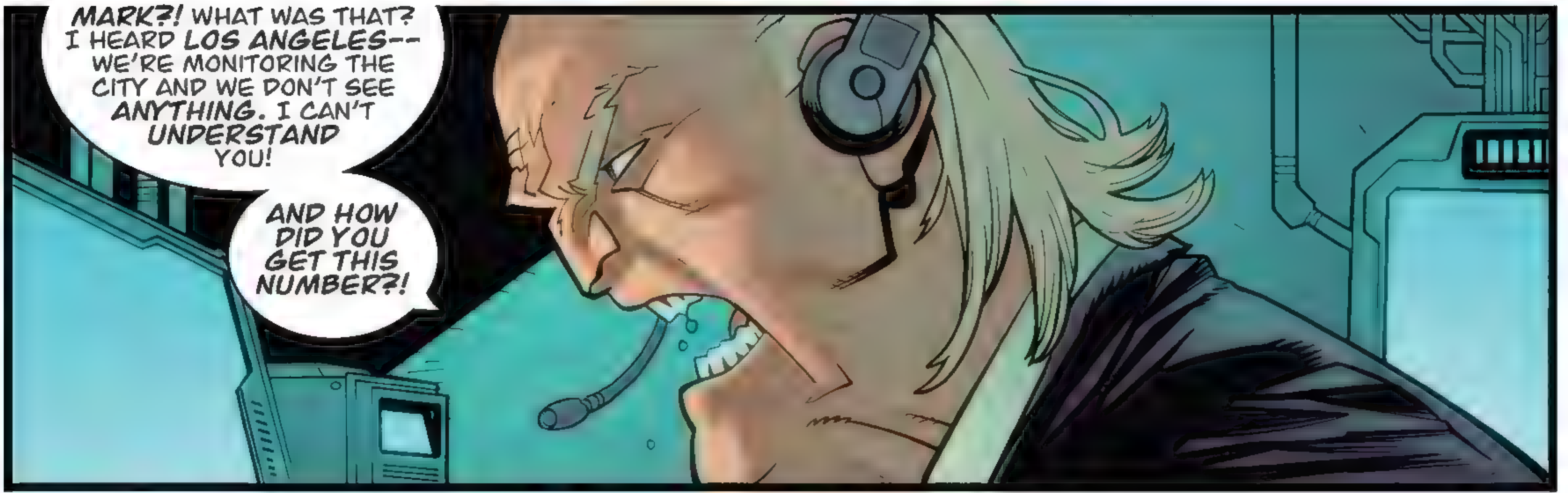


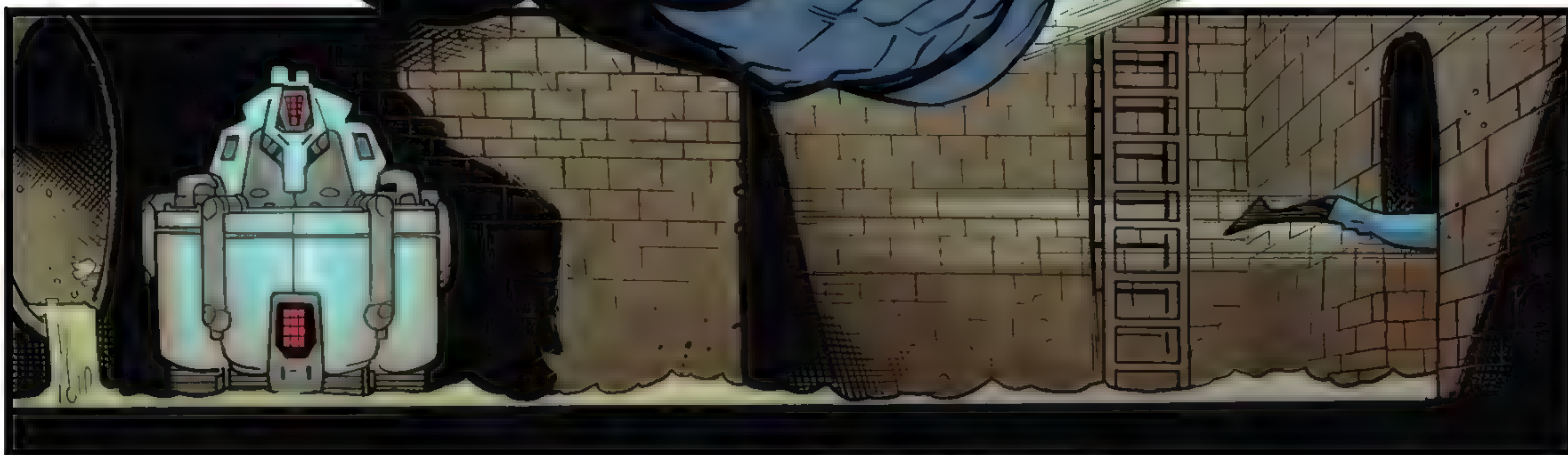
...



NOTHING.

YOU ARE
FREE TO GO.
THE **TECHNICIANS**
HAVE NO FURTHER
USE FOR YOU.

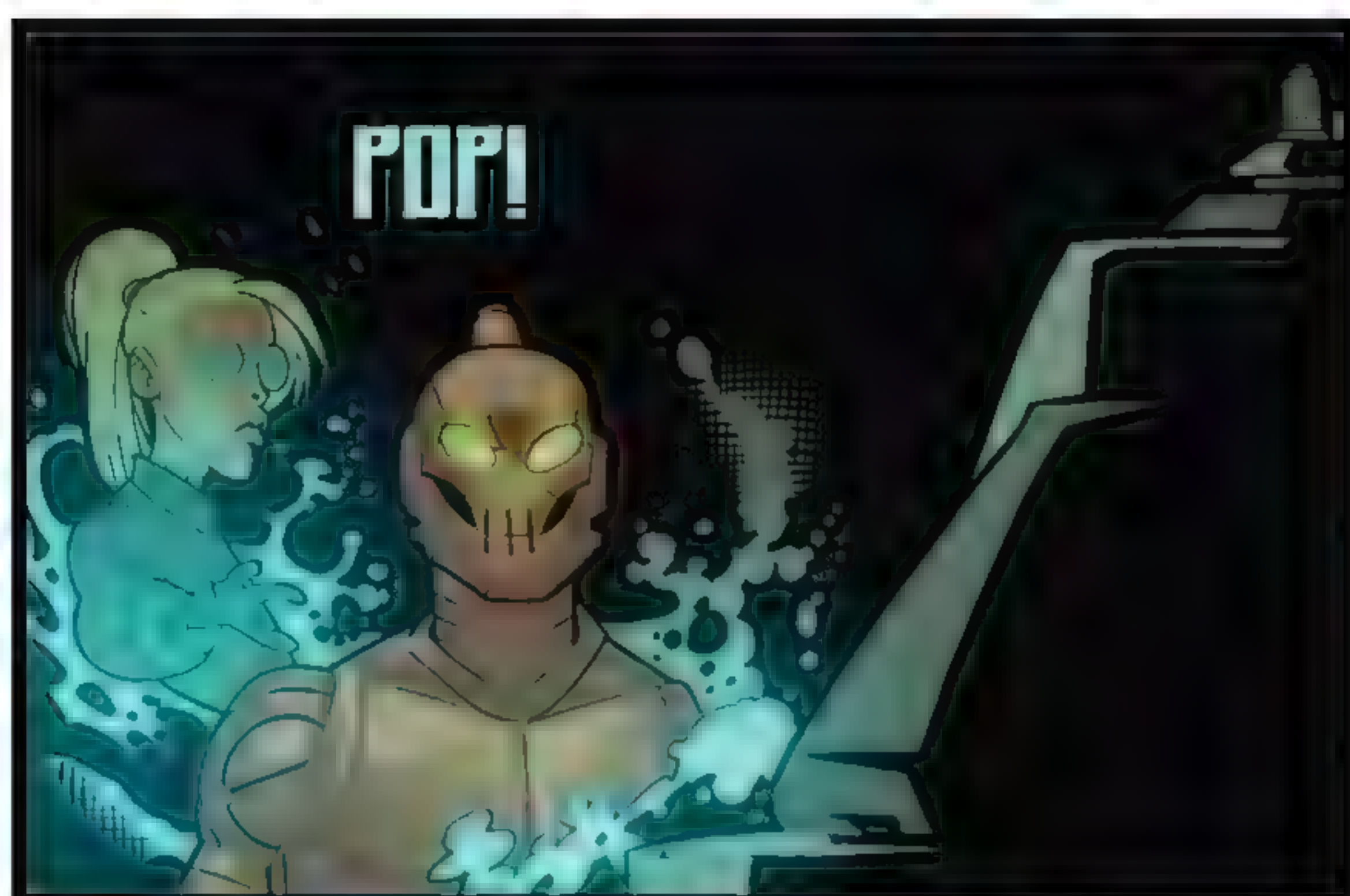






ANY KIND OF ETA FOR THE GUARDIANS?! THESE COULD ALL GO OFF AT ANY SECOND!

THEY'RE ARRIVING ON SITE RIGHT NOW. WE'RE SPACING THEM OUT INTO SEARCH GROUPS SO THEY CAN COVER MORE GROUND QUICKLY.

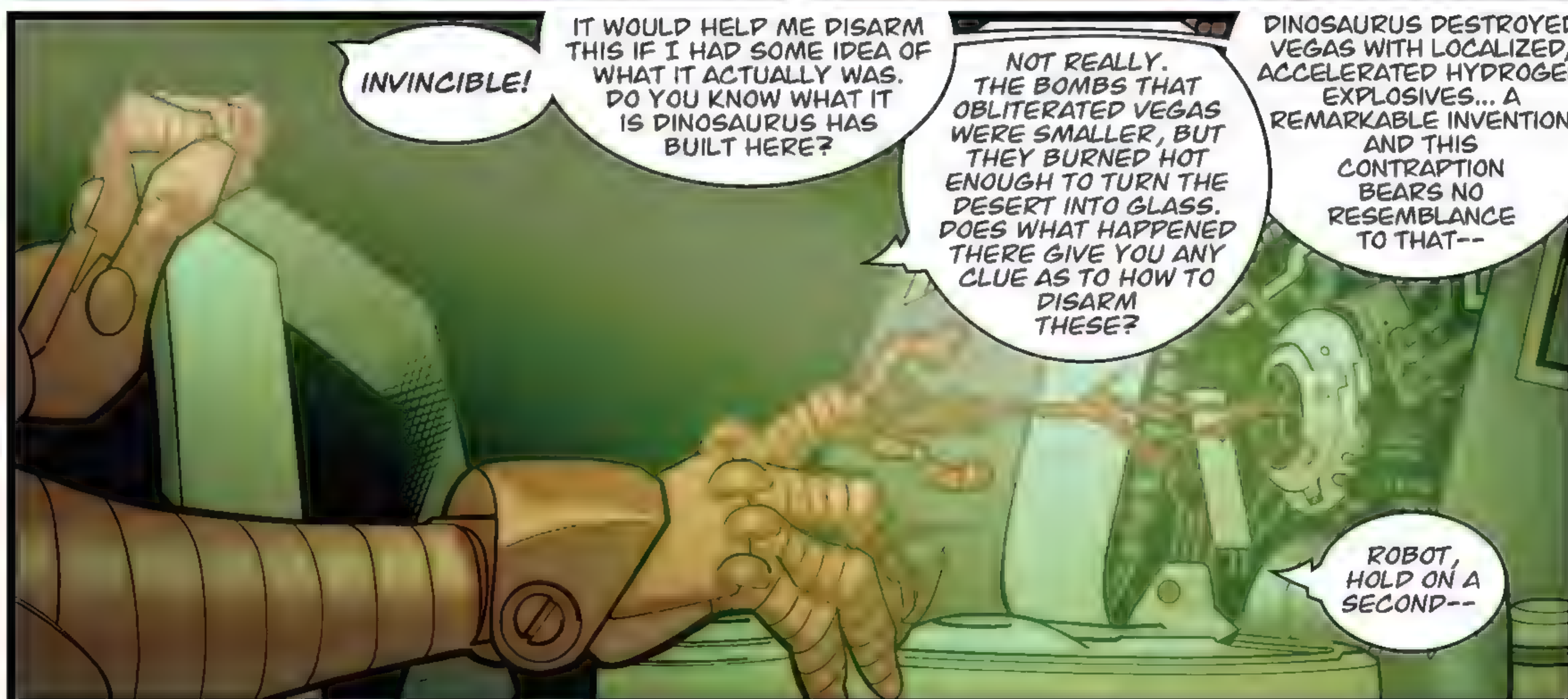


POP!



POP!

THANKS, MS. POPPER.



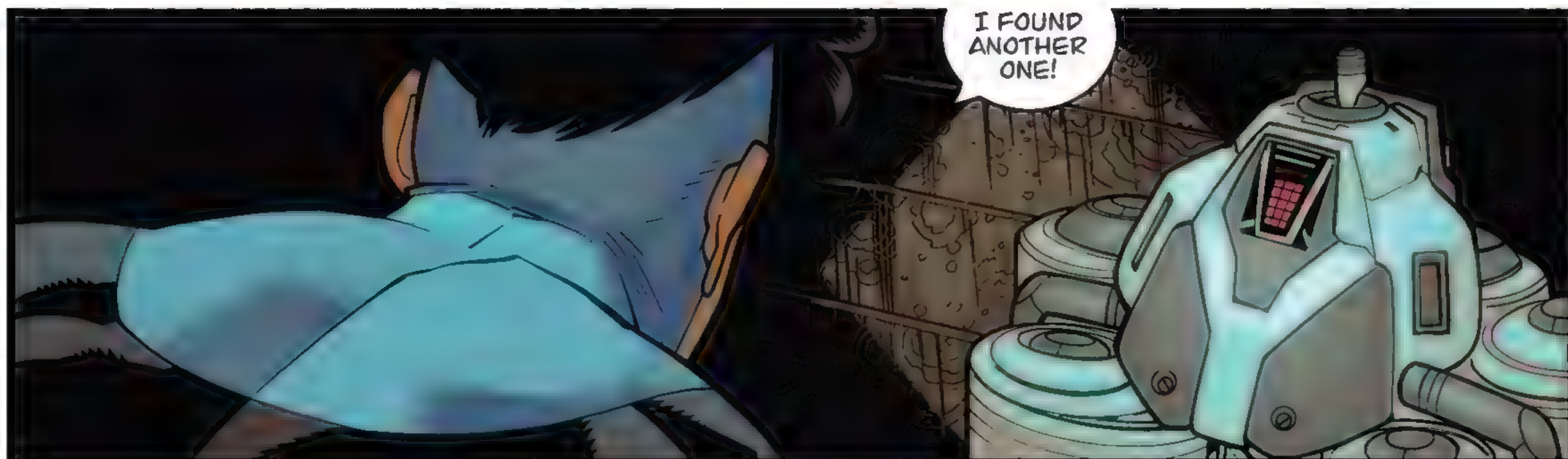
INVINCIBLE!

IT WOULD HELP ME DISARM THIS IF I HAD SOME IDEA OF WHAT IT ACTUALLY WAS. DO YOU KNOW WHAT IT IS DINOSAURUS HAS BUILT HERE?

NOT REALLY. THE BOMBS THAT OBLITERATED VEGAS WERE SMALLER, BUT THEY BURNED HOT ENOUGH TO TURN THE DESERT INTO GLASS. DOES WHAT HAPPENED THERE GIVE YOU ANY CLUE AS TO HOW TO DISARM THESE?

DINOSAURUS DESTROYED VEGAS WITH LOCALIZED, ACCELERATED HYDROGEN EXPLOSIVES... A REMARKABLE INVENTION, AND THIS CONTRAPTION BEARS NO RESEMBLANCE TO THAT--

ROBOT, HOLD ON A SECOND--



I FOUND ANOTHER ONE!



ROBOT, WE'VE GOT FOUR OTHER DEVICES LOCATED. YOU'RE SURE THESE AREN'T BOMBS?

WE CAN'T JUST PLACE A SCIENTIST ON EACH ONE OF THESE THINGS AND HOPE FOR THE BEST. WHAT'S THE PLAN HERE? ANY IDEAS?

IF I HAD A DEFINITIVE PLAN WE COULD TELEPORT ALL MY OTHER ACTIVE DRONES HERE, AND I COULD DISARM THEM ALL REMOTELY. SADLY, I DON'T YET KNOW HOW THAT CAN BE DONE--HAVING ANOTHER PAIR OF EYES ON THESE WOULD HELP.

CECIL? GET SINCLAIR AND WHATEVER OTHER EGGHEADS YOU'VE GOT DOWN HERE TO HELP ROBOT.

ROBOT, ANY CLUES AS TO WHAT WE'RE DEALING WITH HERE? ANY INDICATION ON WHAT EXACTLY WILL HAPPEN IF THESE THINGS GO OFF ANYTIME SOON?

AGAIN, I SEE NO SIGNS THAT THIS DEVICE IS EVEN CAPABLE OF DETONATING. I'M ALMOST CERTAIN THEY ARE NOT EXPLOSIVE IN NATURE.

WAIT A MINUTE, THERE IS AN ENERGY SOURCE, BUT IT'S NOT BUILDING UP ANYTHING FOR AN EXPLOSION. IT'S EMITTING A PULSE DOWN DEEPER BELOW THE SURFACE. I'LL NEED TO DO SOME READINGS, BUT IF THE BEAM IS POWERFUL ENOUGH AND THE FREQUENCY IS TUNED THE RIGHT WAY, IT COULD BE APPLYING ARTIFICIAL STRESS ON THE TECTONIC PLATES BELOW IN ORDER TO INDUCE A--

OH NO--



OKAY--TIME'S UP! NO MORE ANALYZING! WE NEED TO SMASH THESE MACHINES-- SHUT THE SIGNAL OFF BEFORE THEY COLLAPSE THE WHOLE CITY!

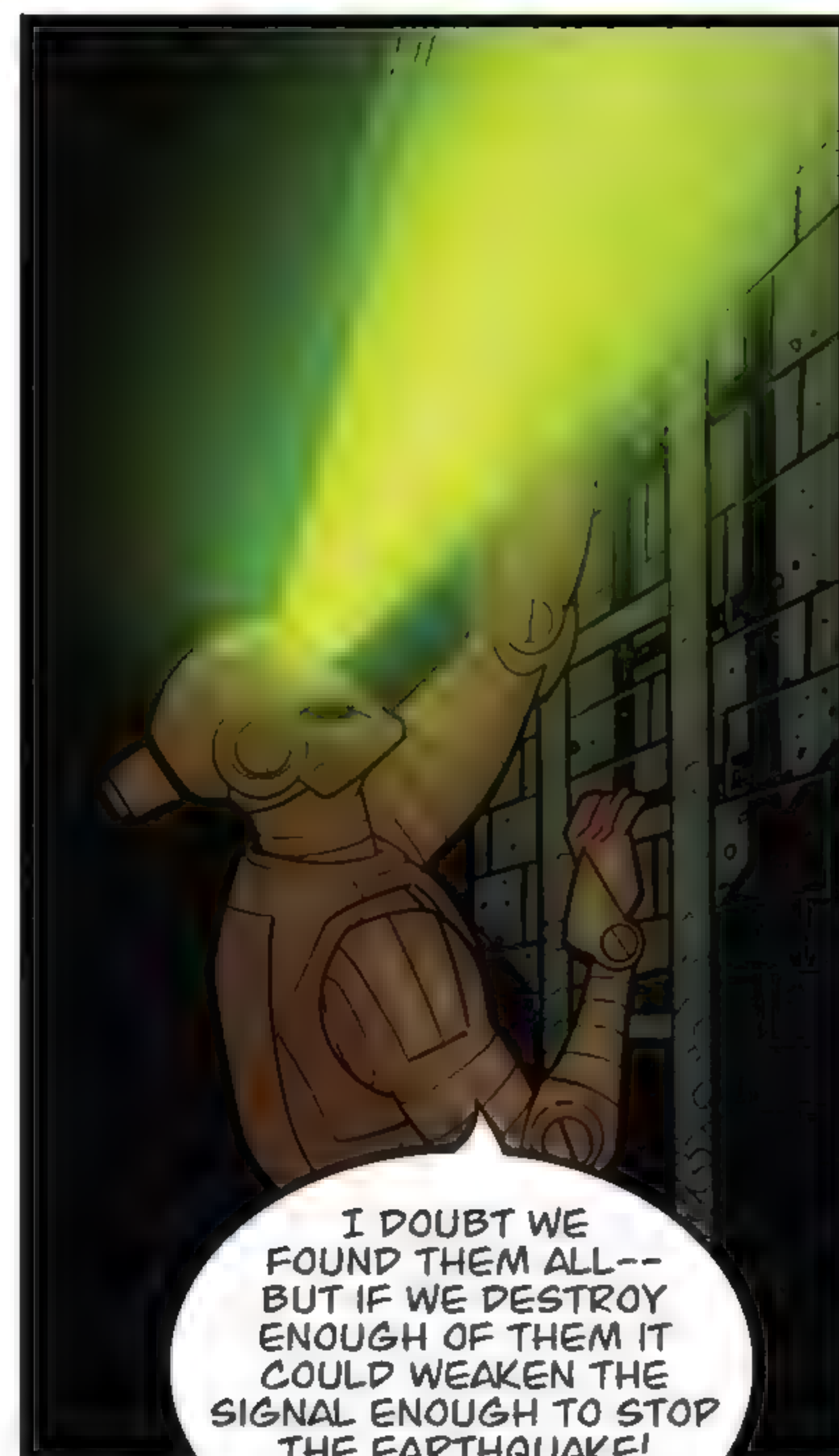


SKRAGG!

ON IT!



KROOM!



I DOUBT WE FOUND THEM ALL-- BUT IF WE DESTROY ENOUGH OF THEM IT COULD WEAKEN THE SIGNAL ENOUGH TO STOP THE EARTHQUAKE!



DOING WHAT I CAN!

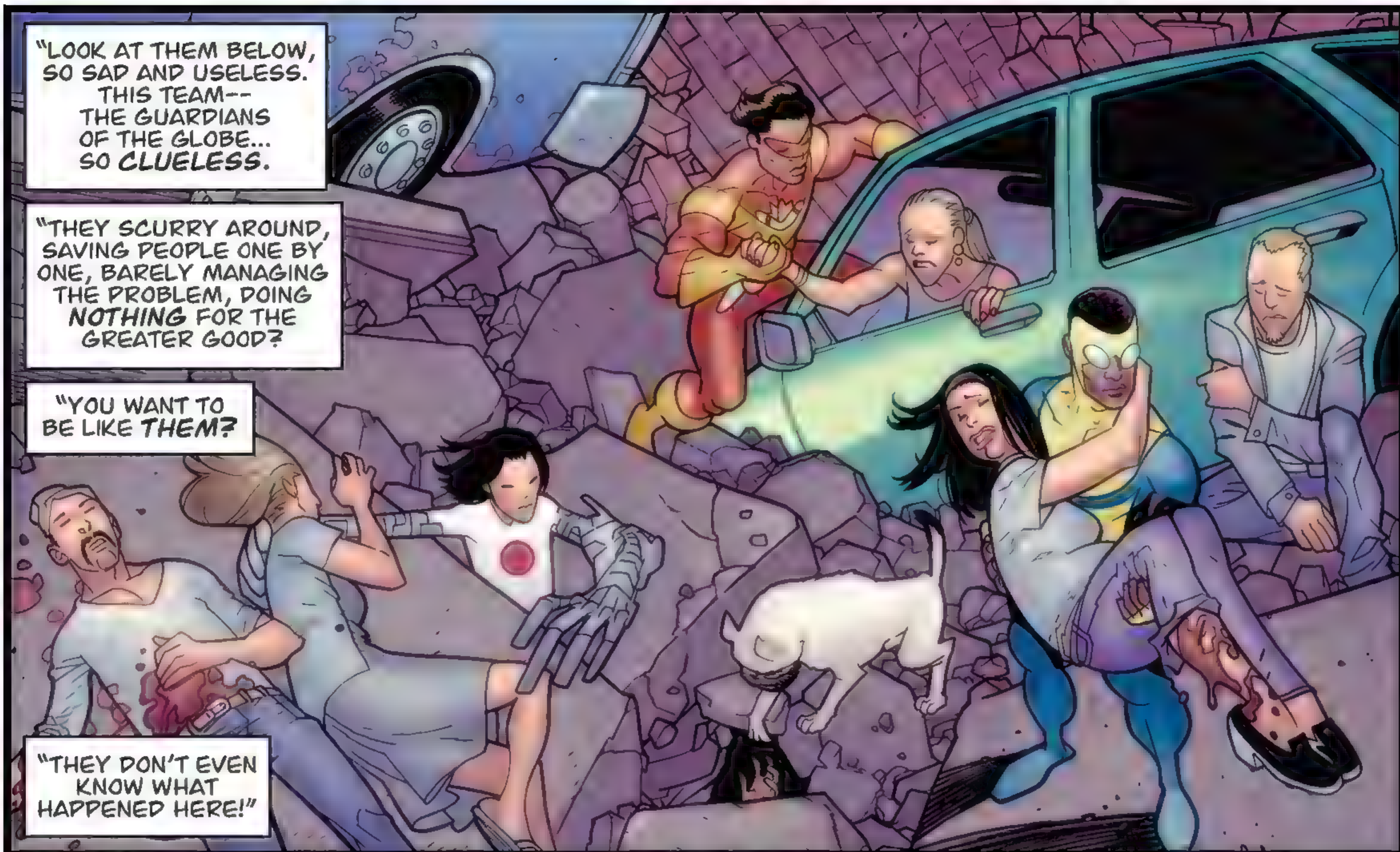
WRAMM!



AND I'VE GOTTEN THREE MORE!

GREAT JOB, OUTRUN! THAT DID IT--I THINK IT'S STOPPING!





"LOOK AT THEM BELOW,
SO SAD AND USELESS.
THIS TEAM--
THE GUARDIANS
OF THE GLOBE...
SO CLUELESS.

"THEY SCURRY AROUND,
SAVING PEOPLE ONE BY
ONE, BARELY MANAGING
THE PROBLEM, DOING
NOTHING FOR THE
GREATER GOOD?

"YOU WANT TO
BE LIKE **THEM**?

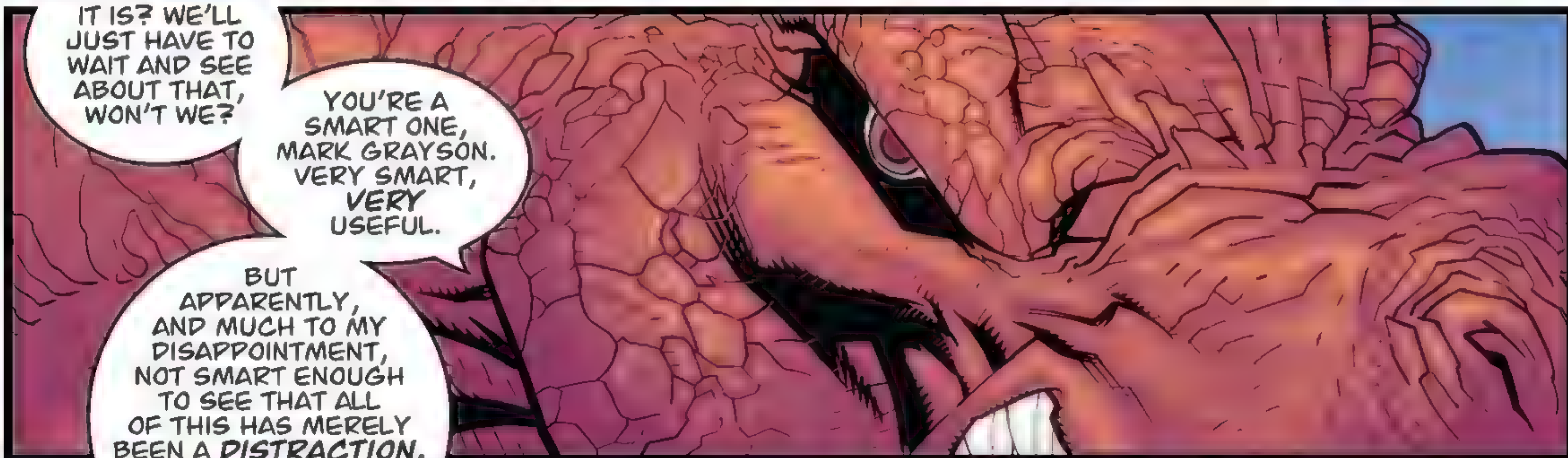
"THEY DON'T EVEN
KNOW WHAT
HAPPENED HERE!"



THEY KNOW EXACTLY
WHAT HAPPENED
HERE--A LUNATIC
KILLED THOUSANDS
OF PEOPLE... ALL
BECAUSE OF
ME!

I TRUSTED
YOU! I
THOUGHT YOU
WANTED TO HELP
PEOPLE!

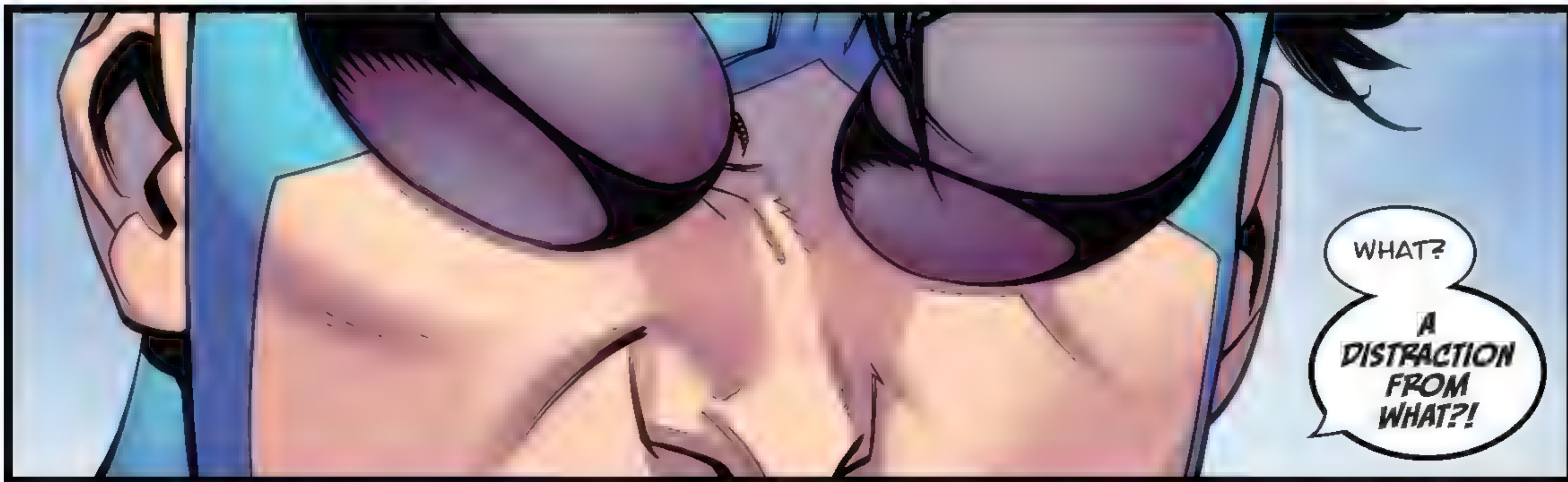
ANY THOUGHT
OF YOU AND I
WORKING TOGETHER
TO SAVE THE WORLD--
THAT'S OVER--
THAT'S DONE!



IT IS? WE'LL
JUST HAVE TO
WAIT AND SEE
ABOUT THAT,
WON'T WE?

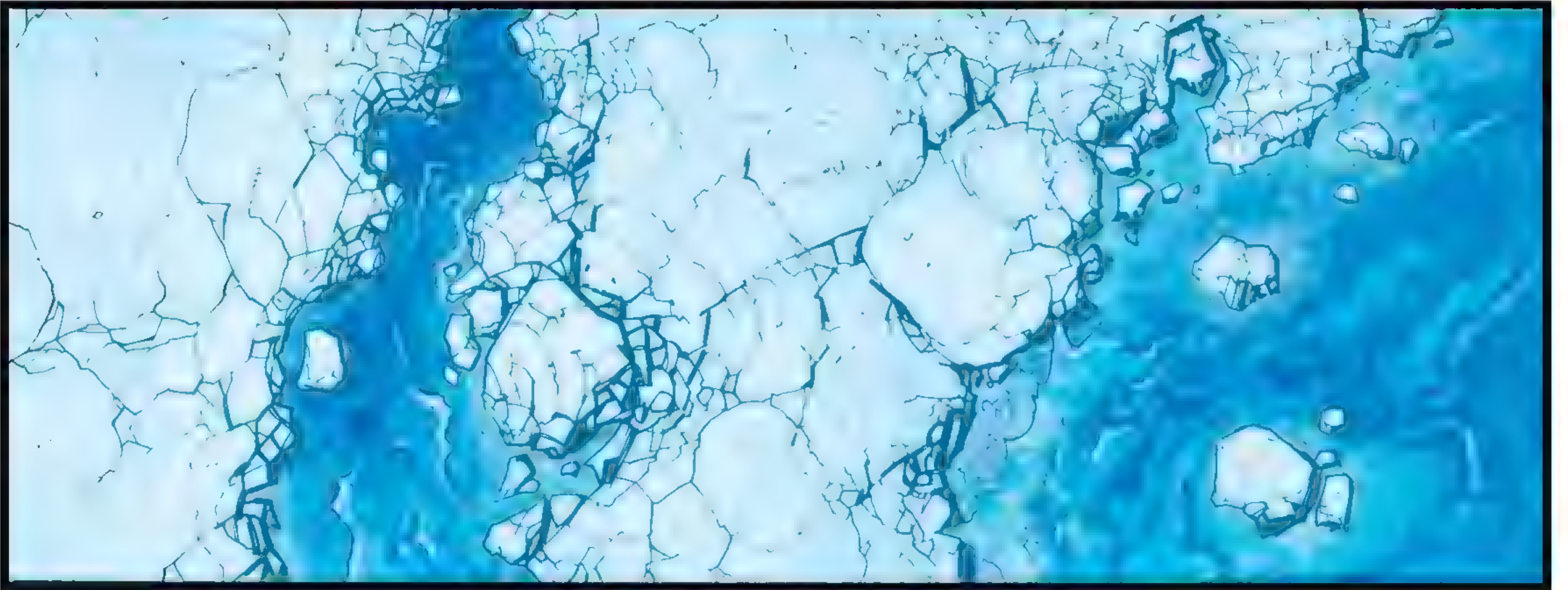
YOU'RE A
SMART ONE,
MARK GRAYSON.
VERY SMART,
VERY
USEFUL.

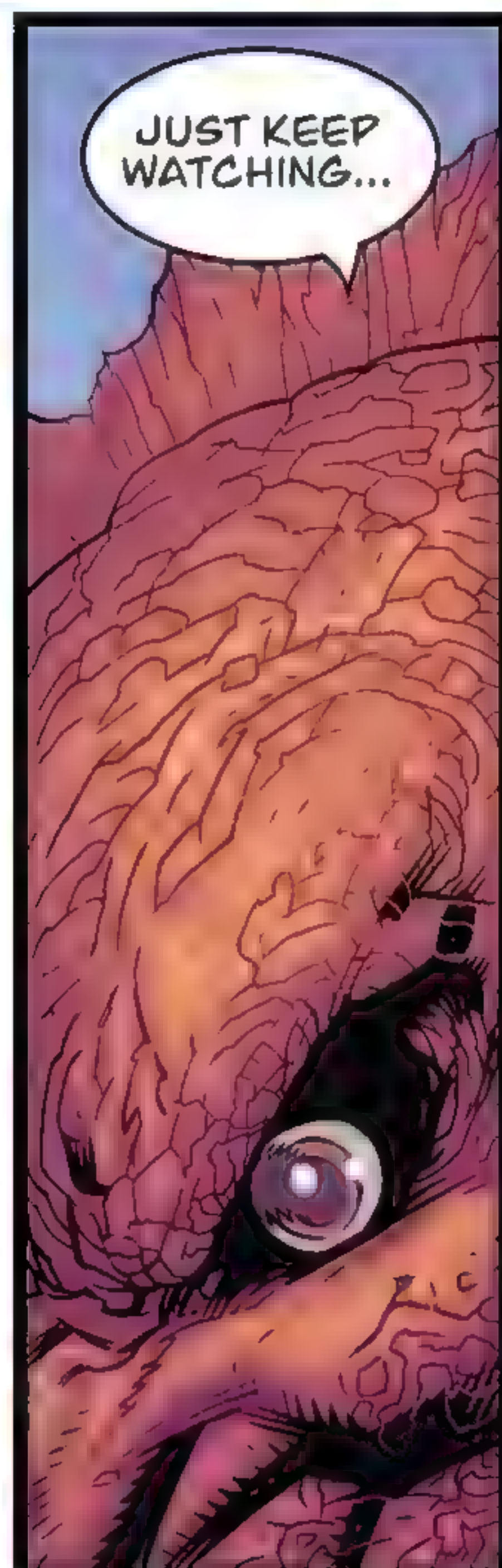
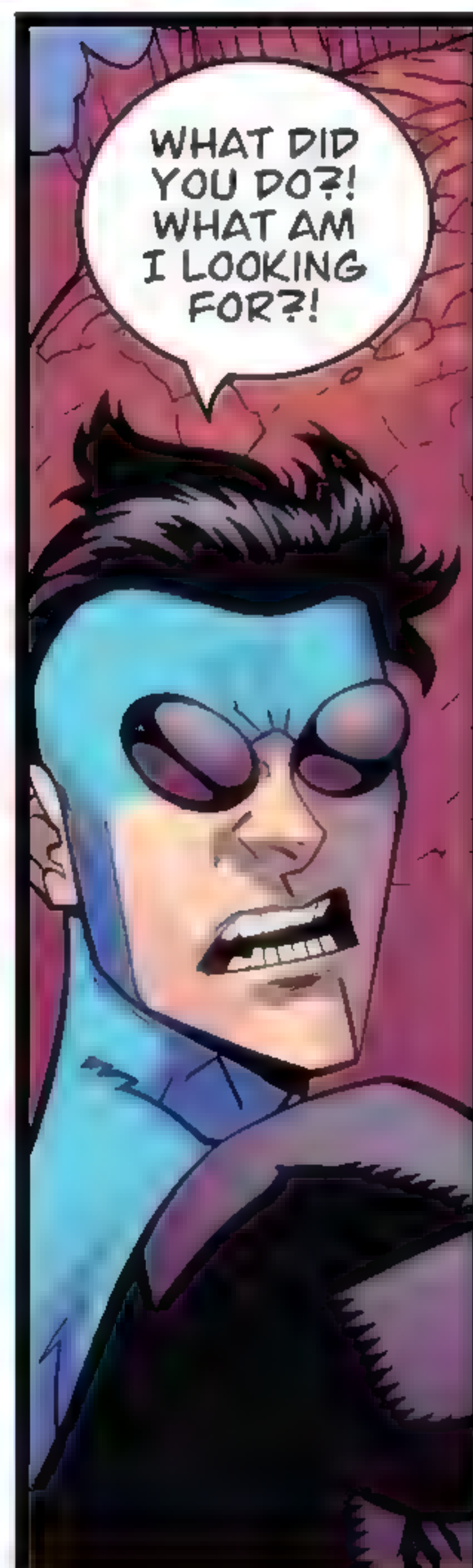
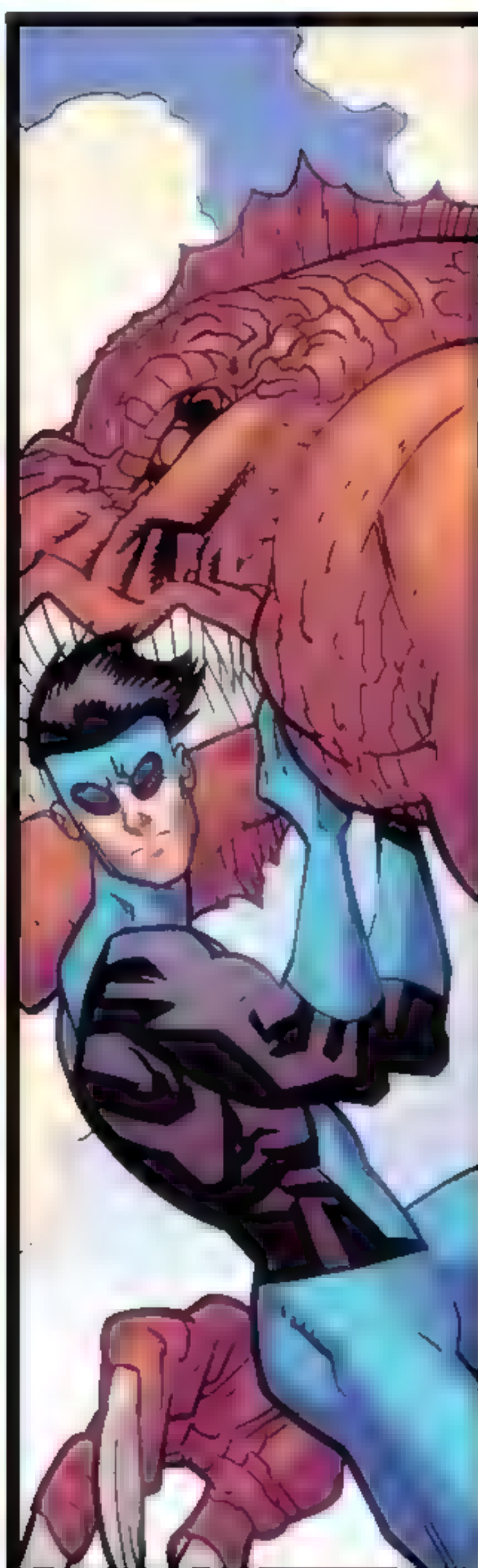
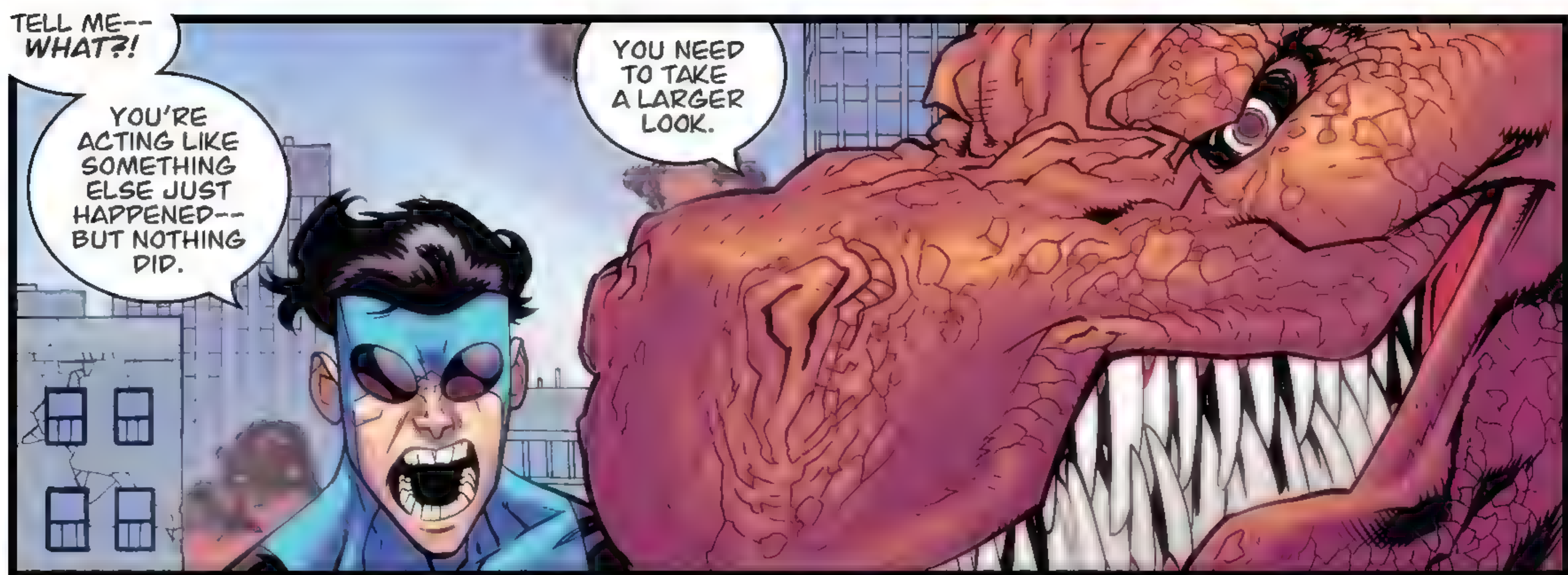
BUT
APPARENTLY,
AND MUCH TO MY
DISAPPOINTMENT,
NOT SMART ENOUGH
TO SEE THAT ALL
OF THIS HAS MERELY
BEEN A **DISTRACTION**.

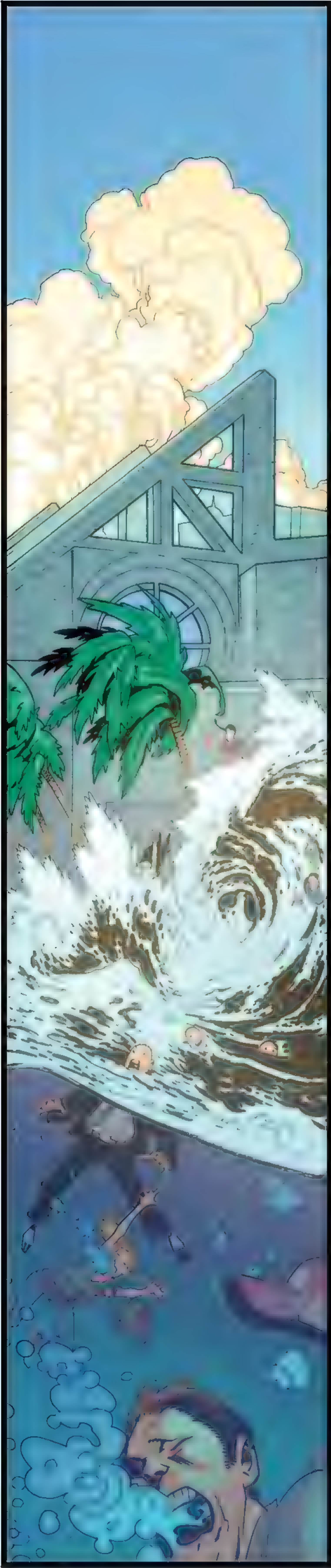


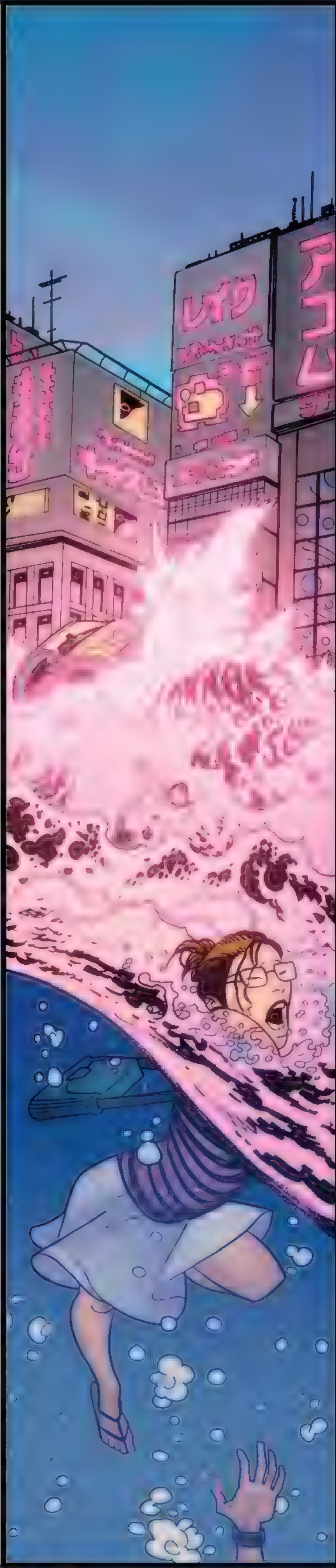
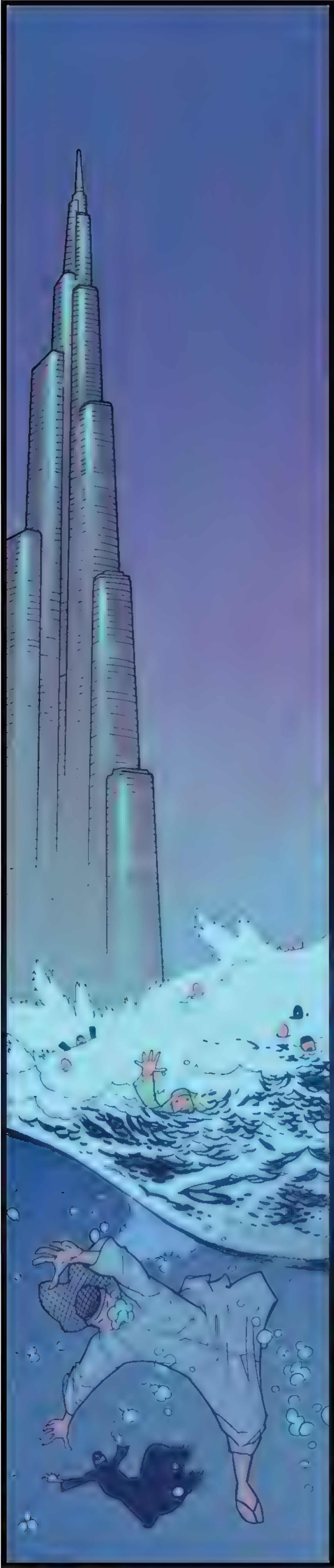
WHAT?

A
DISTRACTION
FROM
WHAT?!












YOU'RE
KILLING
EVERYONE.



CHAPTER 99





THIS ISN'T
THE DEATH OF
EVERYONE...

...JUST A
SIGNIFICANT
PORTION OF THE
POPULATION,
ACCORDING TO MY
STUDIES. ENOUGH
TO FIX THINGS, TO
TURN THINGS
AROUND SO THAT
OUR CIVILIZATION
CAN ENDURE.


THE WATERS,
THEY WILL ONLY
KILL THOUSANDS,
NOT MILLIONS... BUT
DRIVING PEOPLE
FROM THE COASTAL
CITIES, DISRUPTING
THOSE LIVES, MAKING
THE POPULATION
CENTERS OF THE
WORLD UNLIVABLE...
THAT WILL
CHANGE THE
WORLD...

...FOR THE
BETTER!

ISN'T THAT
WHAT WE WERE
WORKING TOWARD--
WHAT WE'RE TRYING
TO ACCOMPLISH--
ISN'T THAT WHAT
YOU WANTED--
A BETTER
WORLD?

YOU'RE
INSANE!
NO! I
DIDN'T WANT
THIS!

NOTHING
GOOD WILL
COME OF THIS...
YOU'VE... RUINED
EVERYTHING.



THE WATER
SHOWS NO SIGN
OF RECEPING ANY
TIME SOON.
GUARDIANS--GET
THESE PEOPLE OFF
THE STREETS
AND TO HIGHER
GROUND.

CECIL, YOUR
PEOPLE NEED TO
ISSUE WARNINGS
BEFORE THE POWER
GOES OUT! TELL
PEOPLE TO HOLE UP
IN THE HIGHER FLOORS
OF THE BUILDINGS
WORLDWIDE!

WE'VE GOT
MUCH BIGGER
PROBLEMS HERE.
WE CAN'T BE
FOCUSING ON
LOS ANGELES
EXCLUSIVELY.

KID THOR,
KNOCKOUT--
I WANT YOU IN
SAN DIEGO!

LE BRUSIER,
PEGASUS--GO TO
SAN FRANCISCO.

GUARDIANS ARE COVERING THE ENTIRE WEST COAST. I'M SCRAMBLING MORE TEAM MEMBERS TO THE OTHER WEST COAST CITIES.

CAPIES INCORPORATED HAS NEW YORK AND NEW JERSEY COVERED. CHUPACABRA IS IN RIO DE JANEIRO. WOLF-MAN AND THE WOLF C.O.R.P.S. ARE IN HONG KONG DOING ALL THEY CAN! ACTIONEERS ARE IN LONDON.

I'M SCRAMBLING TROOPS TO ALL OTHER CITIES. THE CURRENT BARRAGE IS BEING HANDLED AS WELL AS IT CAN, I'M TRANSITIONING TO MORE LONG-TERM THINKING.


I'VE FORWARDED OVER A SET OF SCHEMATICS FOR A SOLUTION TO THE FLOODING WORLDWIDE. I ESTIMATE IF WE SINK ALL OUR AVAILABLE RESOURCES INTO THIS, IT CAN BE BUILT IN LESS THAN THREE WEEKS.

THAT WON'T BE ENOUGH TIME FOR THE WATER TO ERODE OR COMPROMISE THE STRUCTURES OF THESE CITIES. WE NEED TO MOVE ON THIS QUICKLY--GET MY SCHEMATICS TO SINCLAIR AND THE REST OF YOUR BRAIN TRUST NOW!

I'M ON IT! THEY'RE LOOKING OVER THEM AND GETTING STARTED.

GOOD, I'LL BE THERE TO ASSIST AS SOON AS THE CURRENT RESCUE MISSION IS OVER. I'M CURRENTLY PILOTING NEARLY THIRTY DRONES THAT ARE DIVIDING MY FOCUS.





THIS IS ALL
MY FAULT! DO
YOU REALIZE THAT?!
I FREED YOU--I
BELIEVED IN YOU! I
THOUGHT YOU REALLY
WERE WORKING FOR
THE GOOD OF
HUMANITY--BUT
NOW--NOW--


YOU'VE
MADE
ME A MASS
MURDERER!

THERE'S NO
COMING BACK
FROM THIS--
NOT THIS MANY
PEOPLE--THIS MUCH
DESTRUCTION!
YOU'VE RUINED
ME!

I UNDERSTAND
YOU'RE ANGRY--
YOU HAVE A PROBLEM
SEEING THE BIGGER
PICTURE, THAT'S YOUR
WEAKNESS... BUT I SEE
NO REASON FOR YOU
TO ATTEMPT TO
HURT ME.

I JUST
DON'T SEE
WHAT THAT WILL
ACCOMPLISH.





YOU ARE INTELLIGENT, I KNOW THIS TO BE TRUE. IT SEEMS HORRIBLE---NOW! IT SEEMS LIKE THE END OF THE WORLD---NOW! BUT THESE DEATHS ARE INCONSEQUENTIAL!

YOU YOURSELF EVEN ADMITTED THAT WHAT HAPPENED IN VEGAS WAS FOR THE GOOD OF ALL---YOU JUST DISAGREED WITH THE WAY I ACCOMPLISHED THAT GOAL.

TRUST ME THAT THERE WERE NO ALTERNATIVES HERE!

TRUST ME!

SHUT UP!




I DON'T KNOW
WHAT YOU'RE
EVEN HOPING TO
ACCOMPLISH HERE.
YOU'VE NEVER
BEEN ABLE TO
DEFEAT ME
PHYSICALLY.

ARE YOU
TRYING TO
MAKE ME KILL
YOU? HAS
IT COME TO
THAT?

YOU'RE
WORRIED THE
PEOPLE WILL
HATE YOU, AND
YOU CAN'T
GO ON?!





I DON'T BUY IT FOR A MINUTE. SO WHAT IS IT THEN? ARE YOU JUST **ANGRY**? I CAN UNDERSTAND THAT. THAT'S LOGICAL. I'VE DONE SOMETHING OUT OF YOUR CONTROL, IT'S NATURAL TO FIND THAT FRUSTRATING.

EVEN **INFURIATING**.

NOW-- **LET THAT GO!**

CALM DOWN AND SEE THE FUTURE--SEE A TIME WHERE YOU AND I COOPERATE, WHERE YOU DON'T HAVE THE BURDEN OF YOUR HERO STATUS.

WITH YOUR POWERS RETURNED, WE CAN ACCOMPLISH SO MUCH. AND SO WHAT IF THE PEOPLE **HATE US**? THIS WAS NEVER ABOUT **CREDIT**.

THIS IS ABOUT **SAVING MODERN CIVILIZATION**.

I DON'T DO THIS FOR **GLORY**. I DO THIS BECAUSE I **CARE**.

I'M SURE
YOU'RE ALL
AWARE OF THE
REASON I'VE
CALLED YOU
HERE.

OUR ADOPTIVE
PLANET IS
EXPERIENCING A
CATACLYSM, BUT I
MUST REITERATE---
YOU ARE NOT TO
INTERFERE IN
ANY WAY.

WERE OUR
PRESENCE TO BE
KNOWN TO THE
POPULATION, IT WOULD
COMPLICATE MATTERS.
WE ARE TO EXIST HERE,
UNDETECTED, BIDDING
OUR TIME UNTIL OUR
OFFSPRING IS OF AGE
AND EXHIBITING
VILTRUMITE
ABILITIES.


IT IS ONLY
WHEN OUR RANKS
SWELL THAT WE
WILL REVEAL
OURSELVES AND
ASSUME CONTROL
OF THE PLANET.

WE
CANNOT STIR
THE COALITION
OF PLANETS INTO
ACTION, OUR
PEOPLE WOULD
NOT SURVIVE
ANOTHER
CONFLICT.

I KNOW THAT
MANY OF US HAVE
GROWN CONNECTED
TO OUR CHOSEN MATES
ON THE PLANET BELOW...
THAT IS ILL-ADVISED.
WHATEVER HAPPENS
TO THESE PEOPLE, IT
MUST BE ALLOWED
TO HAPPEN.

ANYONE
WHO DISOBEYS
ME, WILL
FACE MY
WRATH.





STAGING
GROUND SEVEN,
IN NEW JERSEY,
CAN TAKE ON
MORE REFUGEES,
WE'RE DIVERTING
THIS BATCH
THERE.

MY SCANS
SHOW THAT THE
STREETS HAVE
BEEN COMPLETELY
EVACUATED, AND
THE CASUALTIES
HAVE BEEN MUCH
LOWER THAN
PROJECTED.

STILL NOT
LOW ENOUGH.
THE EVACUATION
IS WORKING, BUT
THESE PEOPLE CAN'T
BE DISPLACED FOR
LONG. DO YOU HAVE
A PLAN FOR THIS?
CAN A SEA WALL BE
CONSTRUCTED?

IT COULD--
BUT I'VE GOT
A TEAM WORKING
ON SOMETHING
BETTER. WE
SHOULD HAVE IT
READY IN--

WAIT! I'M
GETTING A REPORT
IN--THEY'VE FOUND
DINOSAURUS. THEY'RE
TRACKING A FIGHT
BETWEEN HIM AND
INVINCIBLE
RIGHT NOW.

THEY'RE
STILL IN
LOS ANGELES.



WROKK!

I THINK
YOU'VE SAID
MORE THAN
ENOUGH!

**NOW
LISTEN TO
ME!!**

WIRAAAA!!!



THROKK OOM!



I WAS STUPID
TO EVER TRUST
YOU! YOU'RE
BRILLIANT--YOU HAVE
GOOD IDEAS--YOU
RECOGNIZE PROBLEMS
THAT OTHERS HAVE
BARELY BEGUN TO
CONCEIVE--
BUT YOU'RE
INSANE!

I THOUGHT
WE COULD
SAVE THE
WORLD!

INSTEAD
YOU'VE MADE
ME YOUR
ACCOMPLICE IN
DESTROYING
IT!

FOR THE
SAKE OF
HUMANITY--
YOU HAVE
TO DIE!




BOOM!

NO!

I HAVE THE
DATA! I SEE
WHAT LIES
AHEAD FOR US!
I KNOW WHAT
I'M DOING IS
RIGHT!

IF YOU
REFUSE TO
HELP ME---
IF YOU'RE
GOING TO
STAND IN MY
WAY---



IT'S
YOU
WHO MUST
DIE!

BUT IT
DOESN'T
HAVE TO BE
THIS WAY--
YOU CAN
STOP THIS--
YOU CAN--

ALL I'M
GOING TO
DO IS
TAKE YOU
DOWN!



IT WOULD
APPEAR WE'VE
ATTRACTED A
SPECTATOR.
NO MATTER...
THE WORLD
SHOULD **SEE**
THIS.

IT
WILL WARN
OTHERS
WHO OPPOSE
ME--YOU
SEE...

...SINCE
YOU'VE PROVEN,
INVINCIBLE,
THAT YOU CAN'T
STAY OUT OF
MY WAY...





I'M AFRAID
I HAVE NO
CHOICE---IT'S
TIME FOR
YOU TO
DIE!



CHAPTER 100



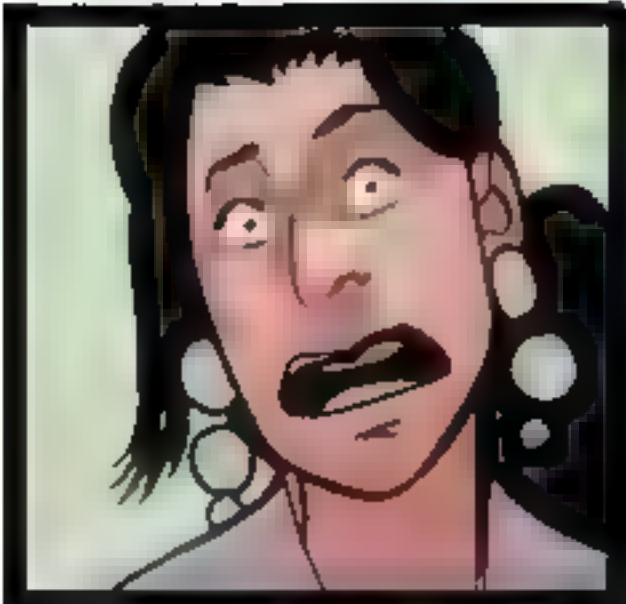
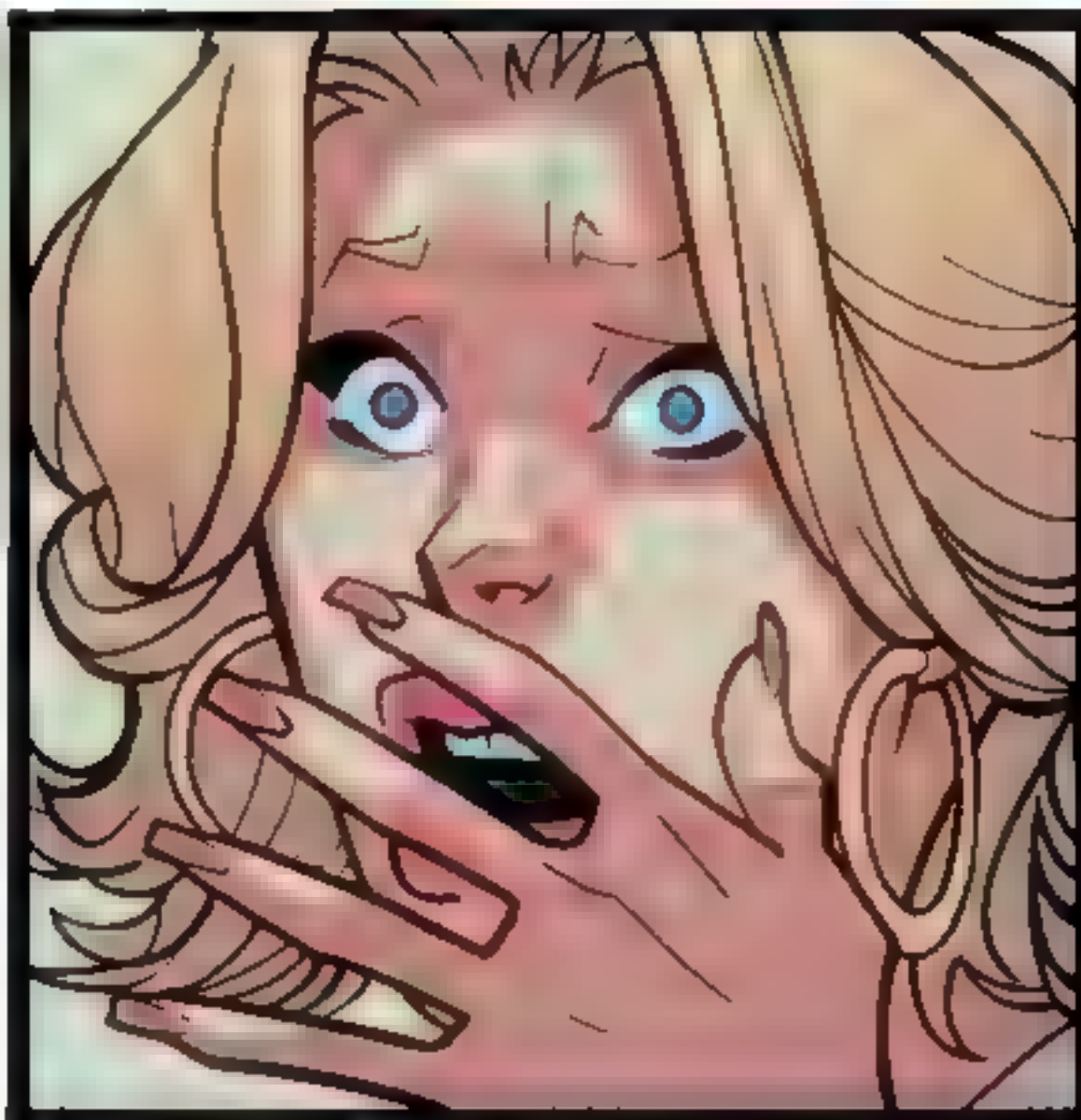
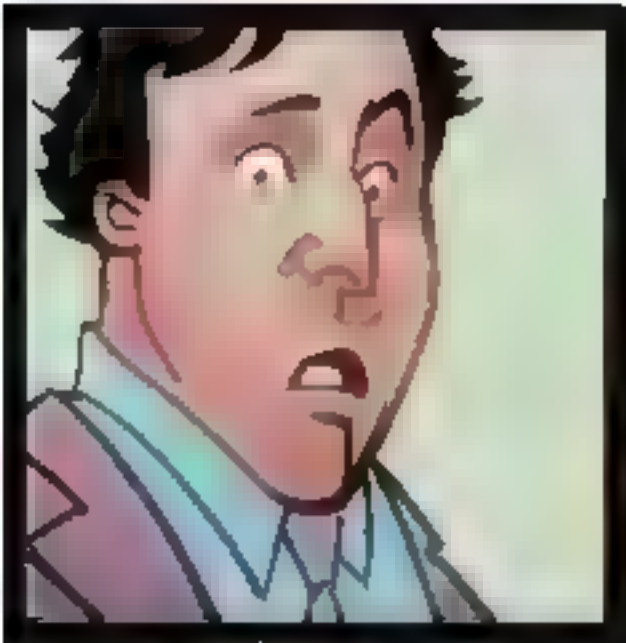
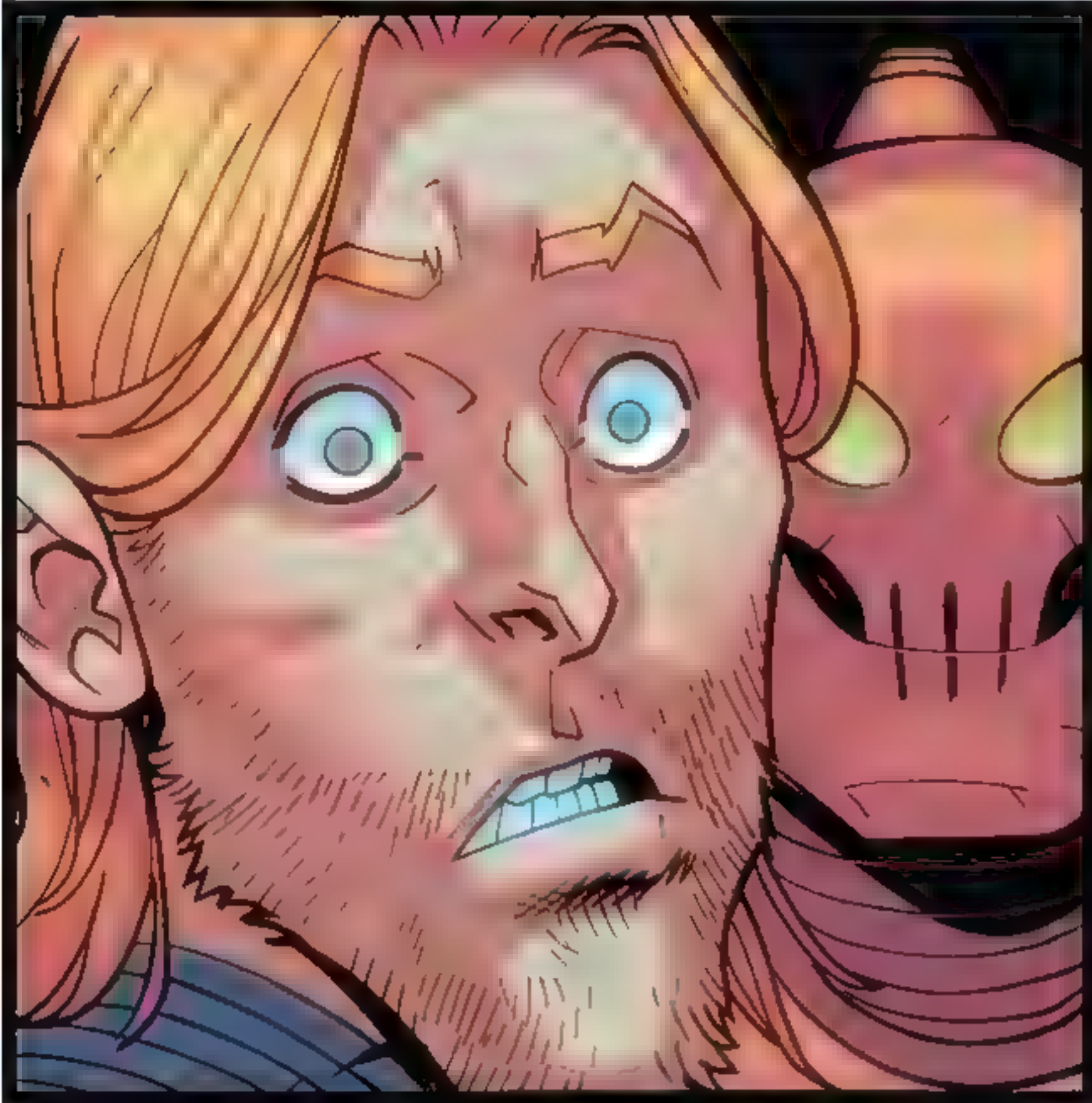
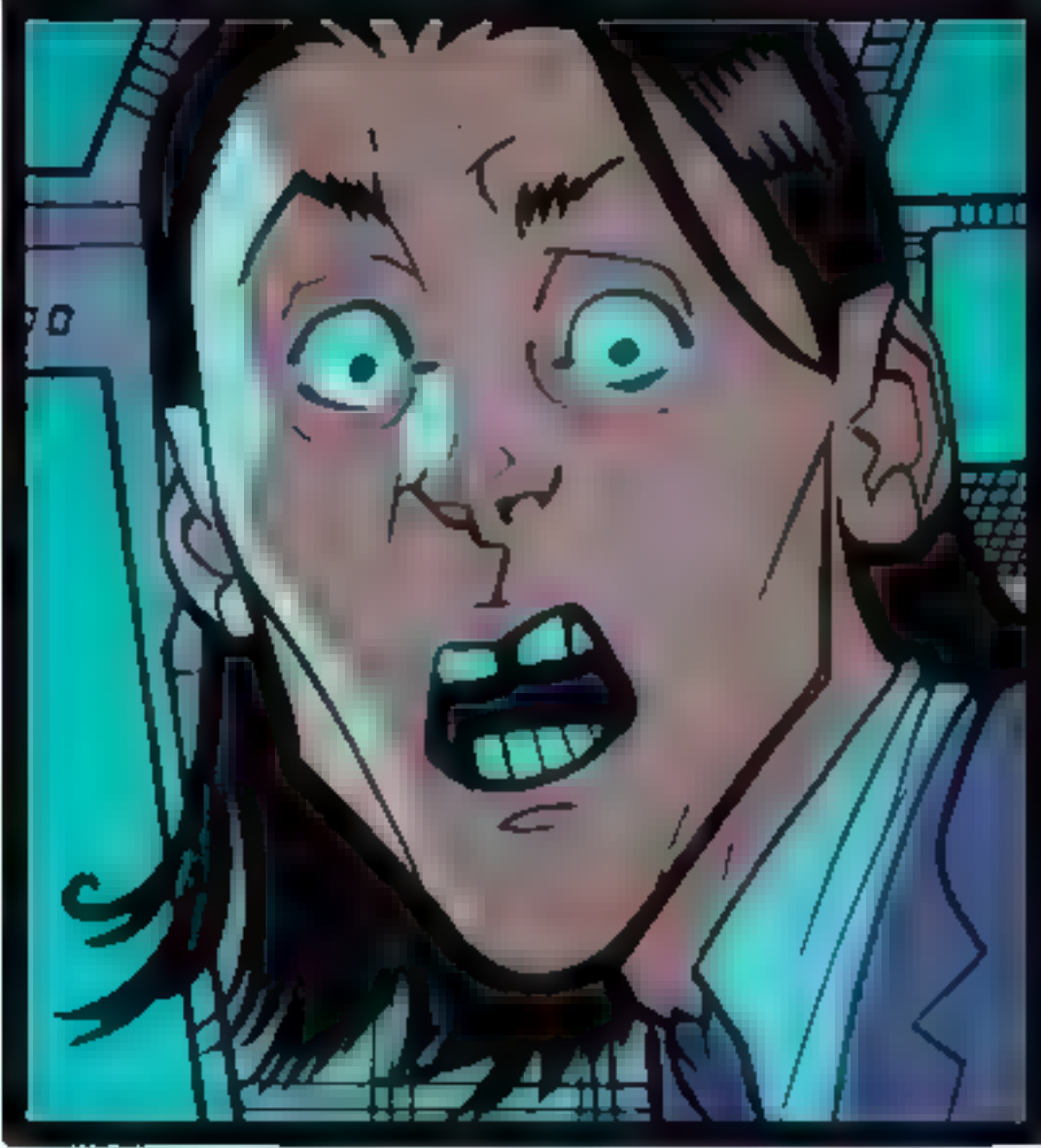
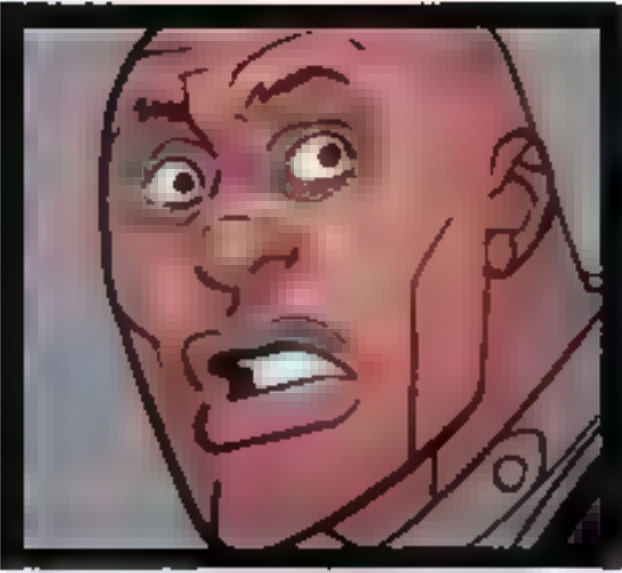
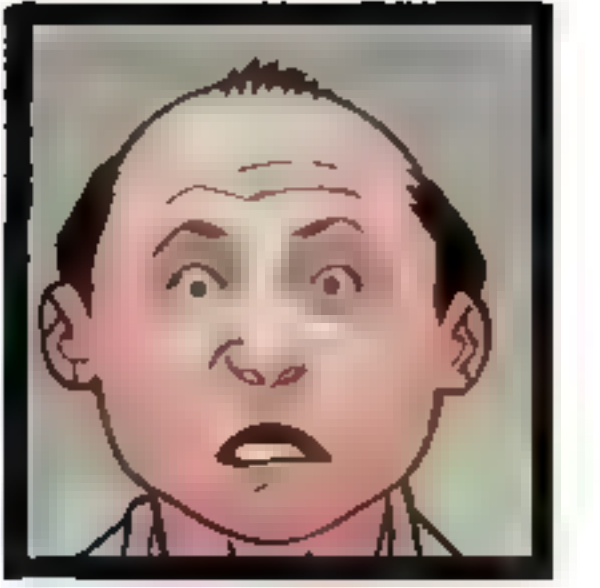


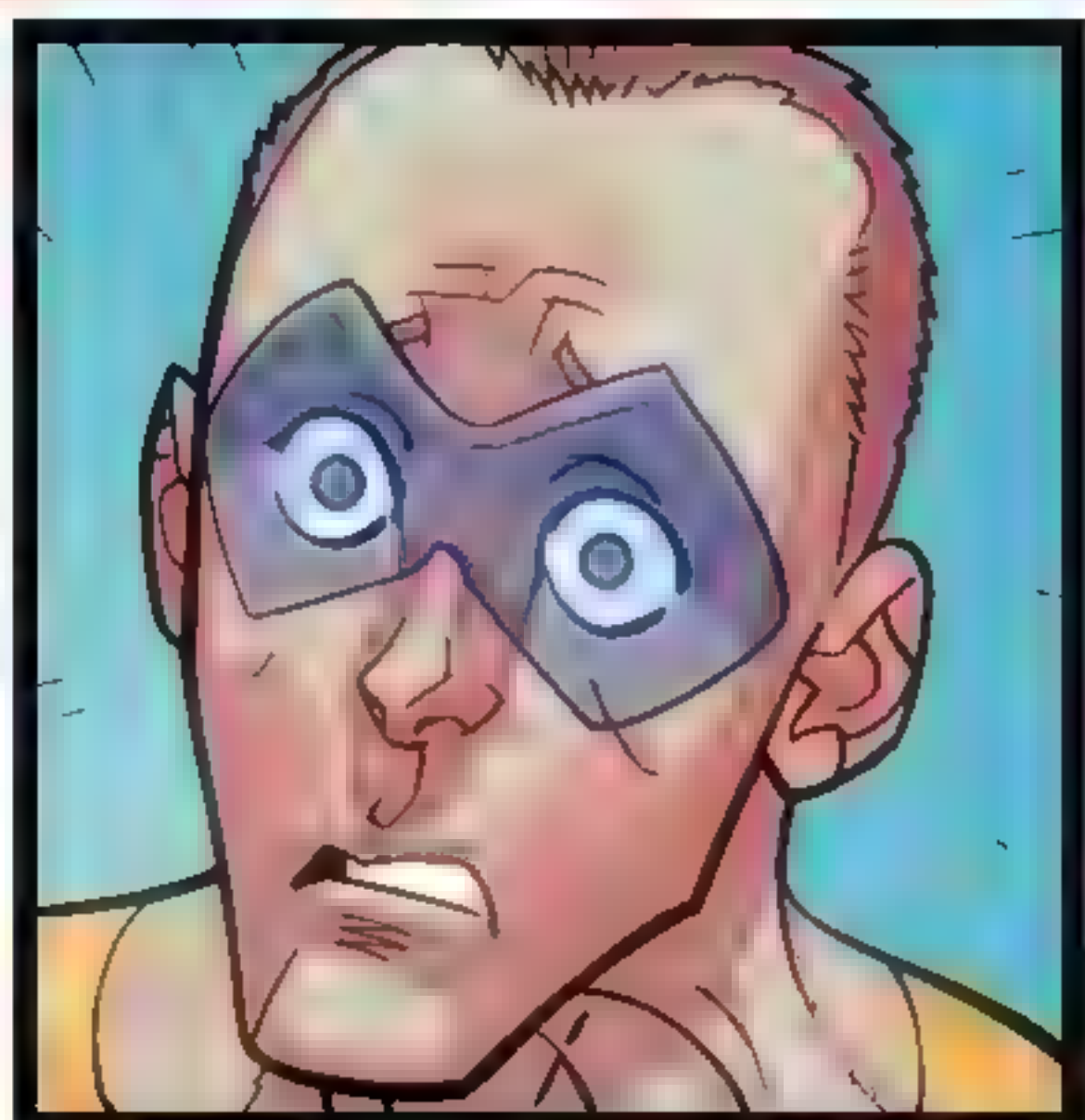
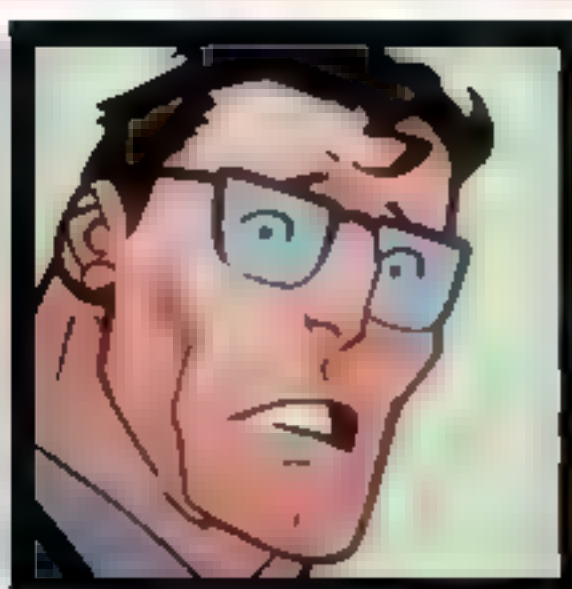
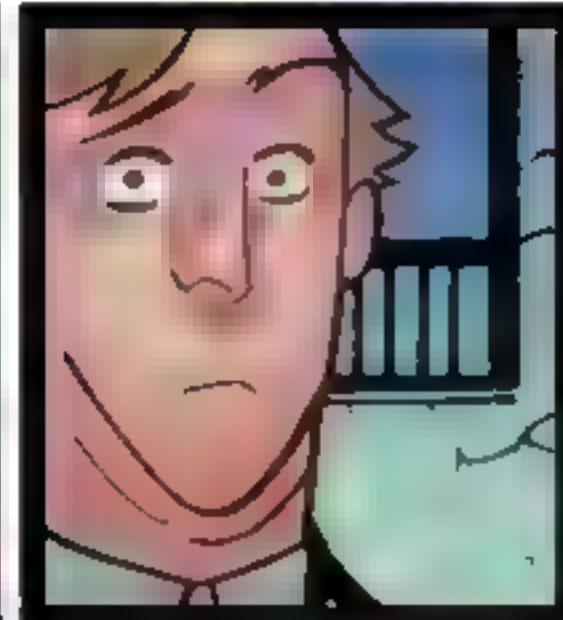
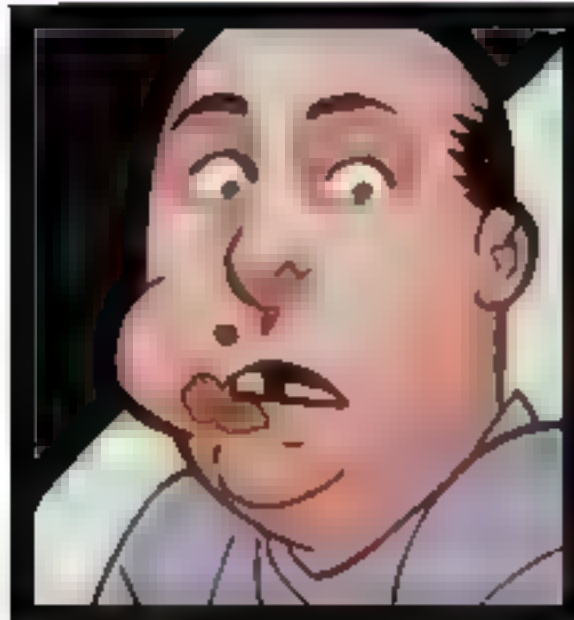
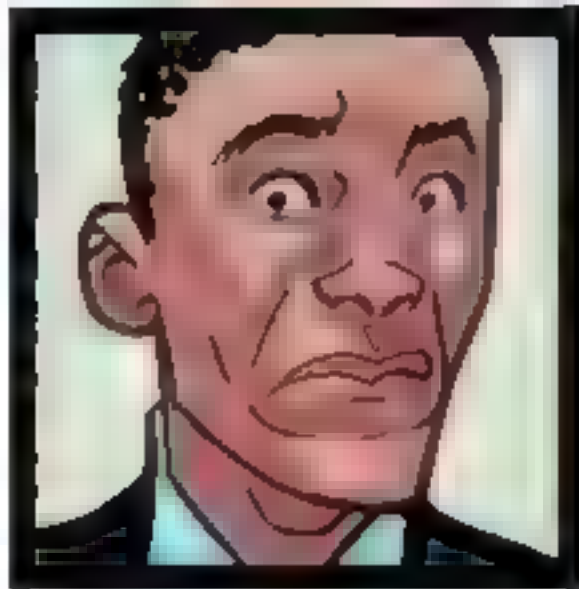
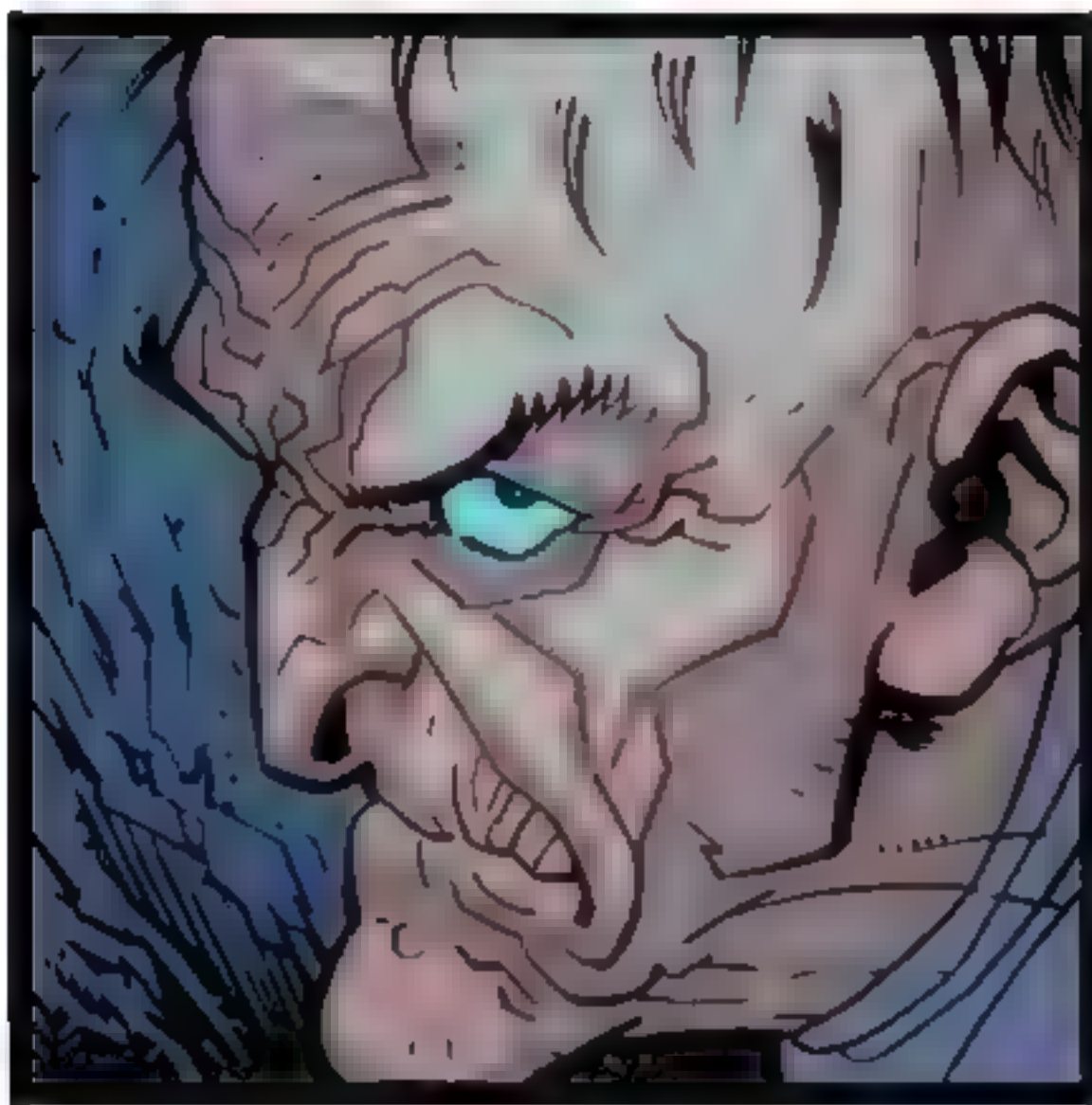
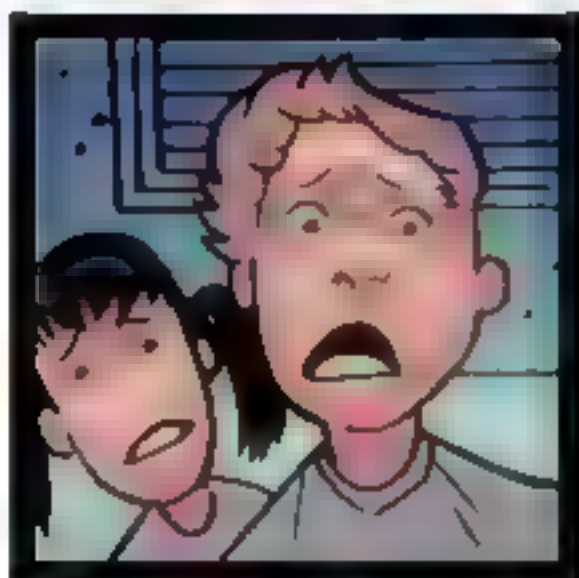
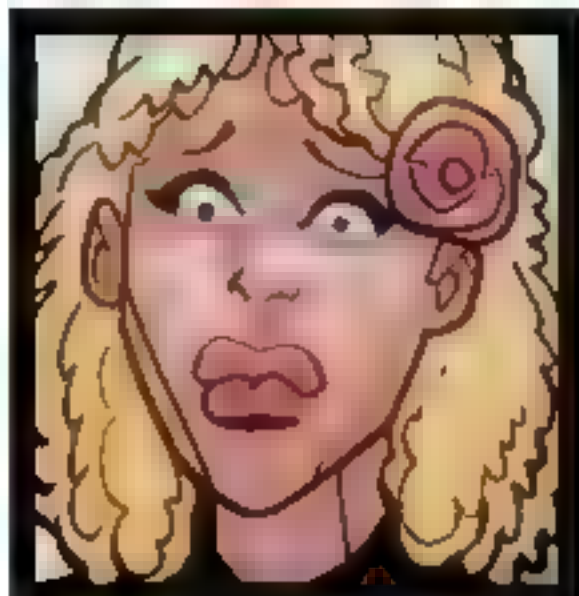
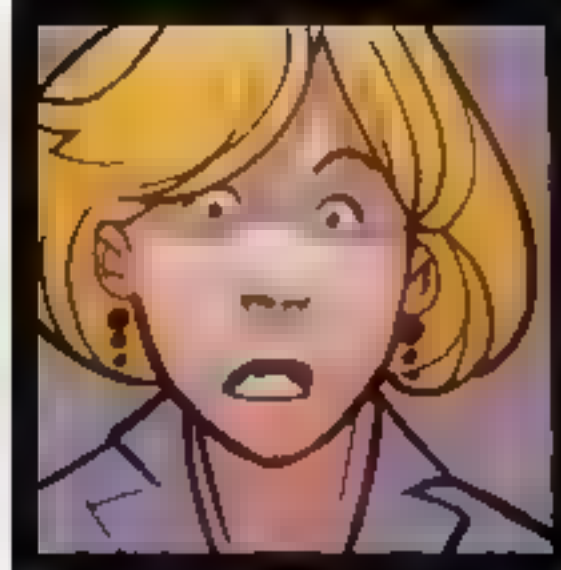
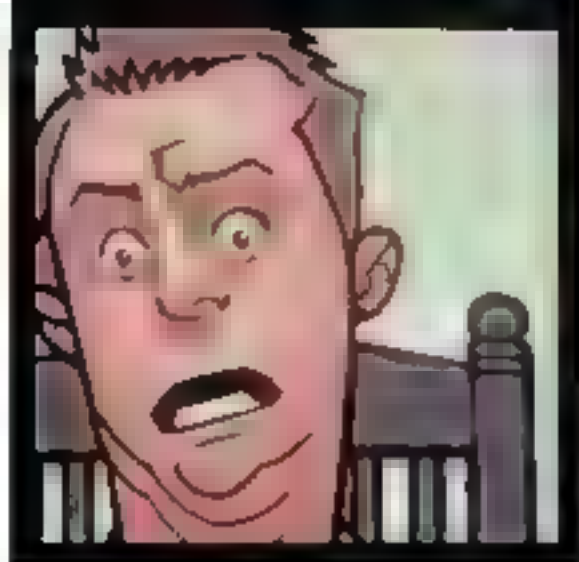
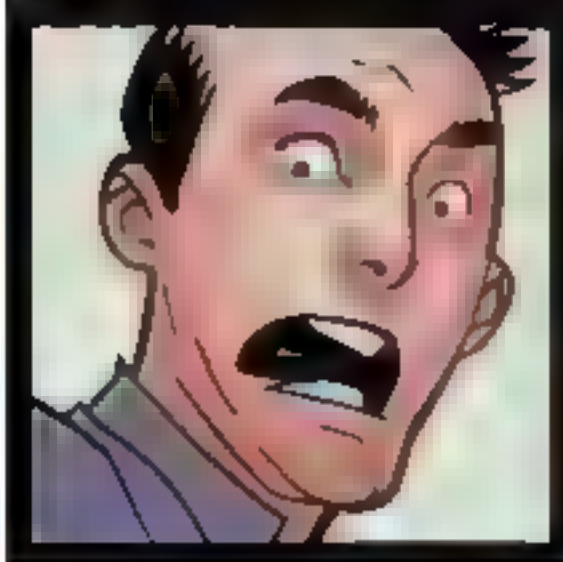
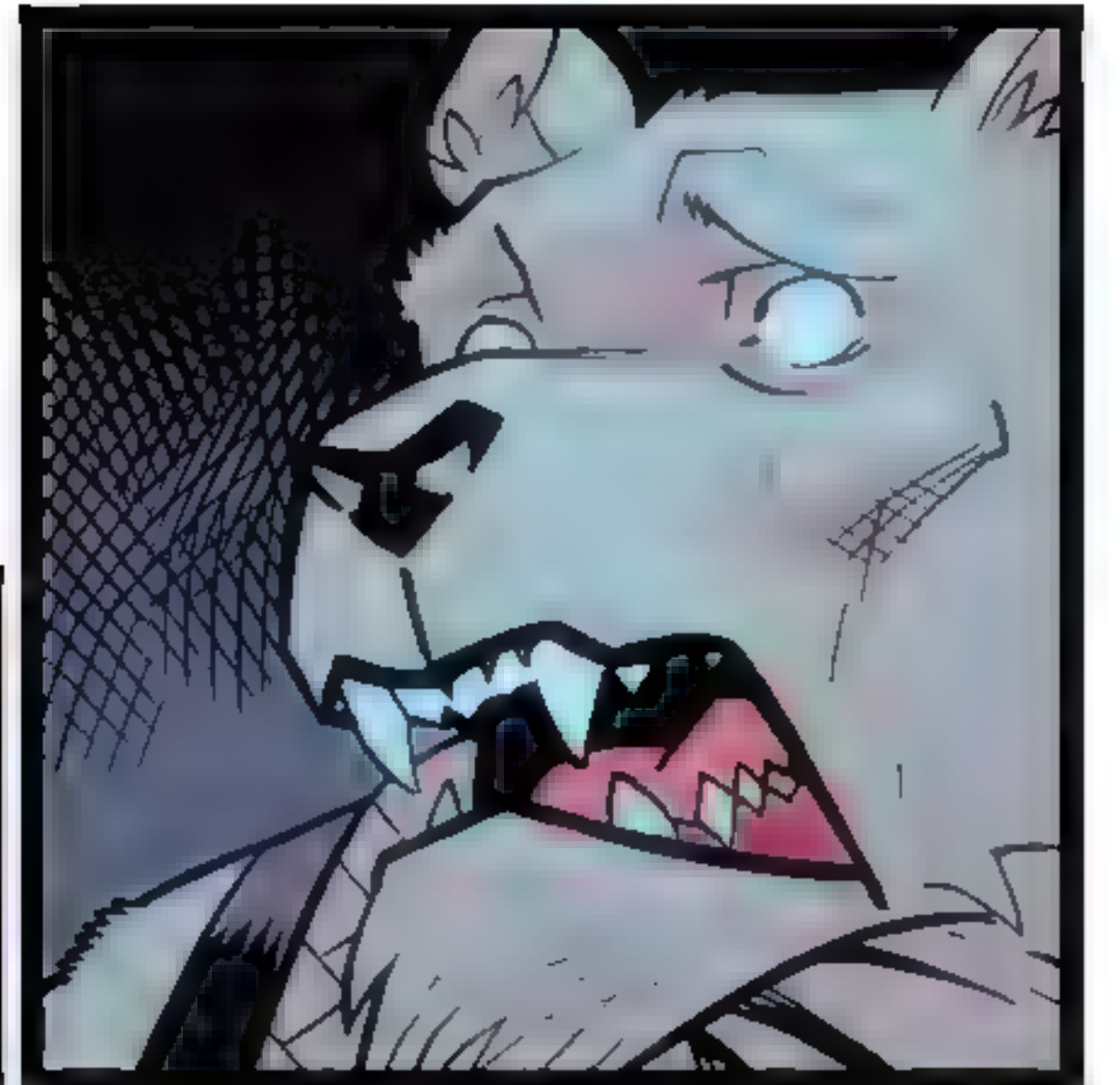


ARE WE
BROADCASTING
THIS?!

YEAH...
CHRIST...

WE'RE
BROADCASTING
THIS LIVE.

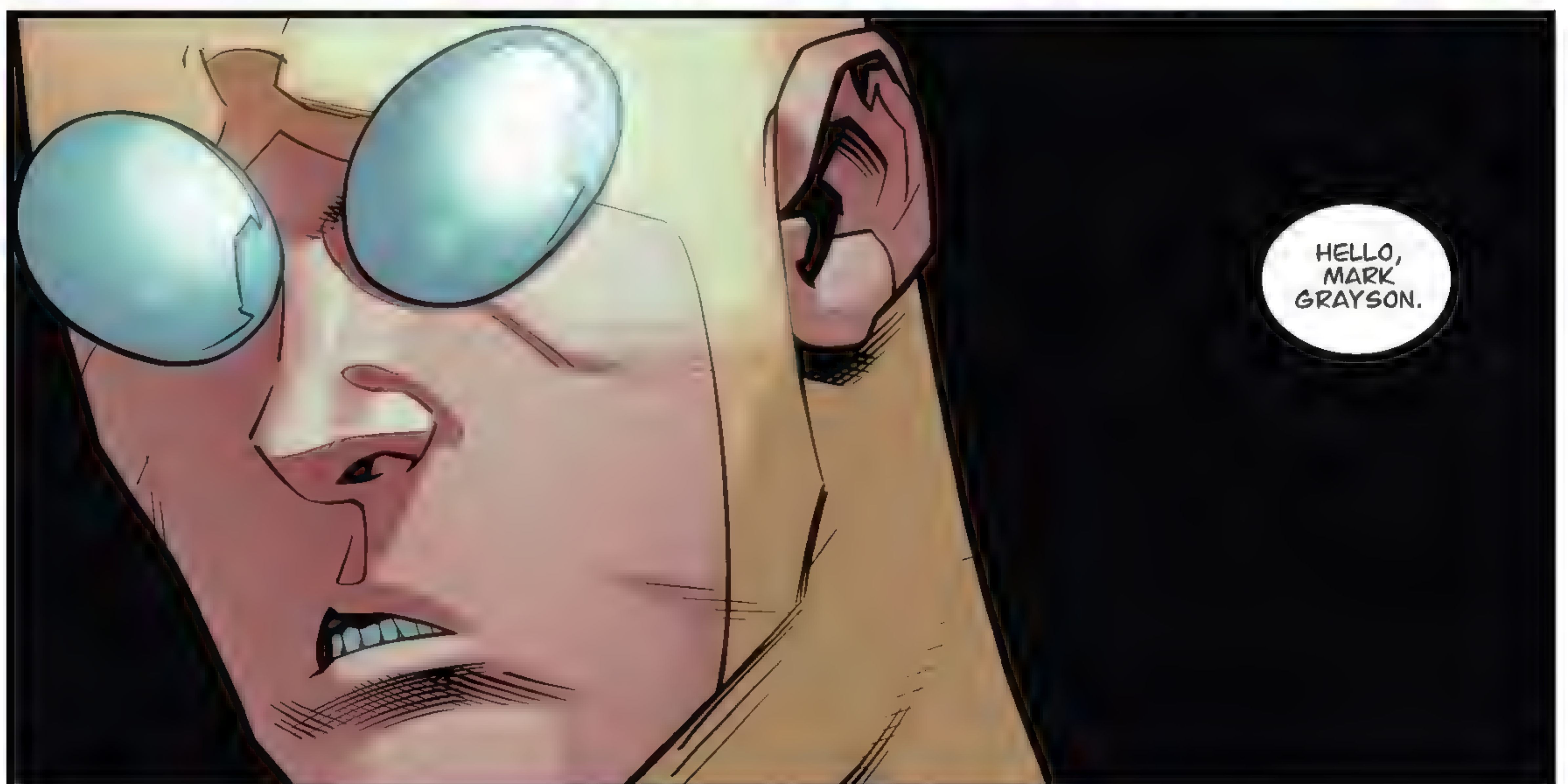


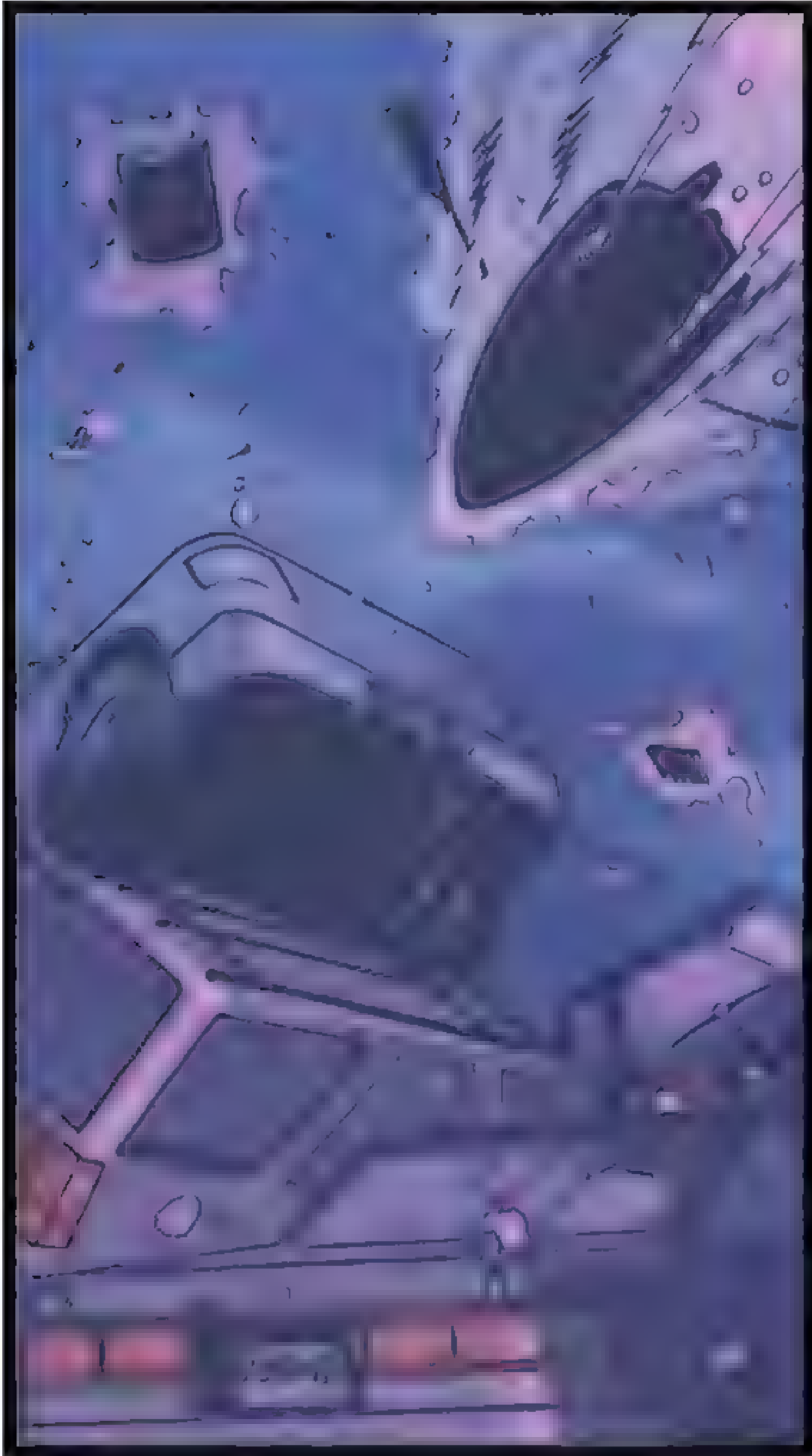
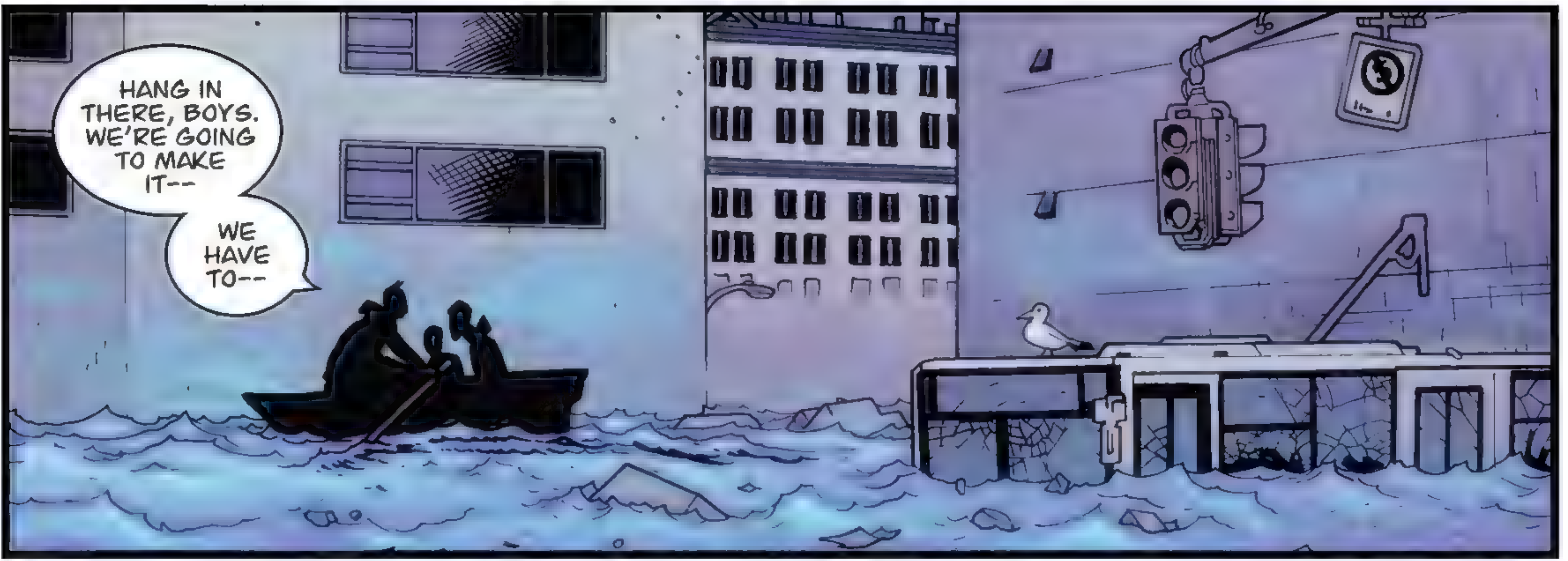




WHAT--?

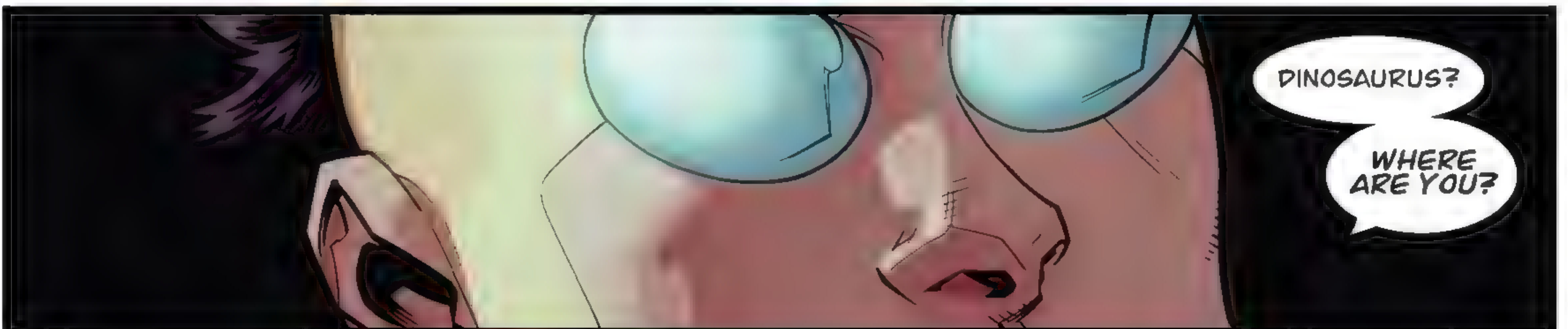
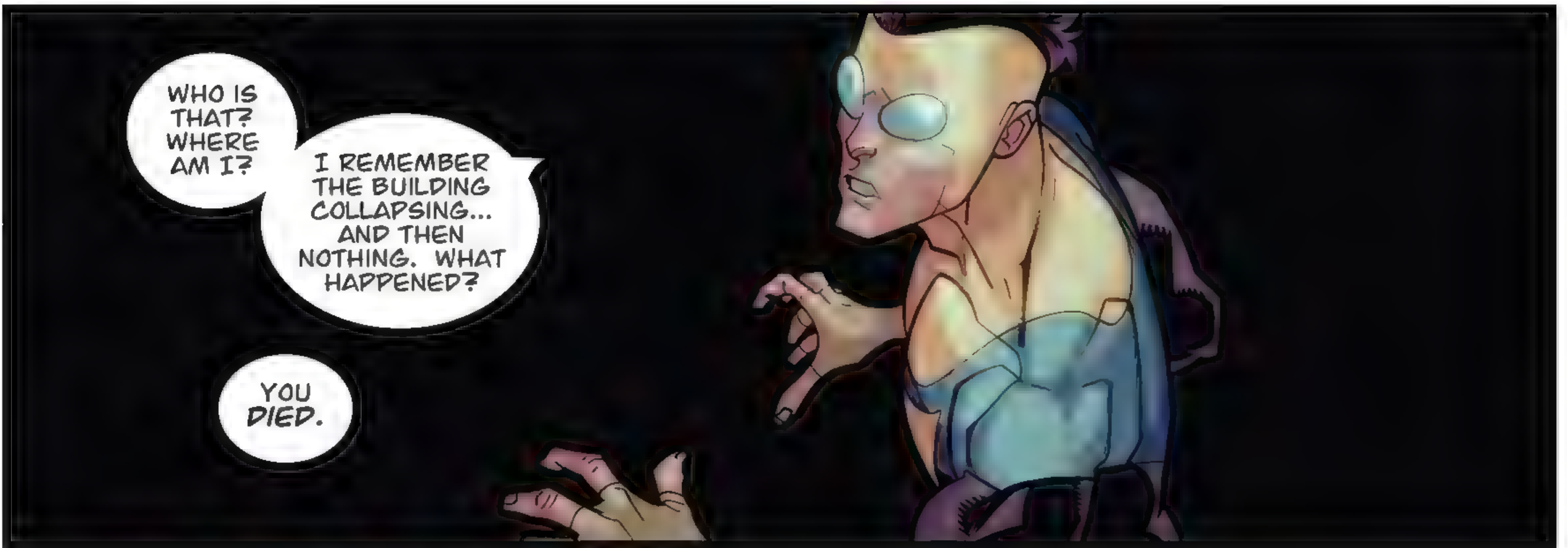
WHERE
AM I?







I PROMISE
YOU, WE'RE
GOING AS
FAST AS WE
CAN.





I'M
STANDING
RIGHT IN
FRONT OF
YOU.

I'M SURE YOU'VE REALIZED
THIS BY NOW, BUT AS A
CREATURE WITH THE NATURAL
ABILITY OF FLIGHT, VILTRUMITE
EQUILIBRIUM IS ACHIEVED
THROUGH AN IMPOSSIBLY
COMPLICATED AND
INCREDIBLY SENSITIVE
PROCESS IN YOUR
EARS.

YOUR
EARS ARE
YOUR WEAK
SPOT.

APPARENTLY
THERE'S A
FREQUENCY, WHEN
HEARD--IT PUTS
VILTRUMITES INTO A
COMA-LIKE STATE, A
WAKING DREAM--IT
ESSENTIALLY
DISCONNECTS YOUR
BODY FROM YOUR
MIND.

I'M TALKING
DIRECTLY TO YOUR
MIND RIGHT NOW...
WHICH TOOK WEEKS
FOR ME TO FIGURE
OUT HOW TO DO.



OKAY...
THAT MAKES
MAYBE A
LITTLE
SENSE.

WHY DOES
EVERYONE
THINK I'M
DEAD?

OH,
THAT...



YOUR FRIEND IN
THE GOVERNMENT
WAS USING HIS
TELEPORTATION
CAPABILITIES TO BRING
PEOPLE TO AND FROM
THE VILTRUMITE
SHIP WHEN YOU
WERE ON
BOARD.

I WAS ABLE
TO USE THE
VILTRUMITES'
ON-BOARD SCANNERS
TO TRACE THE SIGNAL
BACK TO ITS
SOURCE AND
HACK INTO IT.

SO NOW I
CAN TELEPORT
JUST LIKE
HIM.

I COLLECTED MORE THAN ENOUGH GENETIC MATERIAL TO CLONE YOU WHILE I WAS RUNNING MY TESTS. AND WHEN YOUR POWERS DIDN'T RETURN... I THOUGHT A VERSION OF YOU, IN WORKING ORDER... WOULD BE USEFUL.

SADLY, I HAVE NOT PERFECTED THE CLONING PROCESS. I SUCCEEDED IN CREATING LITTLE MORE THAN A LIFELESS, ORGANIC COPY OF YOU.

BUT IT WAS A VERY CONVINCING COPY.



"I USED A DOORWAY TO SWITCH BODIES WHILE THE BUILDING COLLAPSED.

"YOU WERE SENT HERE, WHERE THE FREQUENCY WAS ALREADY BEING BROADCAST TO PUT YOU IN THIS STATE.



"THEN I EVISCERATED YOUR VERY CONVINCING CLONE IN FRONT OF A WORLDWIDE AUDIENCE."*

*IT HAPPENED IN THIS VERY ISSUE!



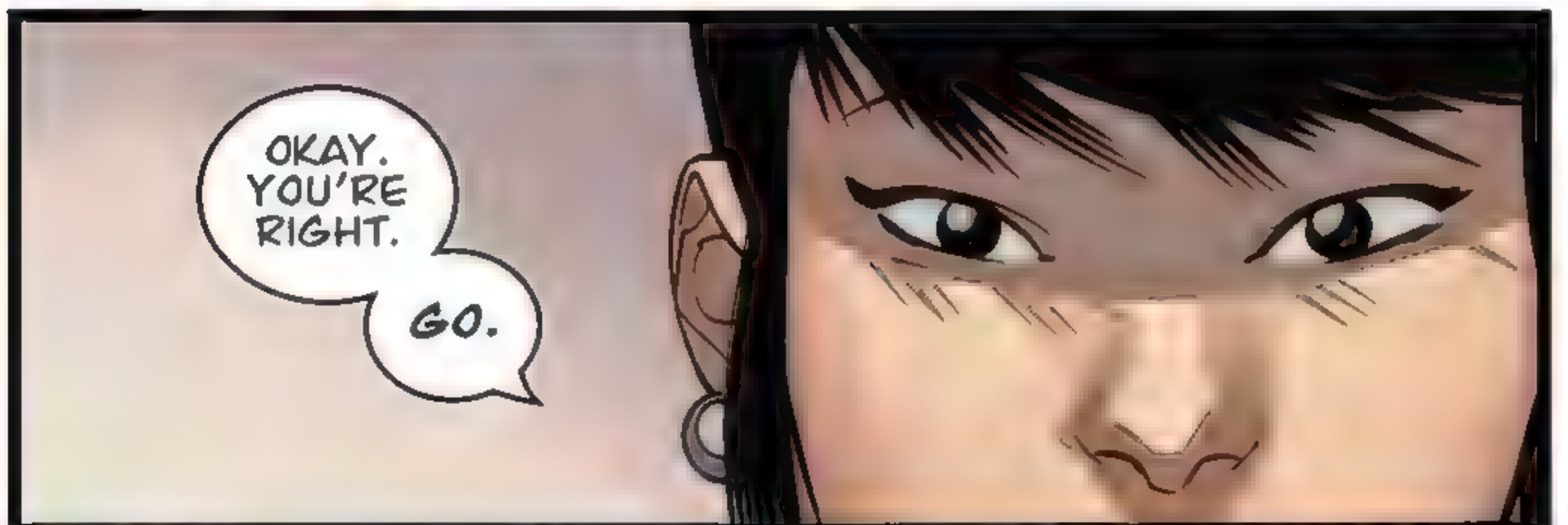
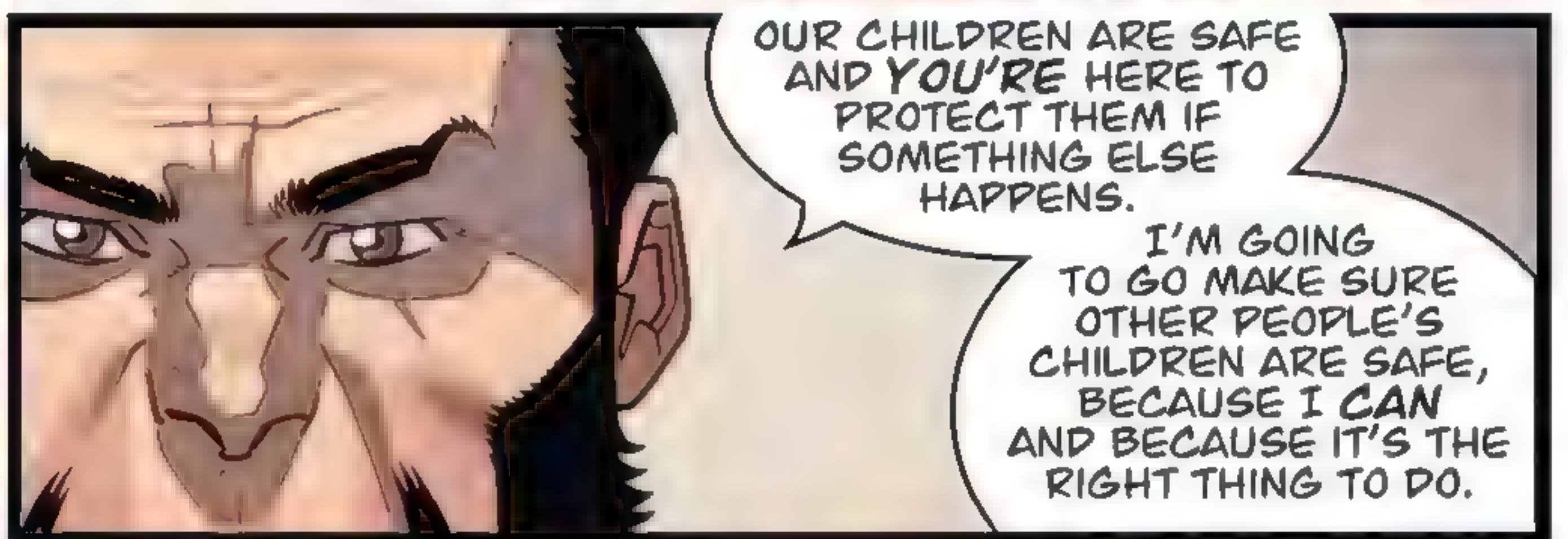
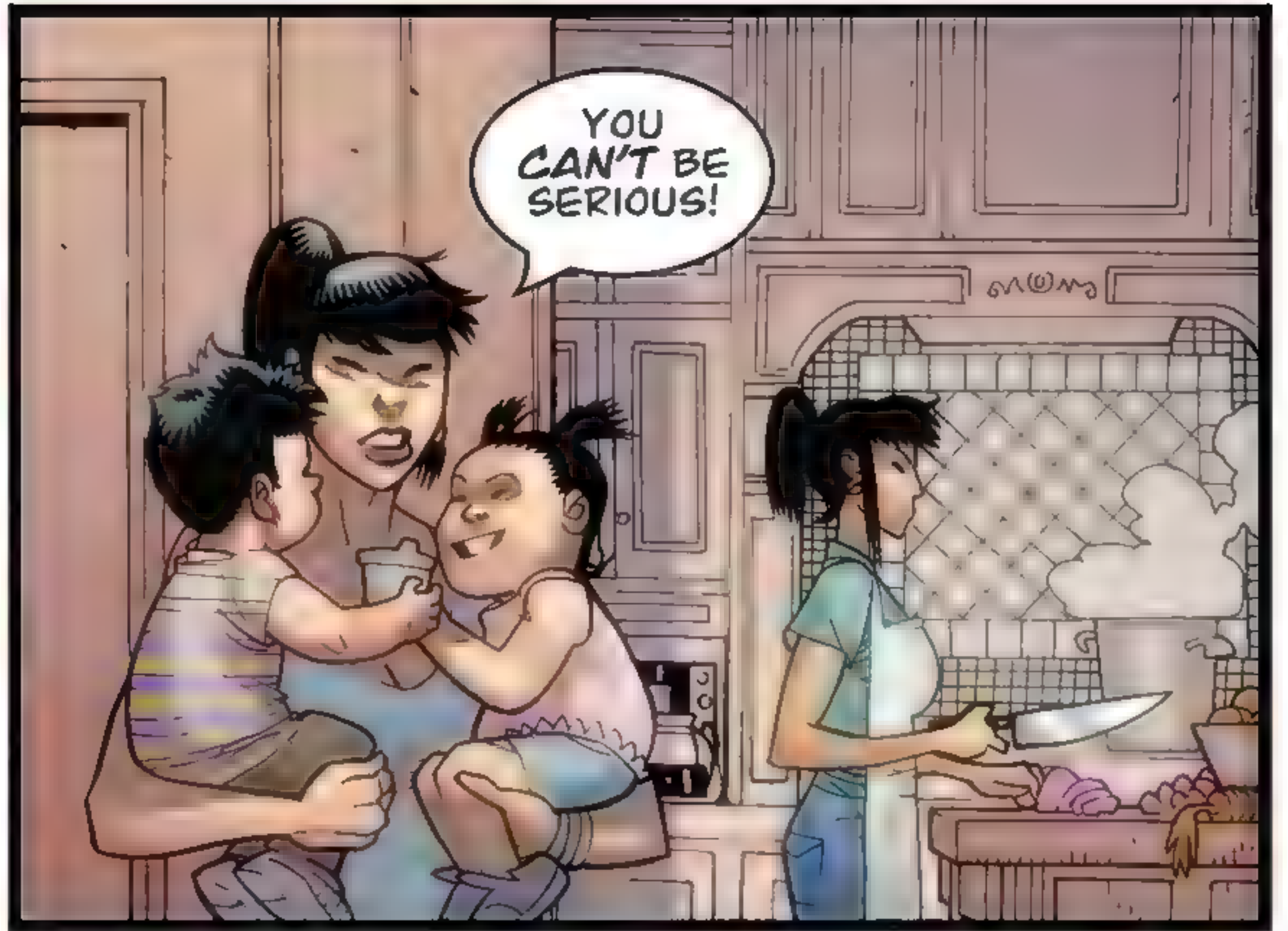
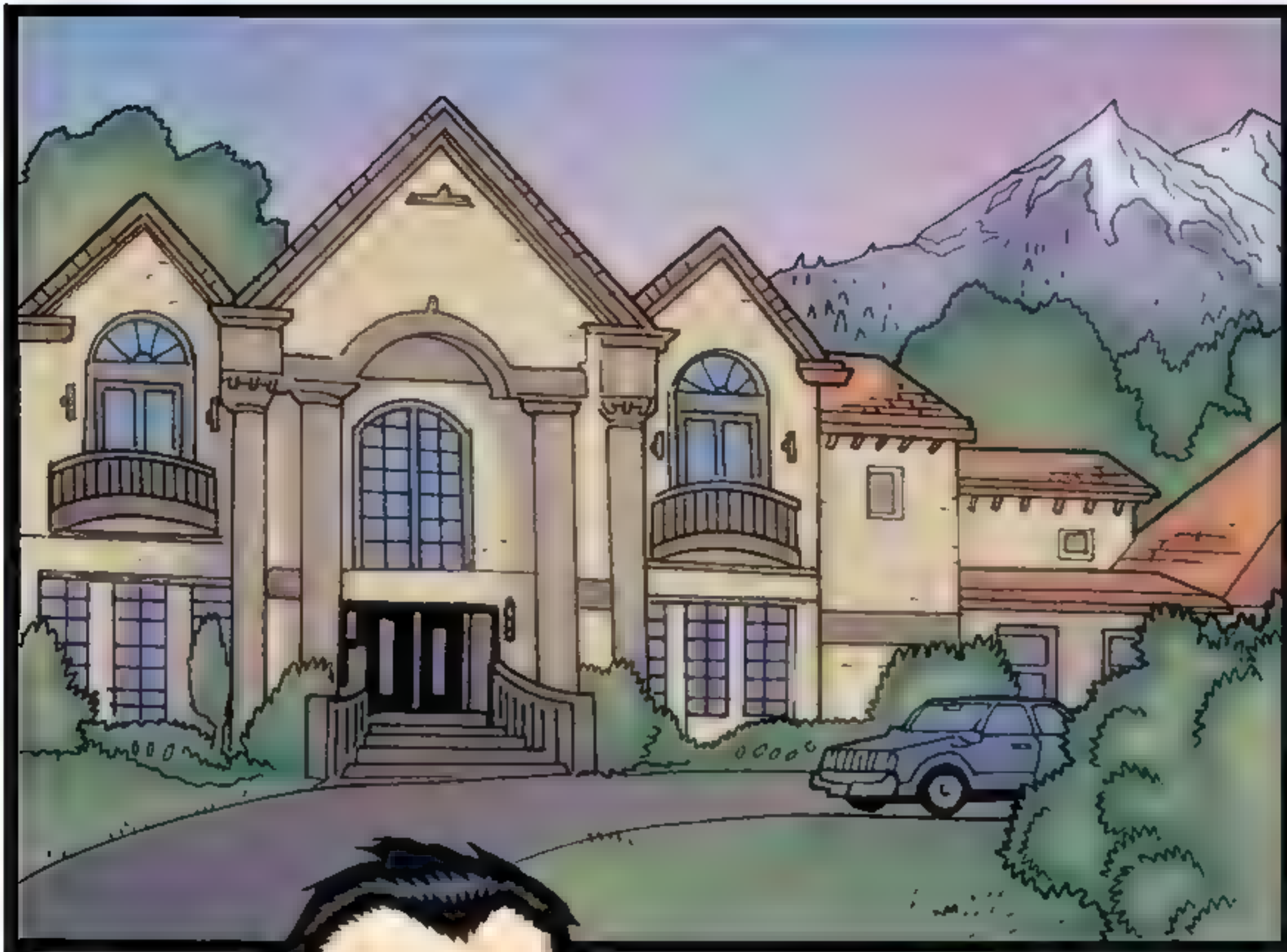
DON'T YOU GET WHAT I'VE DONE? I'VE FREED YOU FROM ALL OBLIGATIONS. YOU HAVE NO DISTRACTIONS NOW.

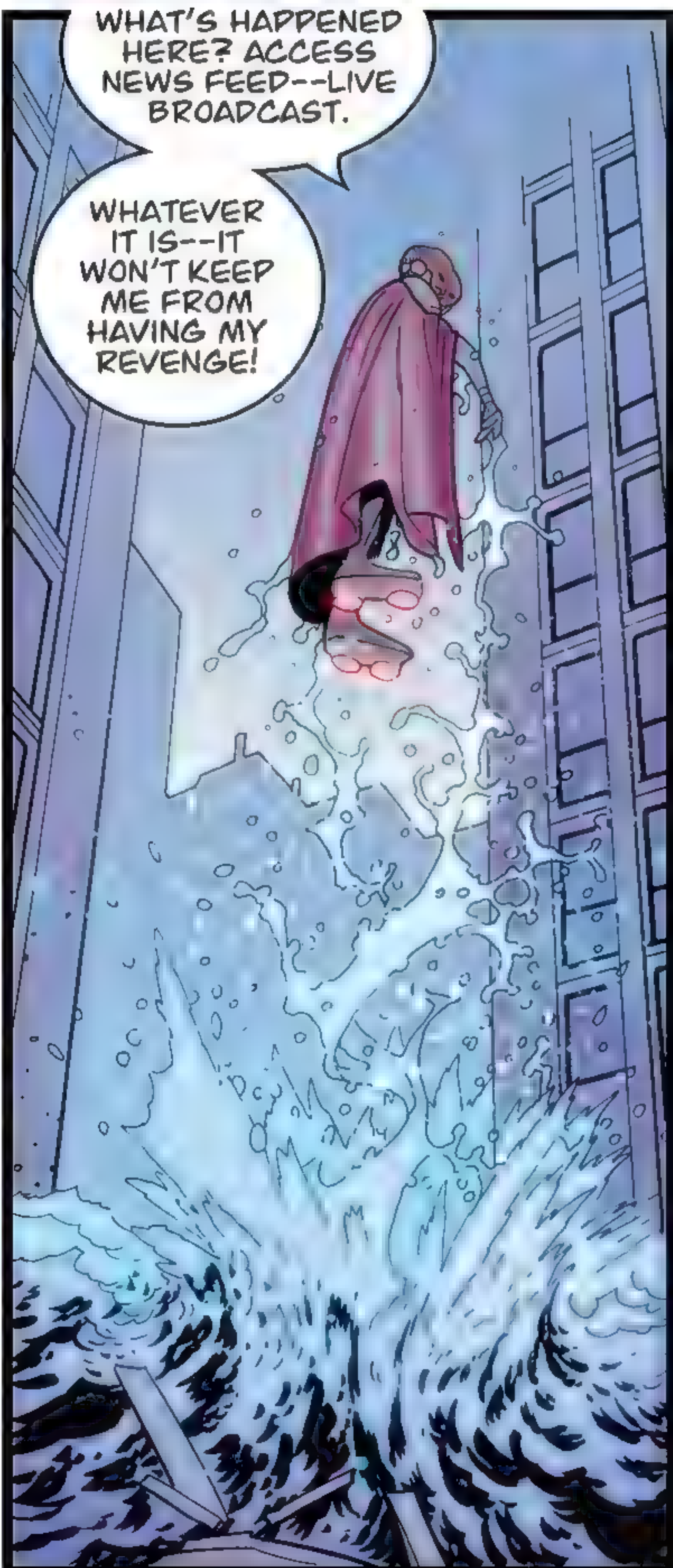
YOU DON'T HAVE TO ANSWER TO ANYONE. YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE THERE FOR ANYONE. YOU'RE NO LONGER THE VILLAIN-- YOU DIDN'T CAUSE THIS, YOU DIED TRYING TO DEFEAT THE ONE WHO DID... YOU'RE A MARTYR.

NO ONE WILL COME AFTER YOU. YOU'RE FREE. FREE TO WORK WITH ME... FREE TO CONTINUE OUR PLANS...



...FREE TO SAVE THE WORLD.







AFTER ALL THIS... YOU REALLY BELIEVE WE COULD STILL WORK TOGETHER?! YOU THINK I COULD JUST... FORGIVE AND FORGET?!

YOU PLAYED ME--YOU... I TRUSTED YOU. I THOUGHT YOU HAD IDEAS, THAT YOU COULD... DO GOOD--AND YOU THREW ALL THAT AWAY.

WE WERE SUPPOSED TO HELP PEOPLE-- NOT KILL THEM.

THAT WILL GIVE US THE TIME TO CREATE LONG-TERM SOLUTIONS. TO BUILD A **SUSTAINABLE** FUTURE FOR ALL--TO REBUILD THE CITIES INTO SOMETHING THAT WORKS INSTEAD OF RELICS PULLED FROM A CENTURIES-OLD CONCEPT.

WE WERE HELPING **HUMANITY**. I TOLD YOU--POPULATIONS WERE RISING, RESOURCES WERE GROWING SCARCE. THE CITIES ARE LOST, THEY'LL SOON BE CESSPOOLS OF DEATH AND DISEASE--BUT NOW THE POPULATION WILL BE REDUCED SIGNIFICANTLY.

WASN'T OUR GOAL TO MAKE THINGS BETTER?



YOU SACRIFICED A LOT OF PEOPLE-- ON A THEORY. WHAT IF YOU'RE WRONG? DID YOU EVER STOP TO CONSIDER THAT?



I'M NOT WRONG.

THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE.



WHAT IF EVERYTHING YOU'VE DONE, ALL THE WORK PUT TOWARD FIXING THINGS... WHAT IF THAT'S THE EXACT **OPPOSITE** OF WHAT NEEDS TO HAPPEN?

THE COMING CRISIS WAS FORCING PEOPLE TO RETHINK **EVERYTHING**. IT HAD US CONSIDERING NEW WAYS OF LIFE, NEW WAYS TO FIND ENERGY, TO SURVIVE ON THIS PLANET.

IT WAS CAUSING US TO REFORM, TO CHANGE OUR OLD WAYS... TO GROW... TO ADAPT.

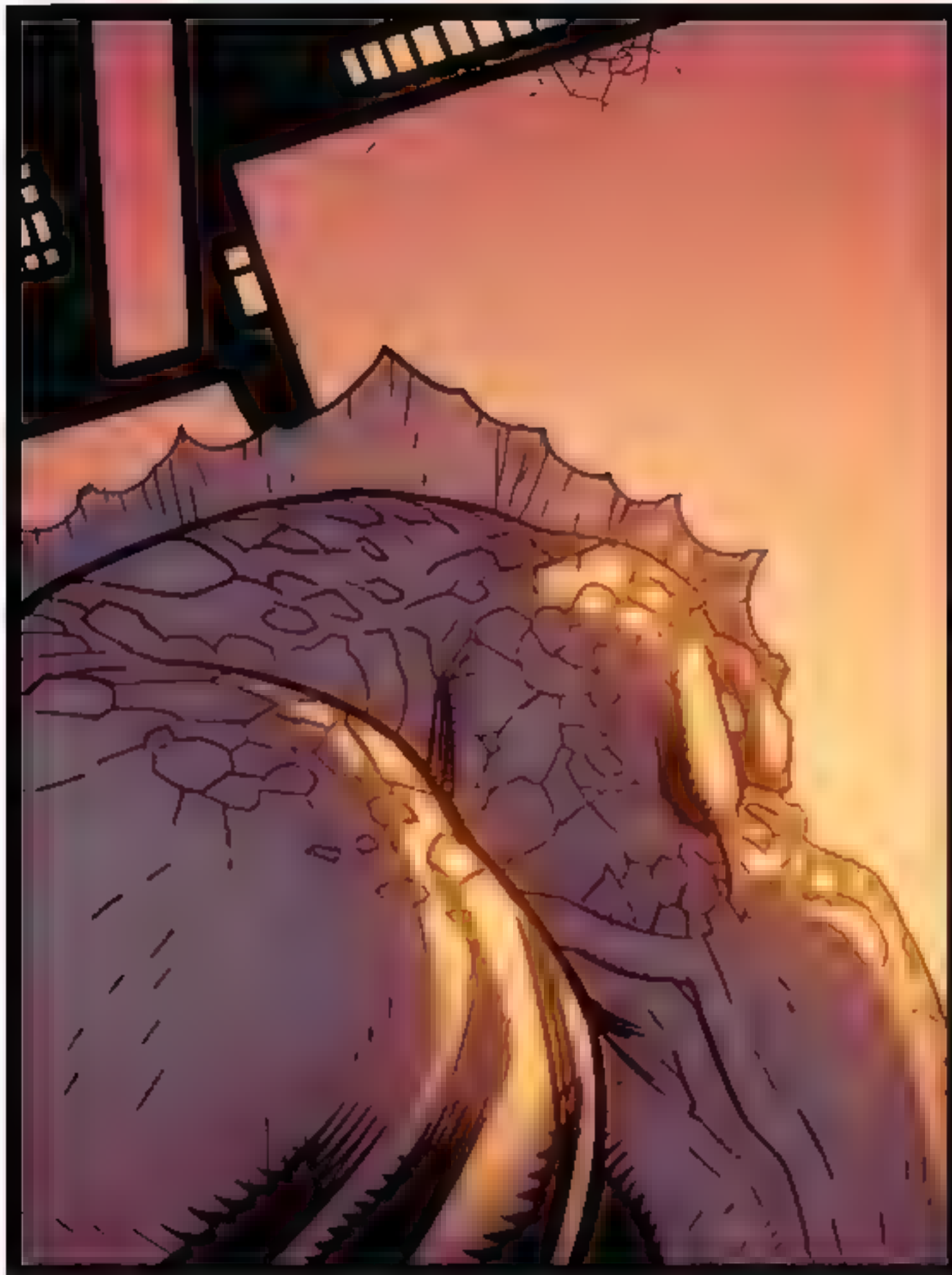




YOU THINK YOU'VE SAVED US--
BY TAKING THE PROBLEM AWAY--
BY **KILLING** US, SO THAT WE
DON'T HARM THE ECOSYSTEM,
SO THAT WE DON'T WARM
THE PLANET--BECAUSE
THERE ARE **LESS**
OF US?

YOU'VE JUST
SLOWED THINGS DOWN...
YOU HAVEN'T FIXED A
DAMN THING. YOU'RE
MAKING IT POSSIBLE FOR
US TO CONTINUE OUR OLD
WAYS OF LIFE, YOU'RE
ONLY **DELAYING**
CATASTROPHE--NOT
AVOIDING IT!

THESE
PEOPLE
COULD HAVE
DIED FOR
NOTHING.



THINK
ABOUT
THAT.

MAYBE
YOU DON'T
HAVE ALL THE
ANSWERS.



THE VILLAIN ALWAYS THINKS
HE'S THE HERO IN HIS STORY.
I'VE BEEN ARGUING AND
FIGHTING WITH PEOPLE,
TRYING TO JUSTIFY
WHY WE'RE WORKING
TOGETHER.

I'VE TOLD PEOPLE
THAT OUR PLANS ARE
SOUND, THAT OUR
GOALS ARE JUST...
TRYING TO **CONVINCE**
THEM THAT WE KNEW
WHAT WE WERE
DOING...

...ALL THAT
TIME, I THINK I
WAS JUST TRYING
TO CONVINCE MYSELF
I HADN'T TURNED...
HADN'T LOST
SIGHT OF WHO
I WAS--

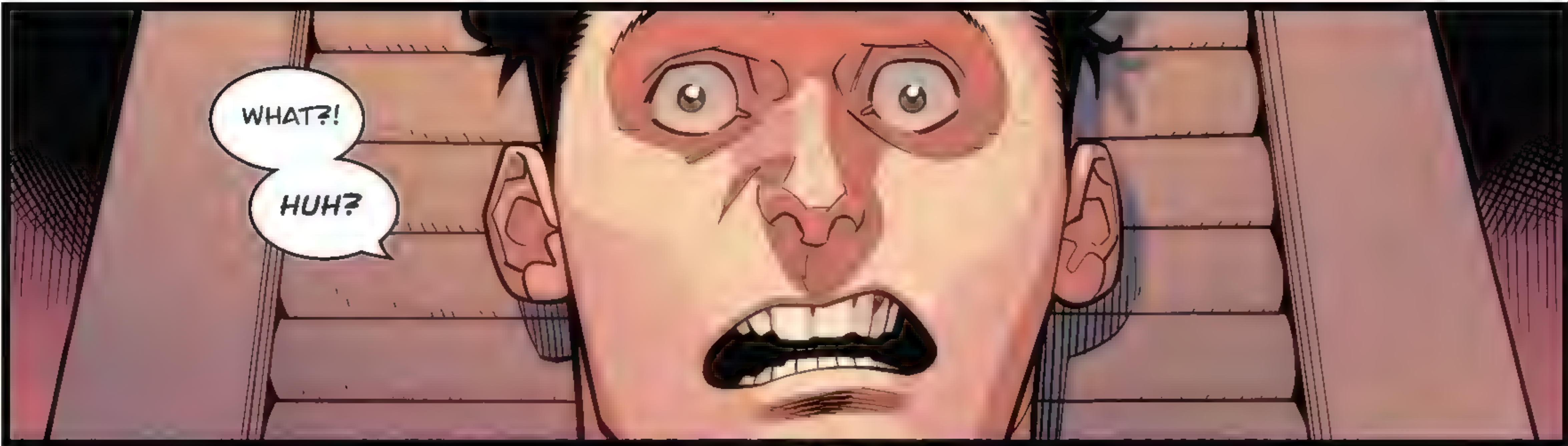


--HADN'T
BECOME
THE **BAD GUY**
IN MY OWN
STORY.

WELL,
NEWS-
FLASH... WE
WERE...
WE ARE.

AND WE'RE
BOTH GOING
TO HAVE TO
PAY FOR OUR
ACTIONS.

HELLO?
ARE YOU STILL
LISTENING?



WHAT?!

HUH?



YOU'LL BE
DISORIENTED
FOR A
MOMENT.

WHAT
HAPPENED?
MACHINE
BREAK?

ARE WE
GOING
TO FIGHT
AGAIN
NOW?

NO...
AND NO.
I SET YOU
FREE.



YOU'RE
RIGHT.

I CAN
SEE THAT
NOW.



WHAT?

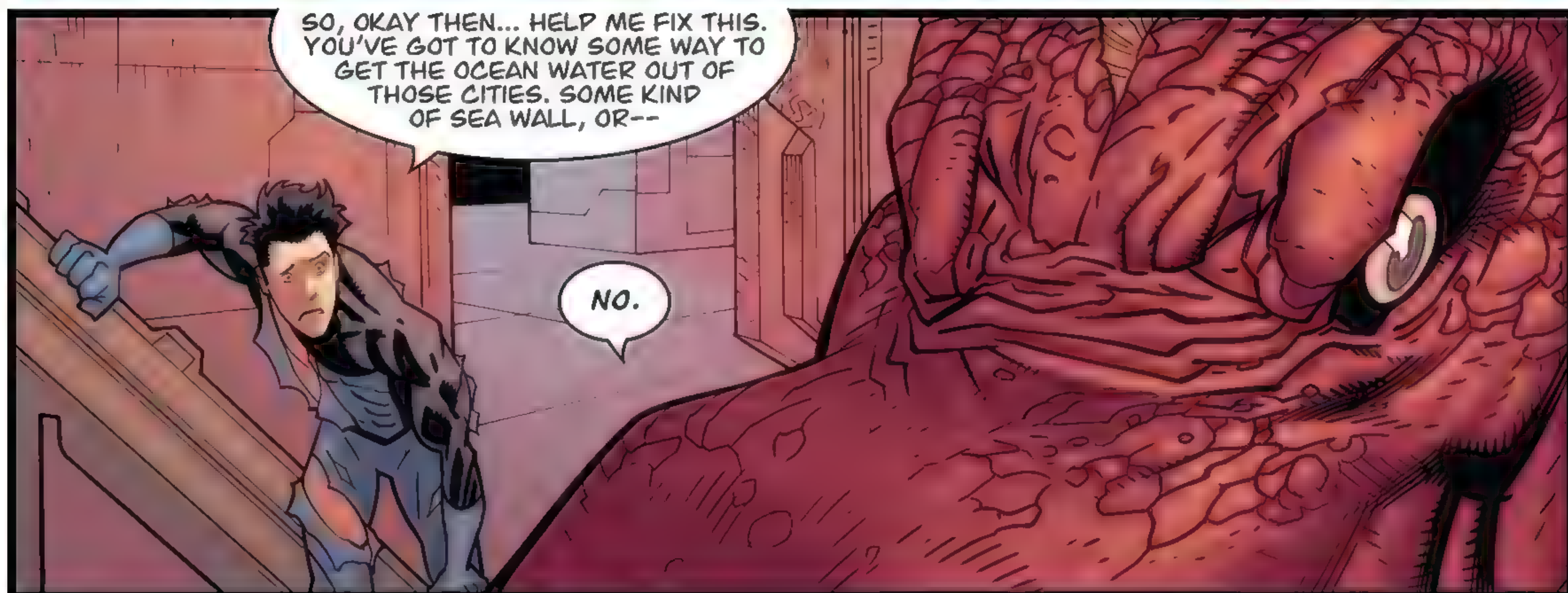
REALLY?!



THROUGH ALL THIS... I'VE... DISTANCED MYSELF, GROWN BEYOND WHAT I ONCE WAS... I SEE MYSELF AS **ABOVE** THOSE I TRY TO HELP. LIKE A **GOD** BESTOWING WISDOM ON HIS... FLOCK.

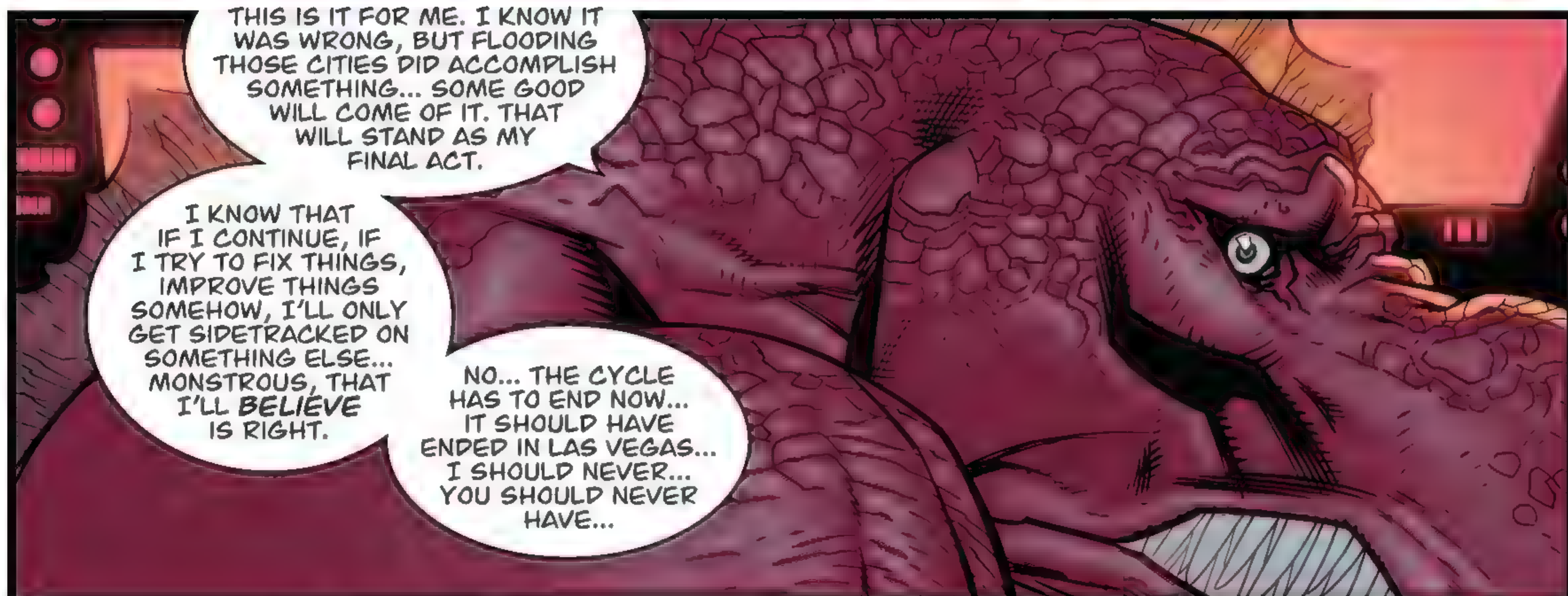
I WAS NEVER DOING GOOD FOR THE SAKE OF DOING IT, I WAS ONLY EVER SERVING TO INFLATE MY OWN EGO.

I NEVER FULLY REALIZED THAT UNTIL NOW...



SO, OKAY THEN... HELP ME FIX THIS. YOU'VE GOT TO KNOW SOME WAY TO GET THE OCEAN WATER OUT OF THOSE CITIES. SOME KIND OF SEA WALL, OR--

NO.



THIS IS IT FOR ME. I KNOW IT WAS WRONG, BUT FLOODING THOSE CITIES DID ACCOMPLISH SOMETHING... SOME GOOD WILL COME OF IT. THAT WILL STAND AS MY FINAL ACT.

I KNOW THAT IF I CONTINUE, IF I TRY TO FIX THINGS, IMPROVE THINGS SOMEHOW, I'LL ONLY GET SIDETRACKED ON SOMETHING ELSE... MONSTROUS, THAT I'LL BELIEVE IS RIGHT.

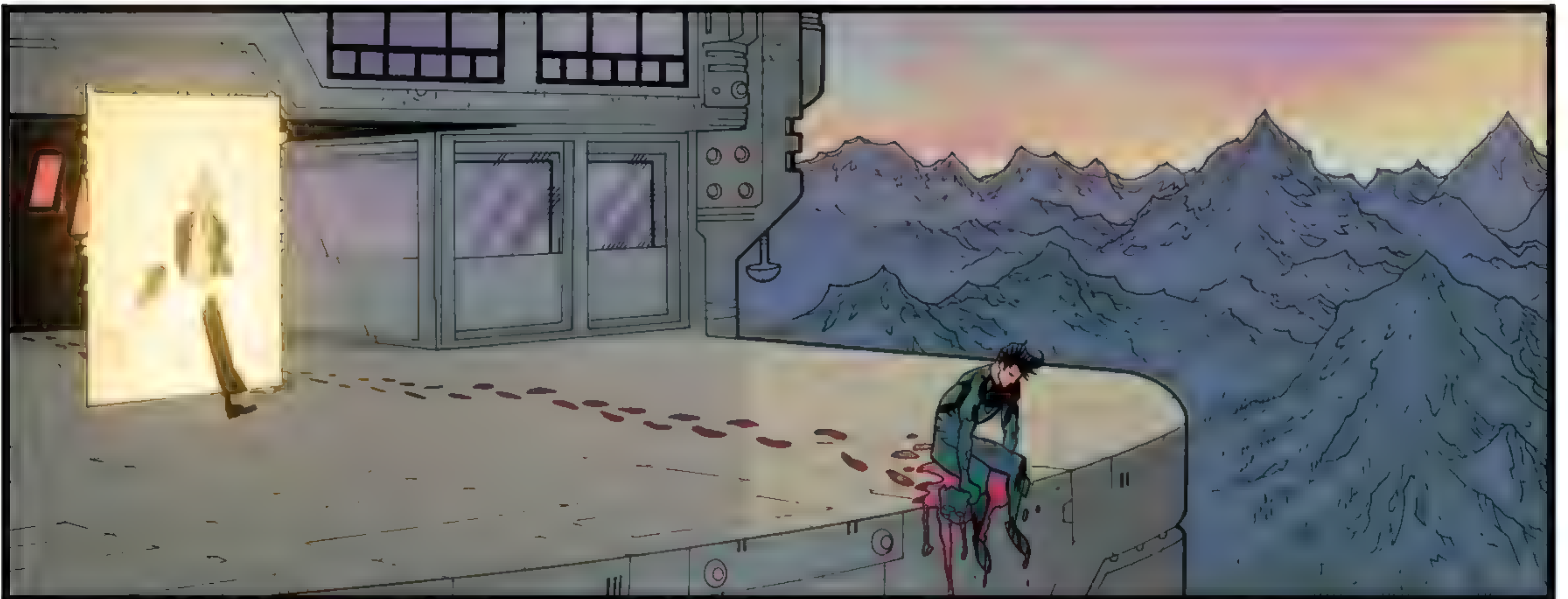
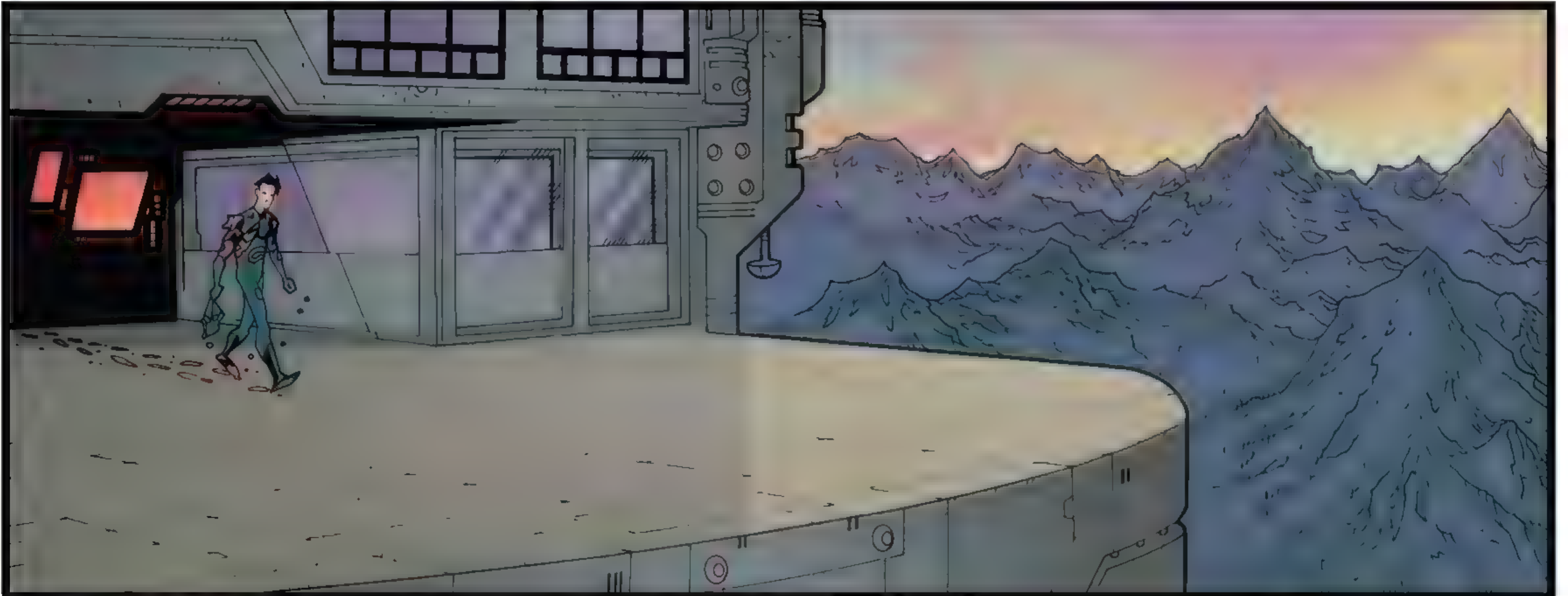
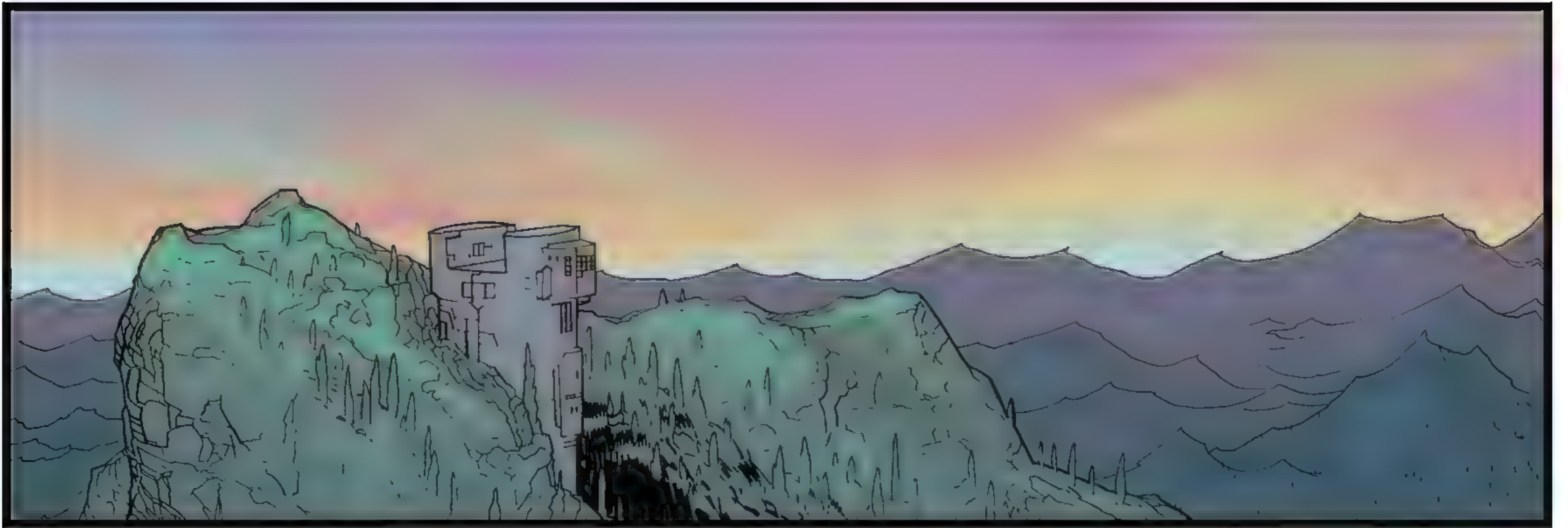
NO... THE CYCLE HAS TO END NOW... IT SHOULD HAVE ENDED IN LAS VEGAS... I SHOULD NEVER... YOU SHOULD NEVER HAVE...



SO... WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?

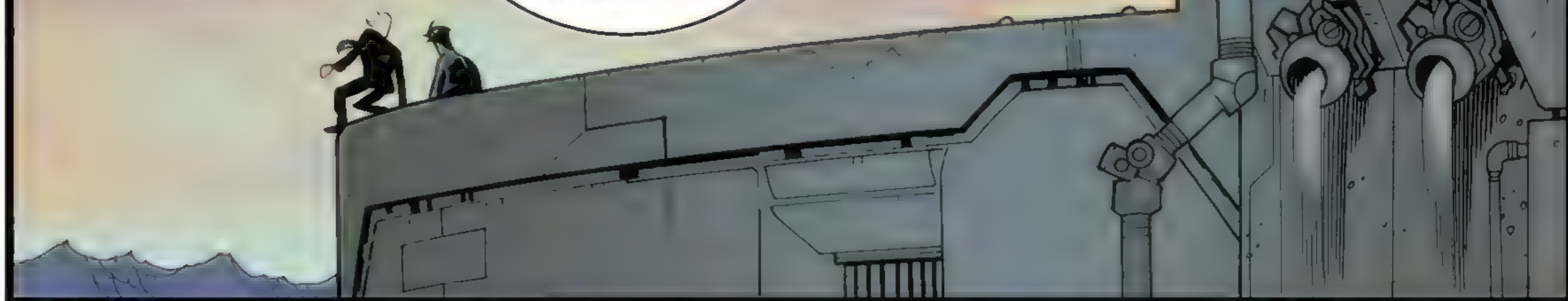


YOU HAVE TO KILL ME.



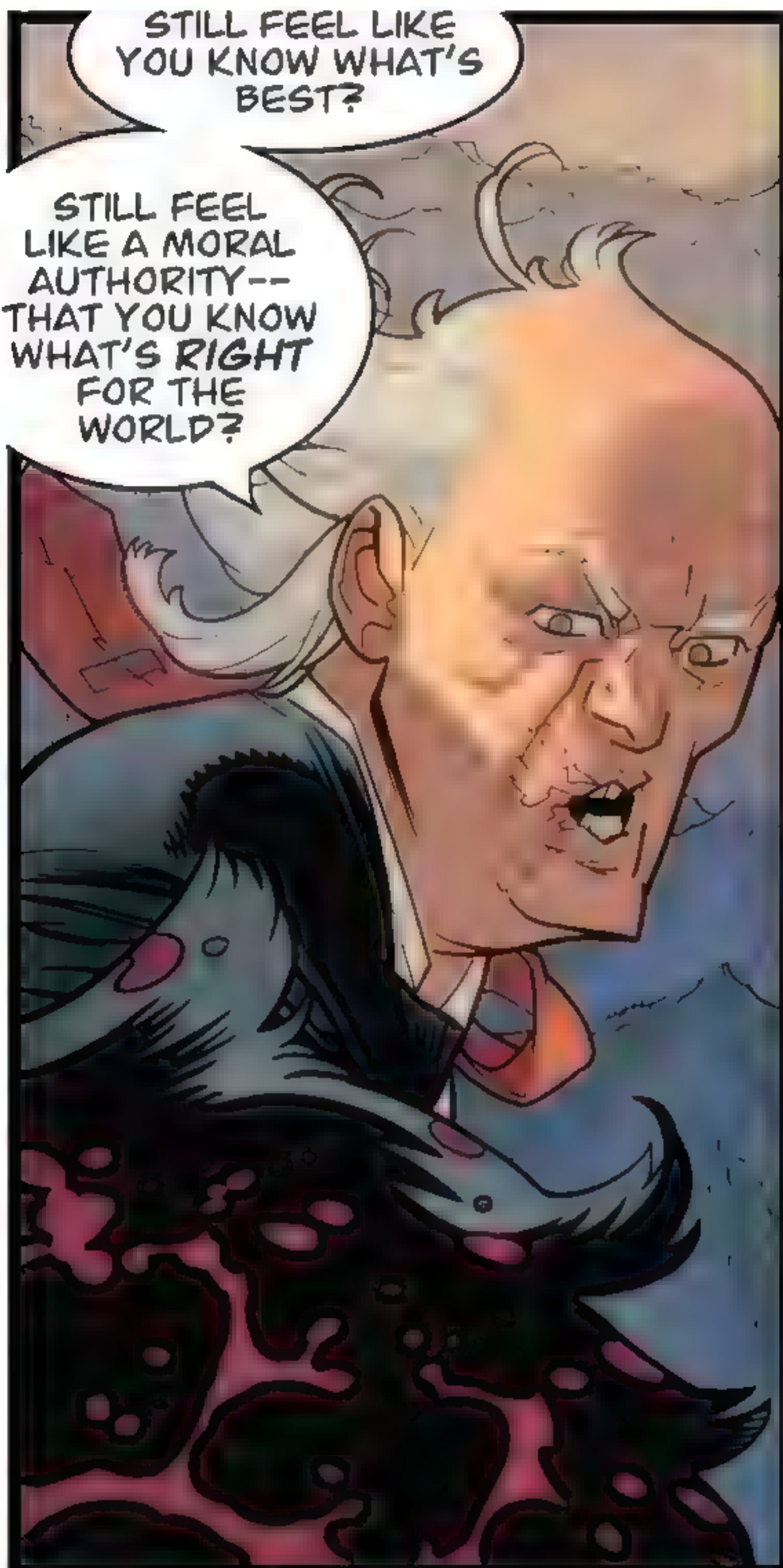
WELL, YOU'VE REALLY DONE IT **THIS** TIME, MARK. IN A ROUNDABOUT WAY... **YOU DID THIS...** YOU CAUSED... ALL OF THIS. I HAD THAT MANIAC TUCKED AWAY. YOU **FREED HIM**. YOU CONVINCED ME YOU HAD THIS UNDER CONTROL.

I DON'T MEAN TO RUB IT IN YOUR FACE, LORD KNOWS I'VE MADE MY SHARE OF CATASTROPHIC MISTAKES. I KNOW THIS HAS GOT TO BE WEIGHING ON YOU... BUT I JUST HAVE TO ASK, KID...



STILL FEEL LIKE YOU KNOW WHAT'S BEST?

STILL FEEL LIKE A MORAL AUTHORITY-- THAT YOU KNOW WHAT'S RIGHT FOR THE WORLD?

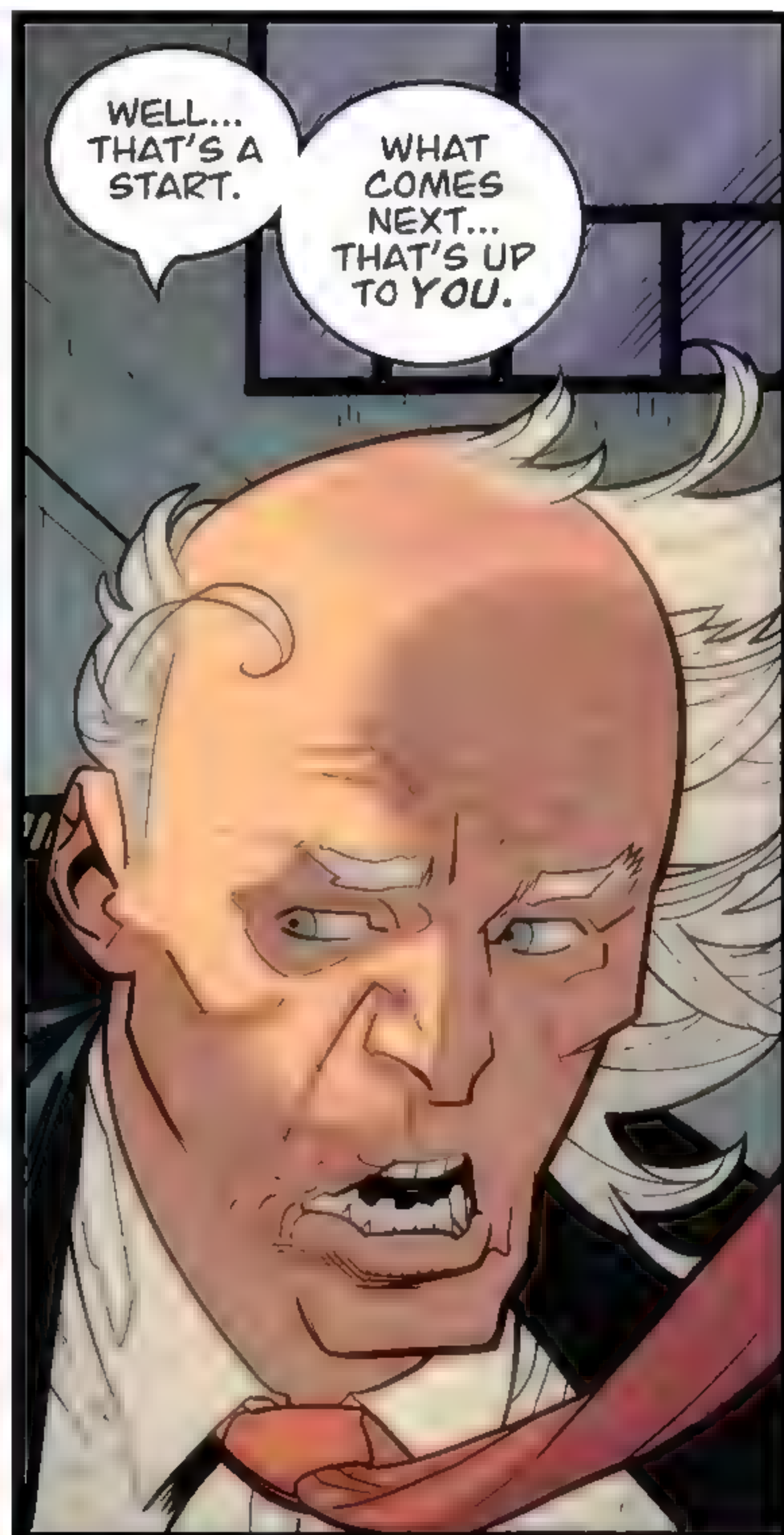


NO.



WELL... THAT'S A START.

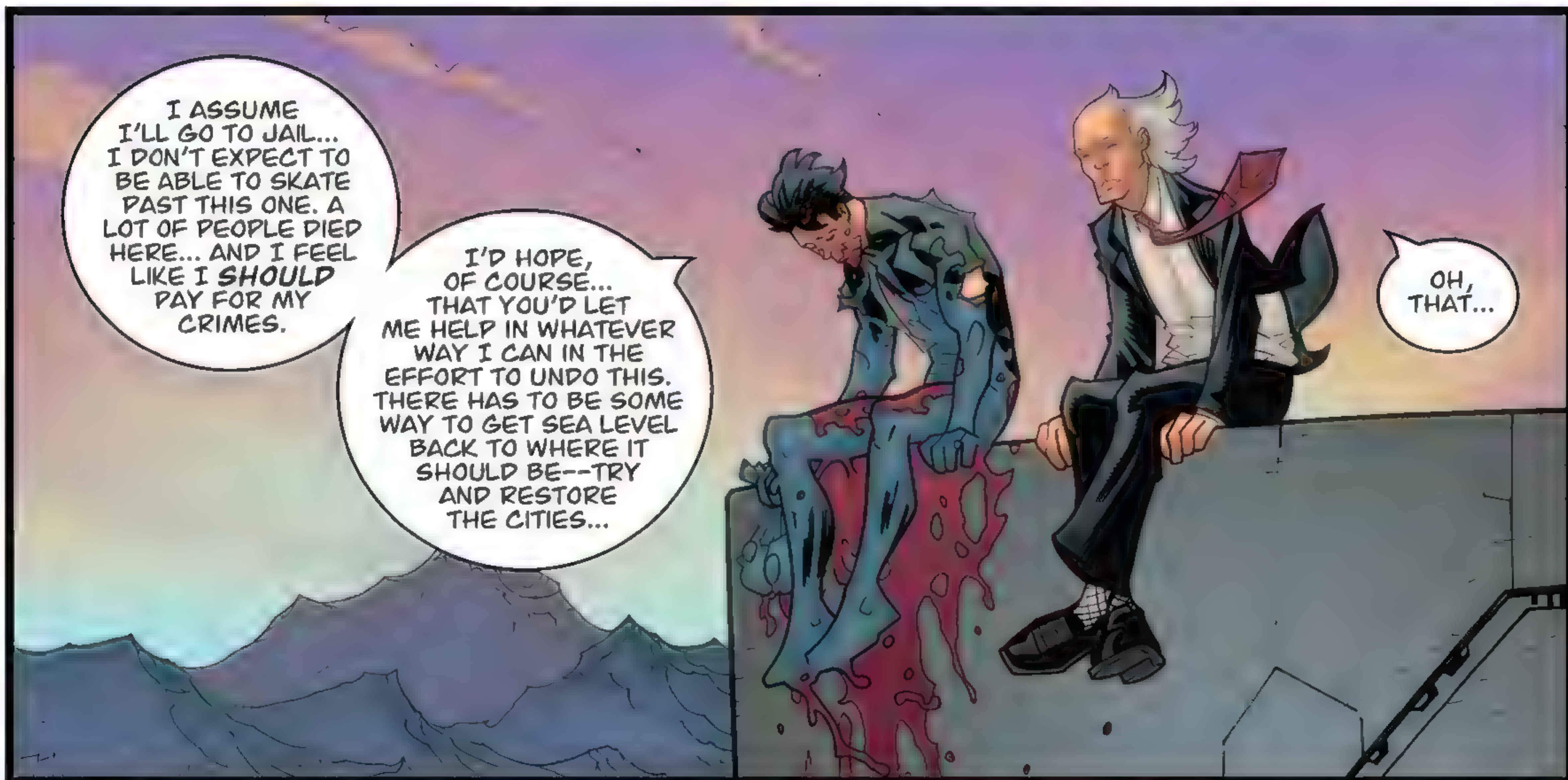
WHAT COMES NEXT... THAT'S UP TO YOU.



I ASSUME I'LL GO TO JAIL... I DON'T EXPECT TO BE ABLE TO SKATE PAST THIS ONE. A LOT OF PEOPLE DIED HERE... AND I FEEL LIKE I **SHOULD** PAY FOR MY CRIMES.

I'D HOPE, OF COURSE... THAT YOU'D LET ME HELP IN WHATEVER WAY I CAN IN THE EFFORT TO UNDO THIS. THERE HAS TO BE SOME WAY TO GET SEA LEVEL BACK TO WHERE IT SHOULD BE--TRY AND RESTORE THE CITIES...

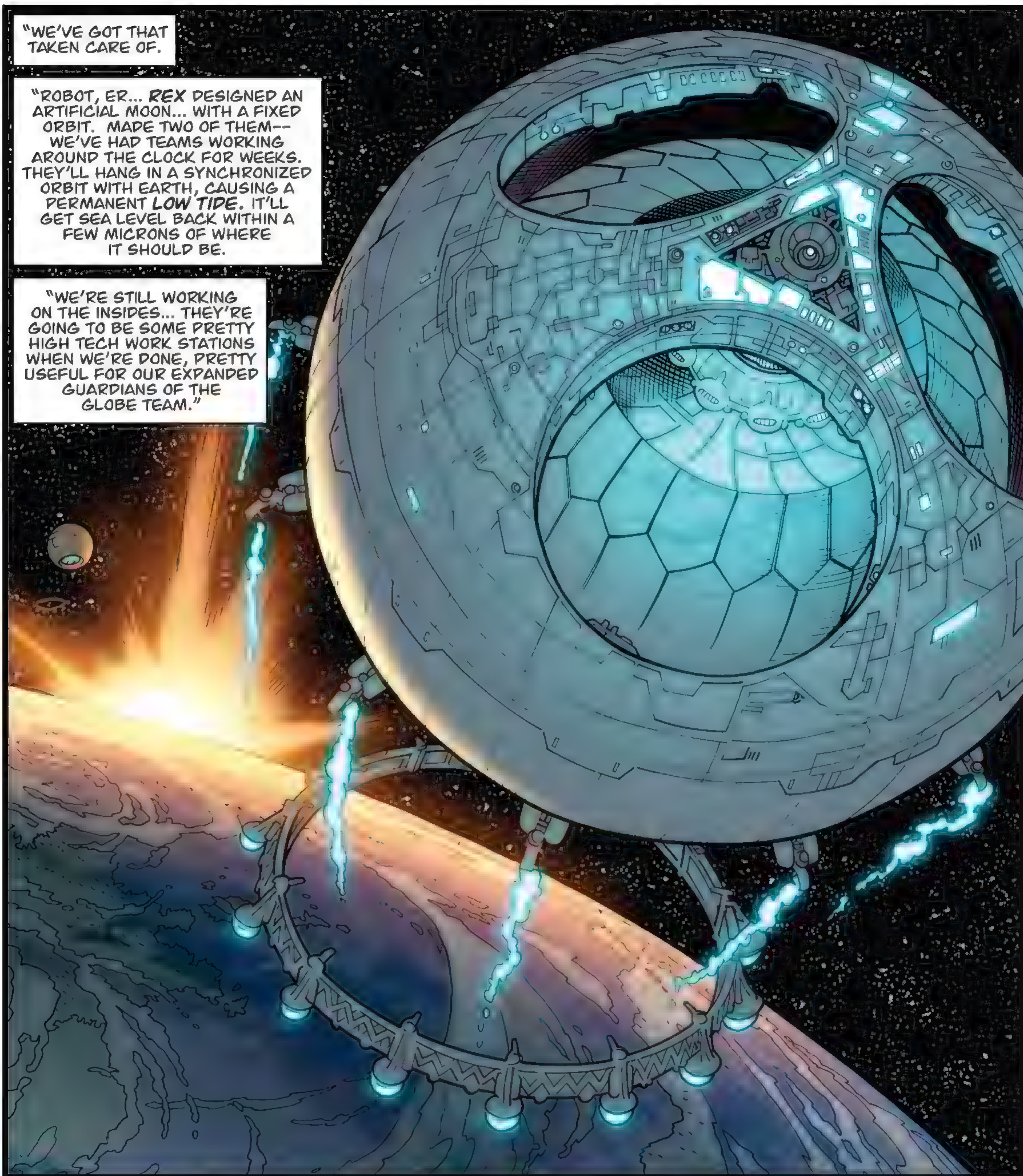
OH, THAT...



"WE'VE GOT THAT
TAKEN CARE OF."

"ROBOT, ER... REX DESIGNED AN
ARTIFICIAL MOON... WITH A FIXED
ORBIT. MADE TWO OF THEM--
WE'VE HAD TEAMS WORKING
AROUND THE CLOCK FOR WEEKS.
THEY'LL HANG IN A SYNCHRONIZED
ORBIT WITH EARTH, CAUSING A
PERMANENT **LOW TIDE**. IT'LL
GET SEA LEVEL BACK WITHIN A
FEW MICRONS OF WHERE
IT SHOULD BE."

"WE'RE STILL WORKING
ON THE INSIDES... THEY'RE
GOING TO BE SOME PRETTY
HIGH TECH WORK STATIONS
WHEN WE'RE DONE, PRETTY
USEFUL FOR OUR EXPANDED
GUARDIANS OF THE
GLOBE TEAM."



HOW
MANY
DEAD?



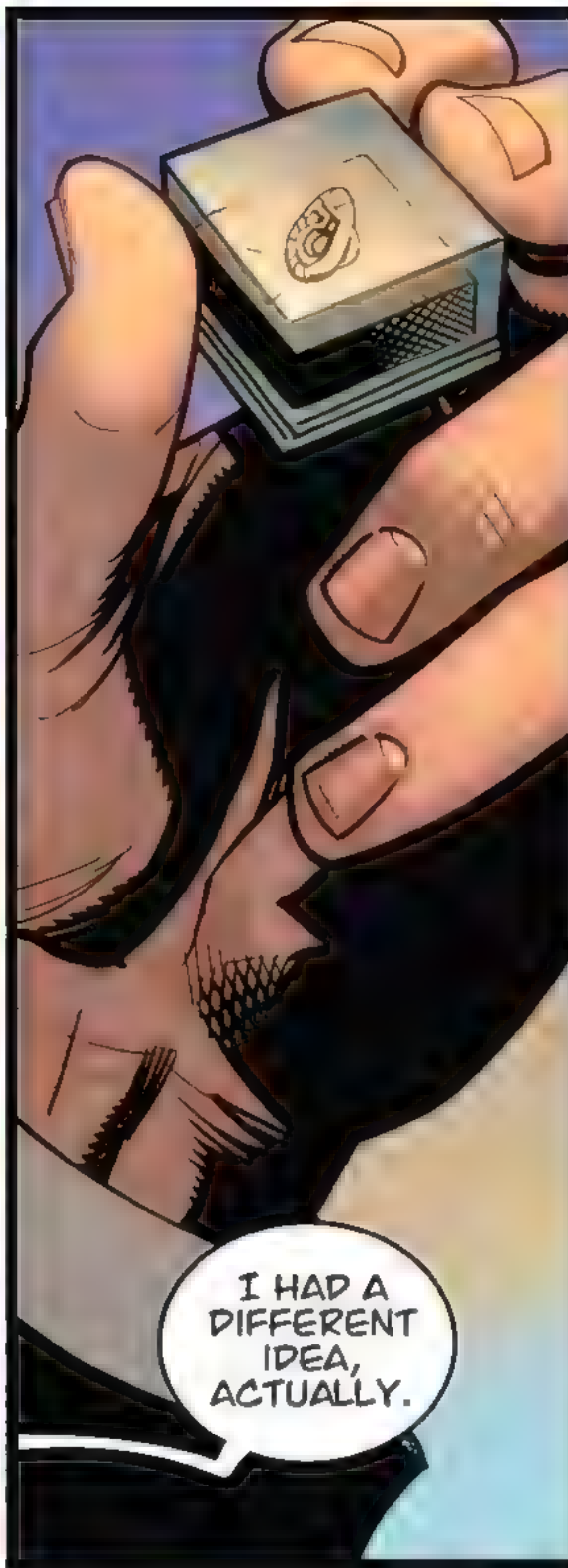
LAST COUNT I
HEARD WAS OVER
**EIGHT HUNDRED
THOUSAND...**
SHOULD CROSS A
MILLION BEFORE
IT'S ALL
DONE...

...COULD
HAVE BEEN
A LOT
WORSE.



WILL YOU LET
ME TALK TO EVE
BEFORE YOU
LOCK ME
AWAY?

PLEASE.



I HAD A
DIFFERENT
IDEA,
ACTUALLY.



WHAT'S
THAT?

EAR PIECE,
JUST LIKE YOU
USED TO WEAR
WHEN YOU
WORKED FOR
ME.



I HEAR YOU, YOU
HEAR ME--YOU
DO WHAT I SAY.
LIKE THE OLD
DAYS...

UNLESS
YOU'D
RATHER GO
TO PRISON?

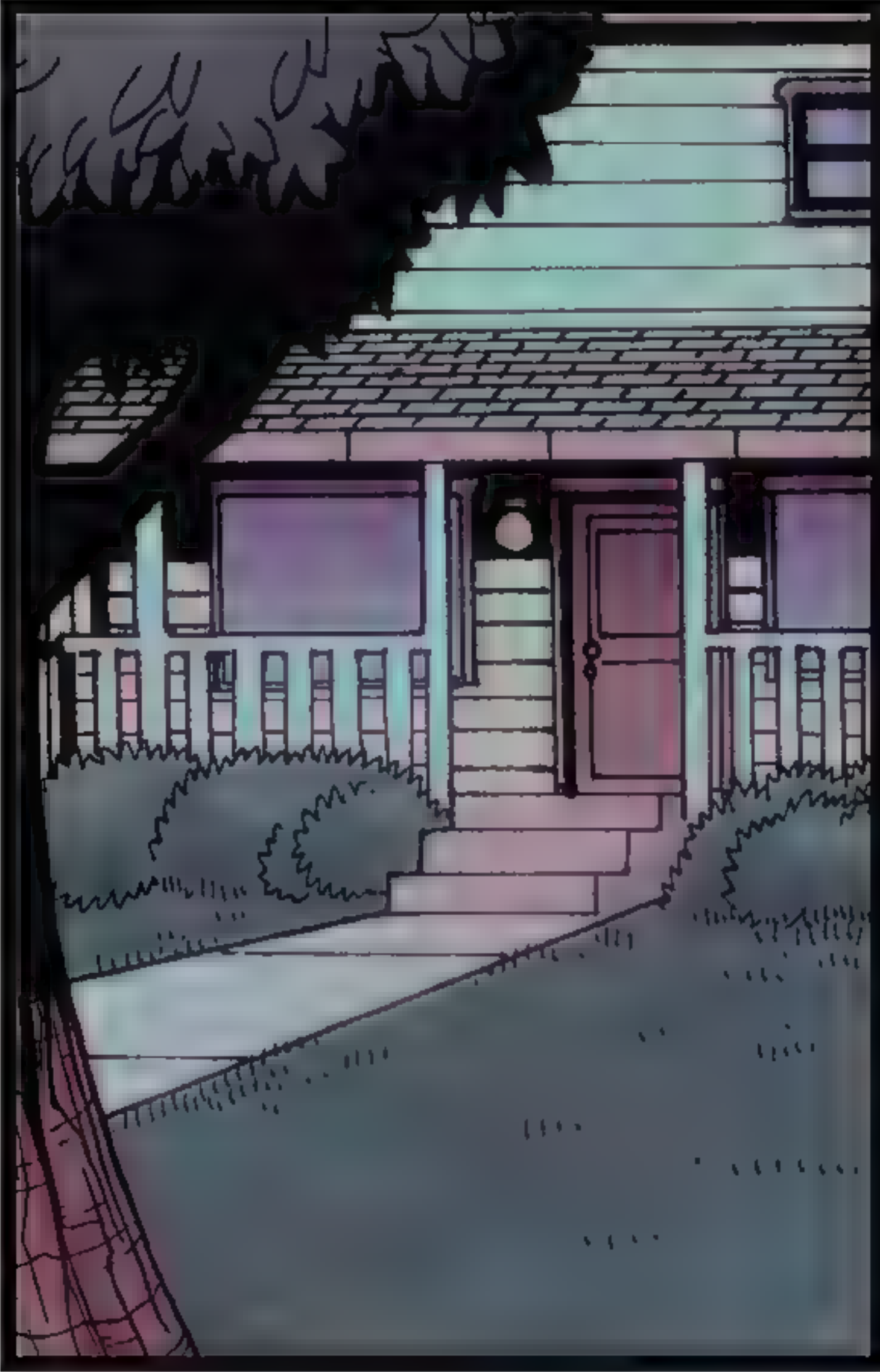


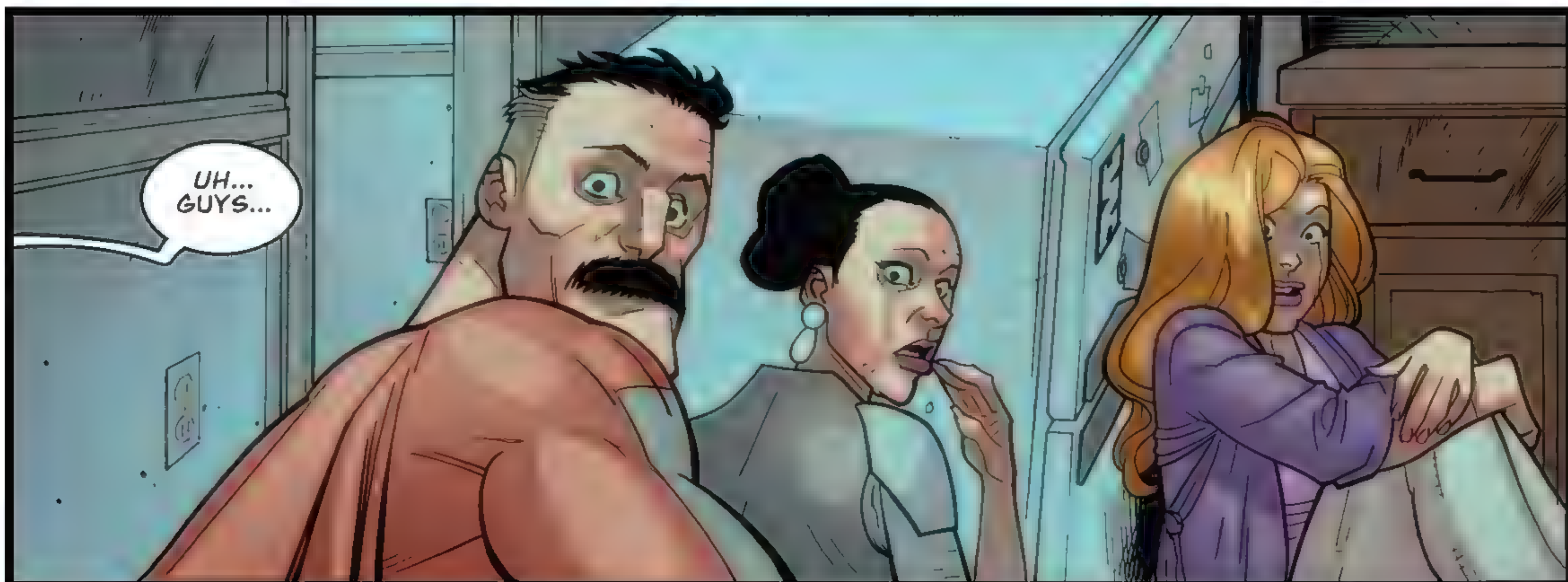
YOU'D HAVE
ME WORK FOR
YOU AGAIN?
AFTER ALL
THIS?



WHY
NOT?

I'VE
WORKED
WITH
VILLAINS
BEFORE.





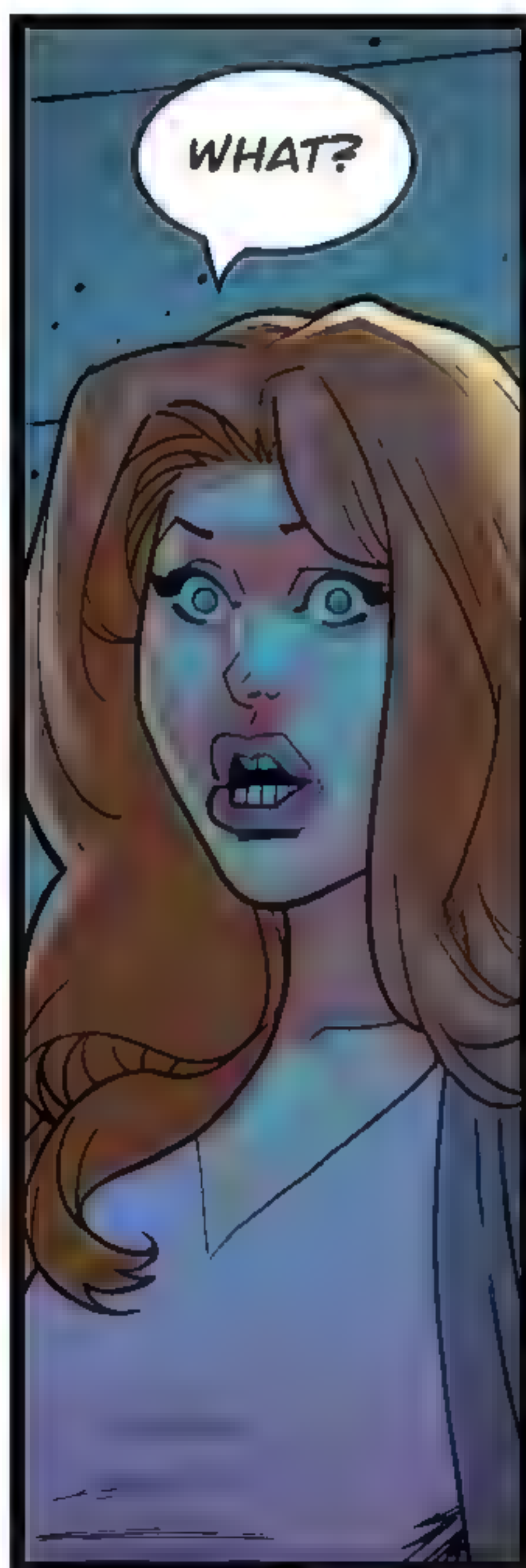






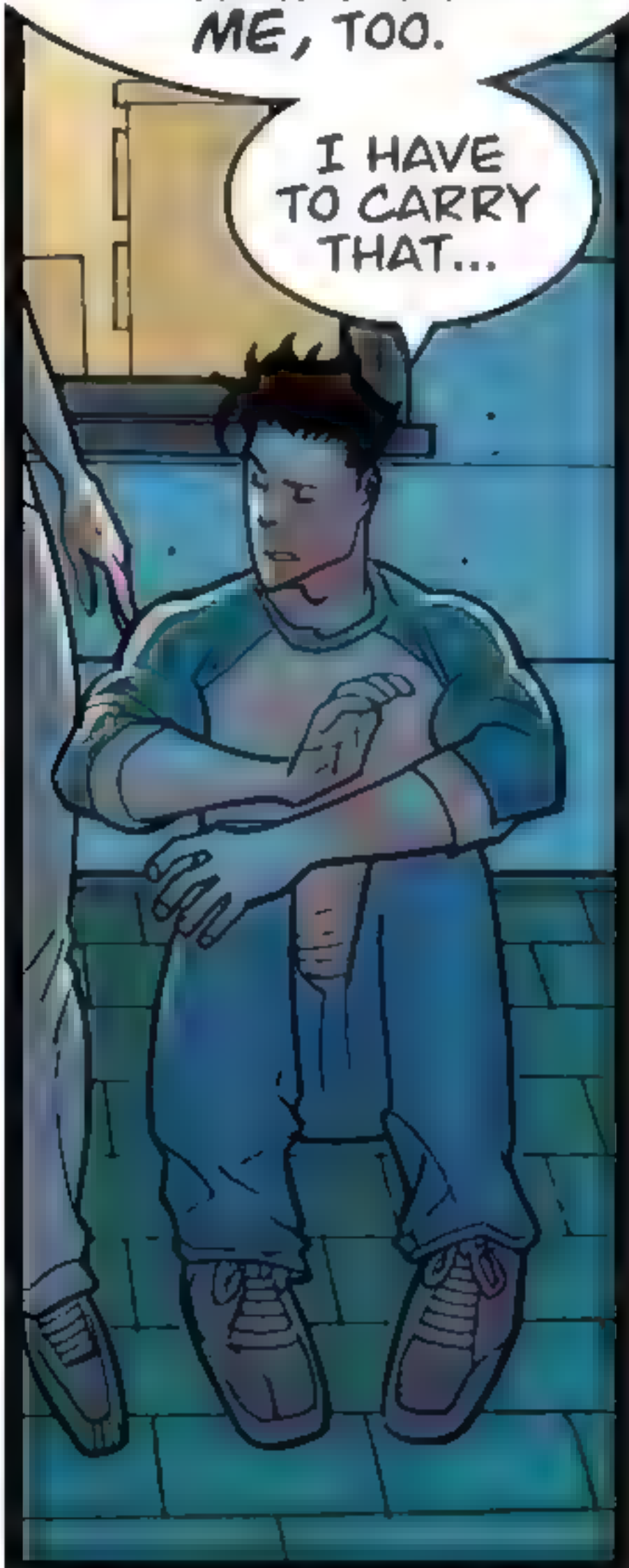
CECIL
BLAMES THIS
ON YOU, RIGHT?
WILL HE SEND
SOMEONE AFTER
YOU?

DON'T
THINK SO.
NOT NOW THAT
I'M WORKING
FOR HIM
AGAIN...

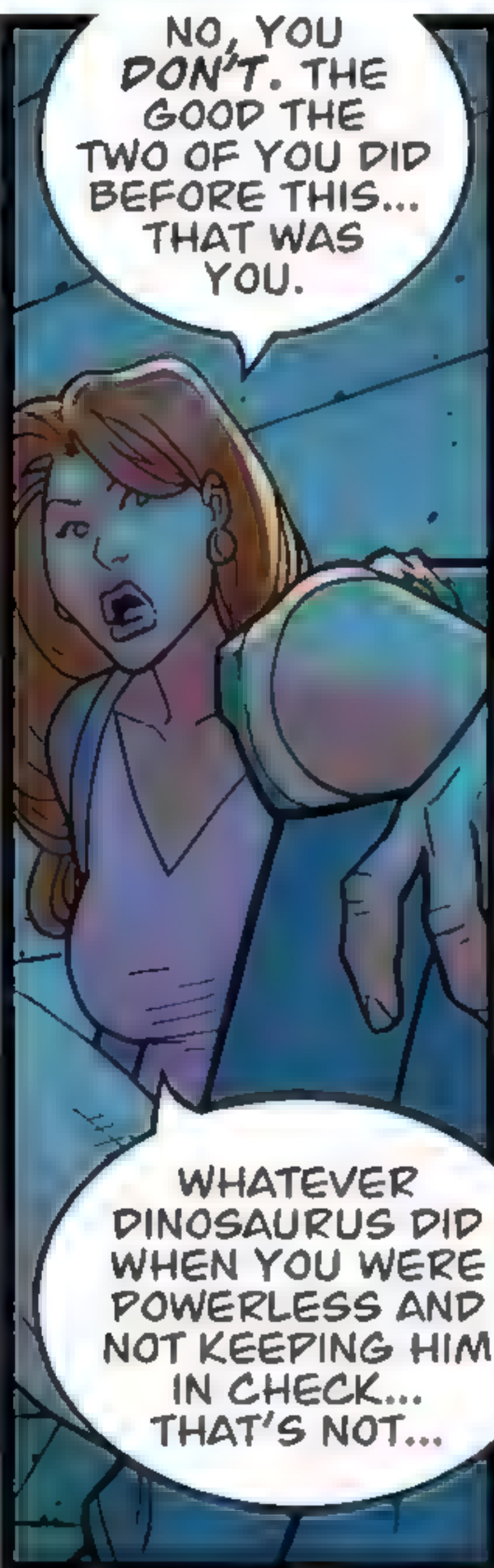


WHAT?

I KNOW, I KNOW... BUT
I SCREWED UP AND IT
HURT A LOT OF PEOPLE.
THOSE DEATHS
DINOSAURUS CAUSED...
THAT'S ON
ME, TOO.



I HAVE
TO CARRY
THAT...



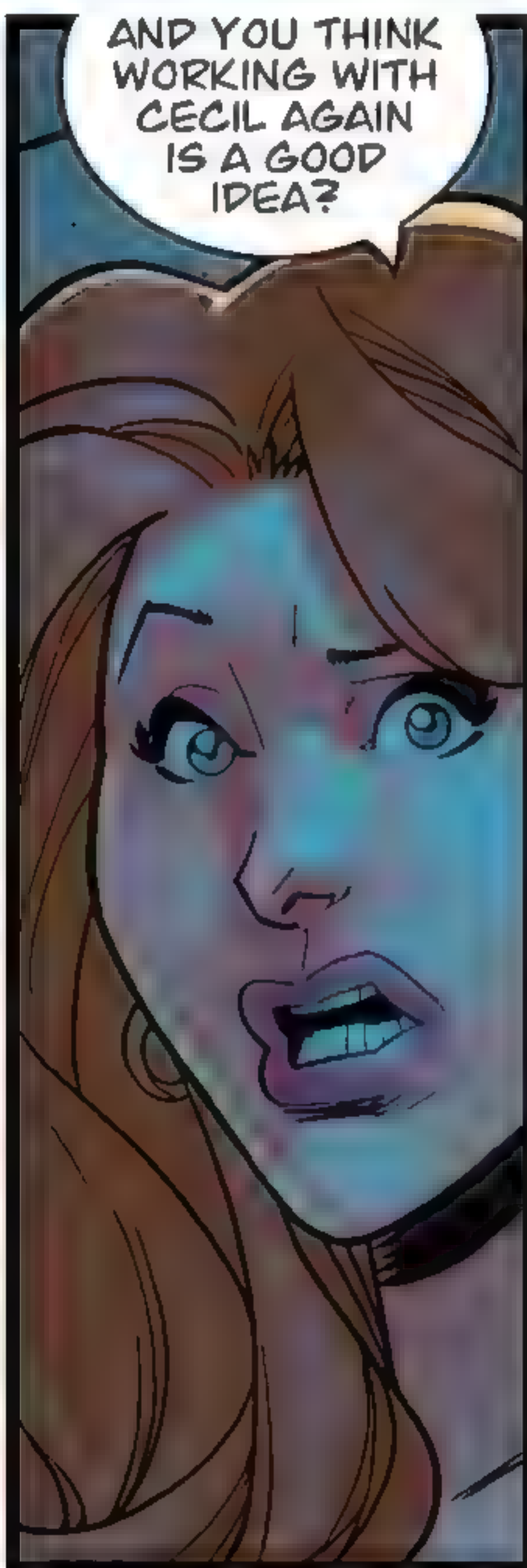
NO, YOU
DON'T. THE
GOOD THE
TWO OF YOU DID
BEFORE THIS...
THAT WAS
YOU.

WHATEVER
DINOSAURUS DID
WHEN YOU WERE
POWERLESS AND
NOT KEEPING HIM
IN CHECK...
THAT'S NOT...



STILL, I'VE ALWAYS
BEEN SO BRASH,
SO... HEADSTRONG.
I'VE ALWAYS FELT
THAT I WAS
RIGHT... BUT
HERE, I WAS
VERY, VERY
WRONG.

I'M TAKING
A STEP BACK,
RETHINKING
THINGS.



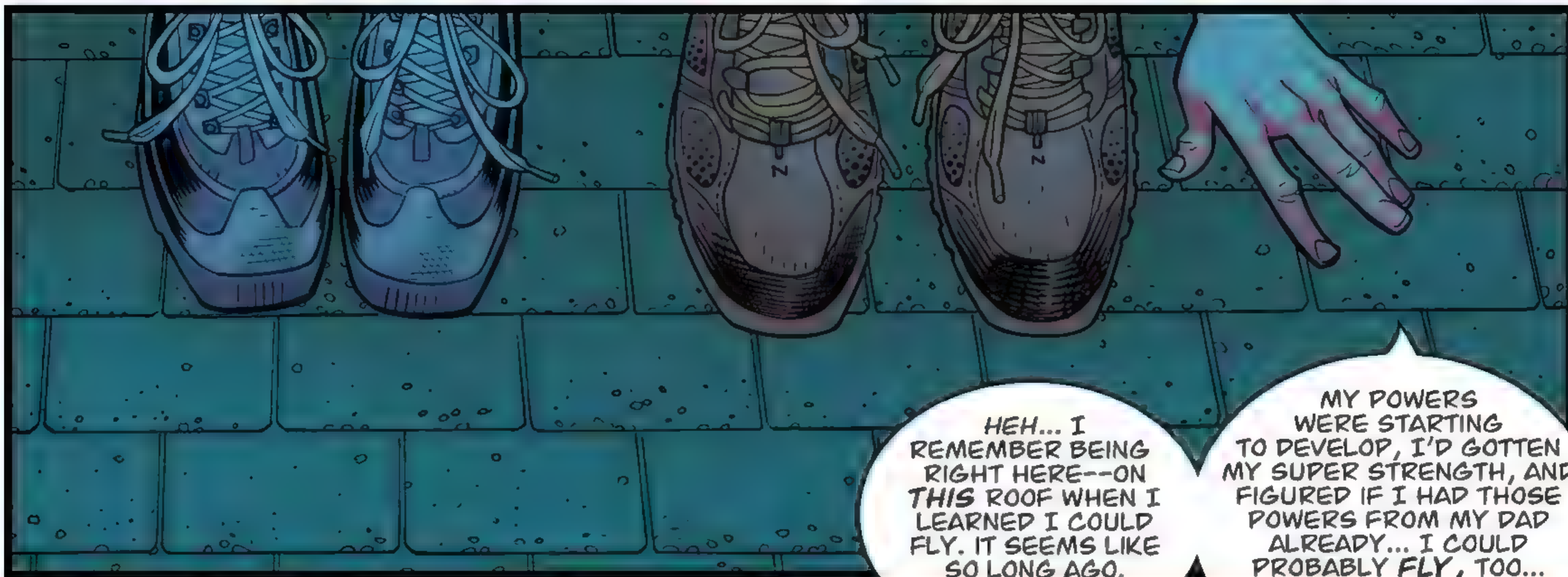
AND YOU THINK
WORKING WITH
CECIL AGAIN
IS A GOOD
IDEA?



IT'S THE ONLY IDEA
THAT'S GOING TO
KEEP ME OUT OF
PRISON. CECIL
PRETTY MUCH SAID
THOSE WERE
THE TERMS.

I KNOW I
CAN DO A LOT
MORE GOOD
OUT HERE THAN
IN THERE. I'VE
GOT A LOT
TO ATONE
FOR.

THINGS
ARE... GOING
TO HAVE TO BE
DIFFERENT
NOW.



HEH... I
REMEMBER BEING
RIGHT HERE--ON
THIS ROOF WHEN I
LEARNED I COULD
FLY. IT SEEMS LIKE
SO LONG AGO.

MY POWERS
WERE STARTING
TO DEVELOP, I'D GOTTEN
MY SUPER STRENGTH, AND
FIGURED IF I HAD THOSE
POWERS FROM MY DAD
ALREADY... I COULD
PROBABLY FLY, TOO...



"SO I JUST
JUMPED OFF
THE ROOF.

"LUCKY FOR ME...
IT WORKED. I
COULD FLY."



THAT'S KIND OF
HOW I'VE BEEN
DOING THINGS EVER
SINCE... MAKING AN
ASSUMPTION,
BELIEVING THAT I'M
RIGHT... AND
JUST GOING
FOR IT.

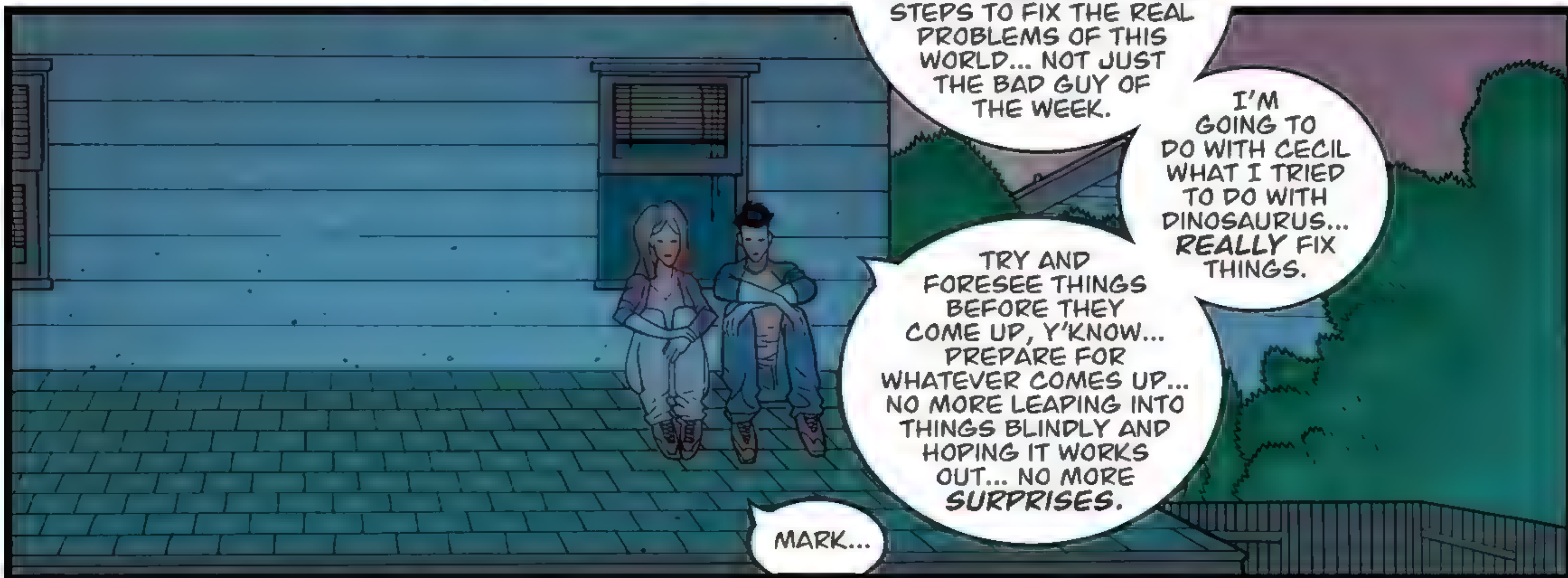
ALL THE
TIMES IT'S
WORKED OUT...
THAT WAS JUST
LUCK. I CAN'T
DO THAT
ANYMORE.

I'M AN
ADULT NOW.
I HAVE TO BE...
SMARTER
ABOUT
THINGS.

I'M NOT
TAKING ANY
MORE CHANCES...
NO MORE RISKS.
I'M GOING TO SET
GOALS, WORK TOWARD
THEM. I'M GOING TO
PLAN THINGS OUT... TAKE
STEPS TO FIX THE REAL
PROBLEMS OF THIS
WORLD... NOT JUST
THE BAD GUY OF
THE WEEK.

I'M
GOING TO
DO WITH CECIL
WHAT I TRIED
TO DO WITH
DINOSAURUS...
REALLY FIX
THINGS.

TRY AND
FORESEE THINGS
BEFORE THEY
COME UP, Y'KNOW...
PREPARE FOR
WHATEVER COMES UP...
NO MORE LEAPING INTO
THINGS BLINDLY AND
HOPING IT WORKS
OUT... NO MORE
SURPRISES.



MARK...



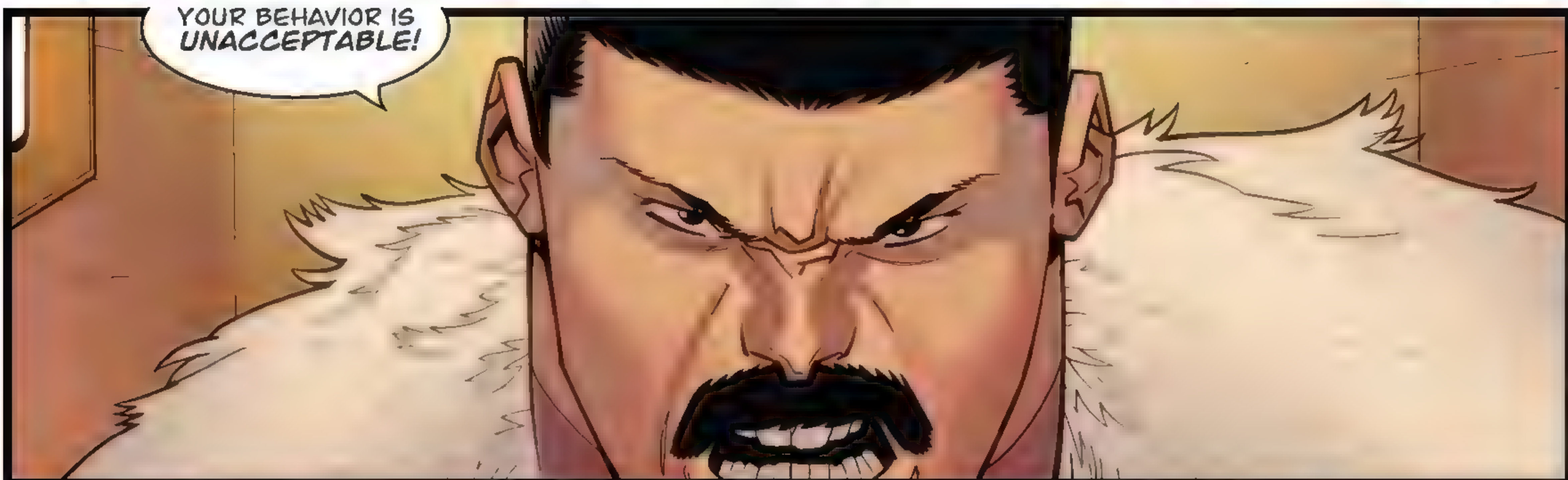


CHAPTER 101





THE LAST REMAINING
VILTRUMITE WARSHIP,
STATIONED ON THE MOON.



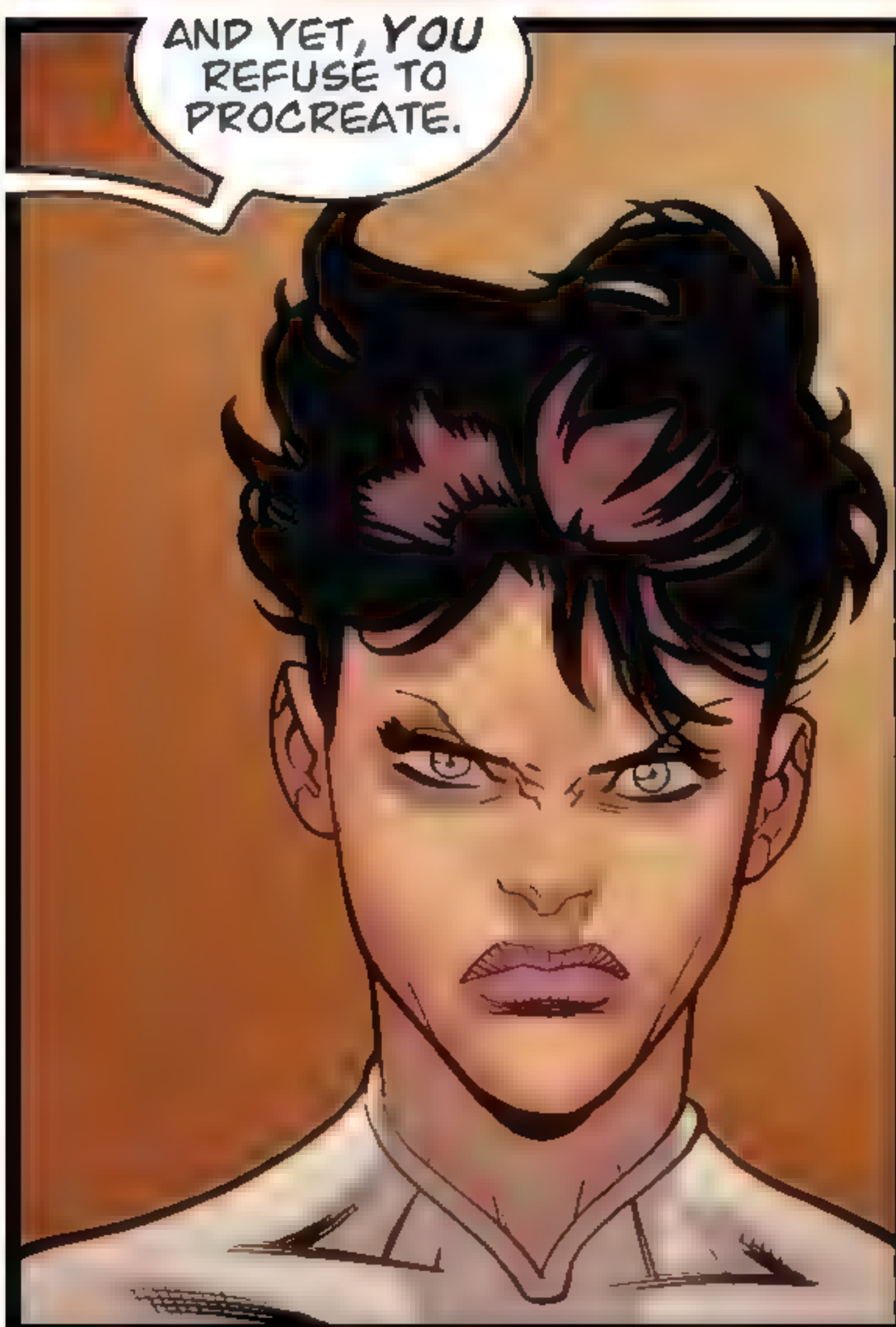
YOUR BEHAVIOR IS
UNACCEPTABLE!



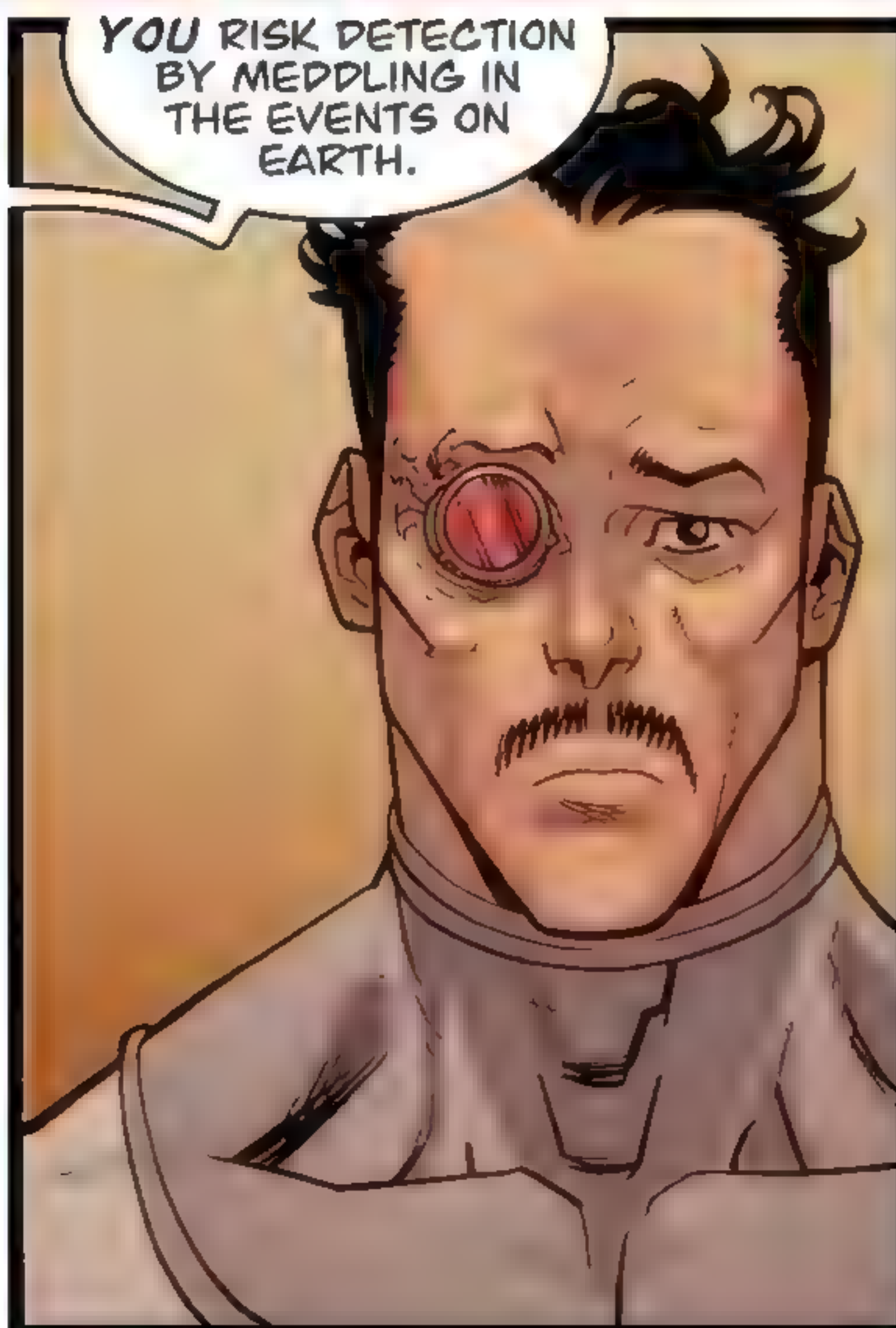
YOU
DISGUST
ME.

WE HAVE
COME TO
THIS PLANET
FOR A REASON!
OUR VERY
EXISTENCE IS
AT RISK
HERE!

THIS
PLANET IS
OUR CHANCE
TO RESTORE
THE VILTRUMITE
EMPIRE TO ITS
FORMER
GLORY.



AND YET, YOU
REFUSE TO
PROCREATE.



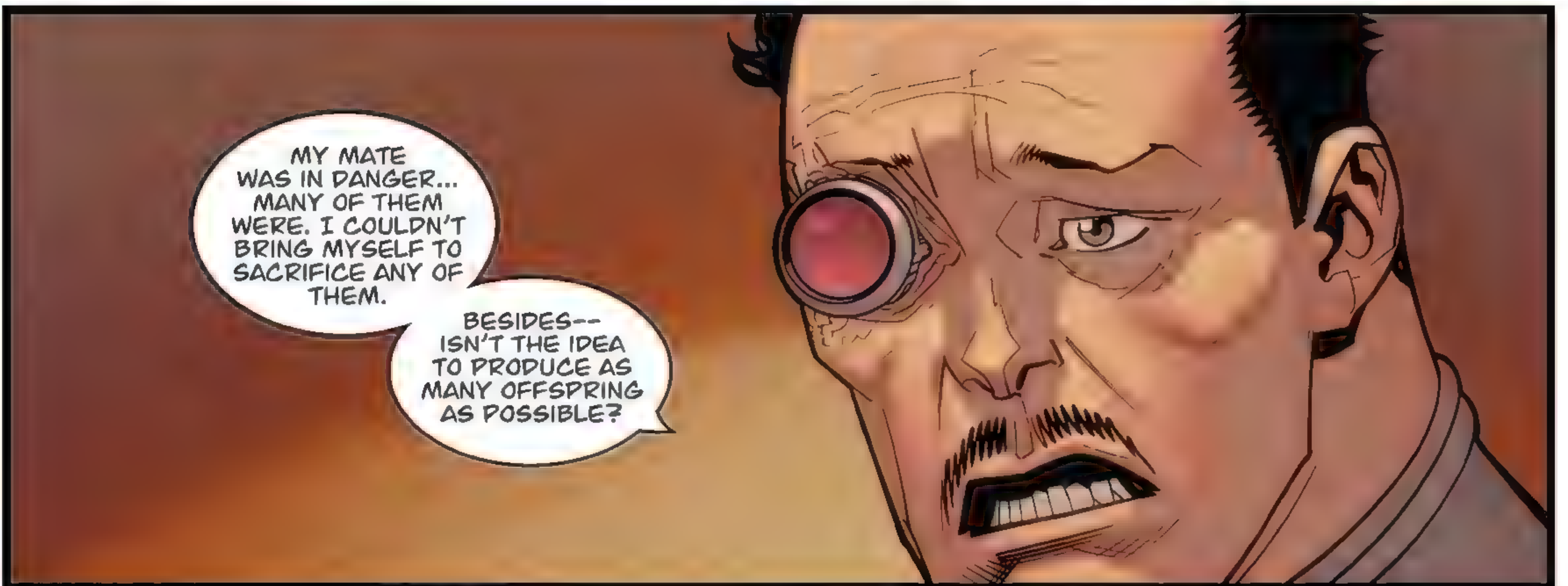
YOU RISK DETECTION
BY MEDDLING IN
THE EVENTS ON
EARTH.



YOU REFUSE TO
PROCREATE WITH
MORE THAN ONE
HUMAN!



I HAVE NEVER WANTED TO PRODUCE OFFSPRING. I'M AWARE OF MY RESPONSIBILITIES... BUT I EXPECT YOU TO RECOGNIZE THE DIFFERENCE IN WHAT YOU'RE ASKING ME TO DO, AND WHAT MY MALE COUNTERPARTS ARE DOING.



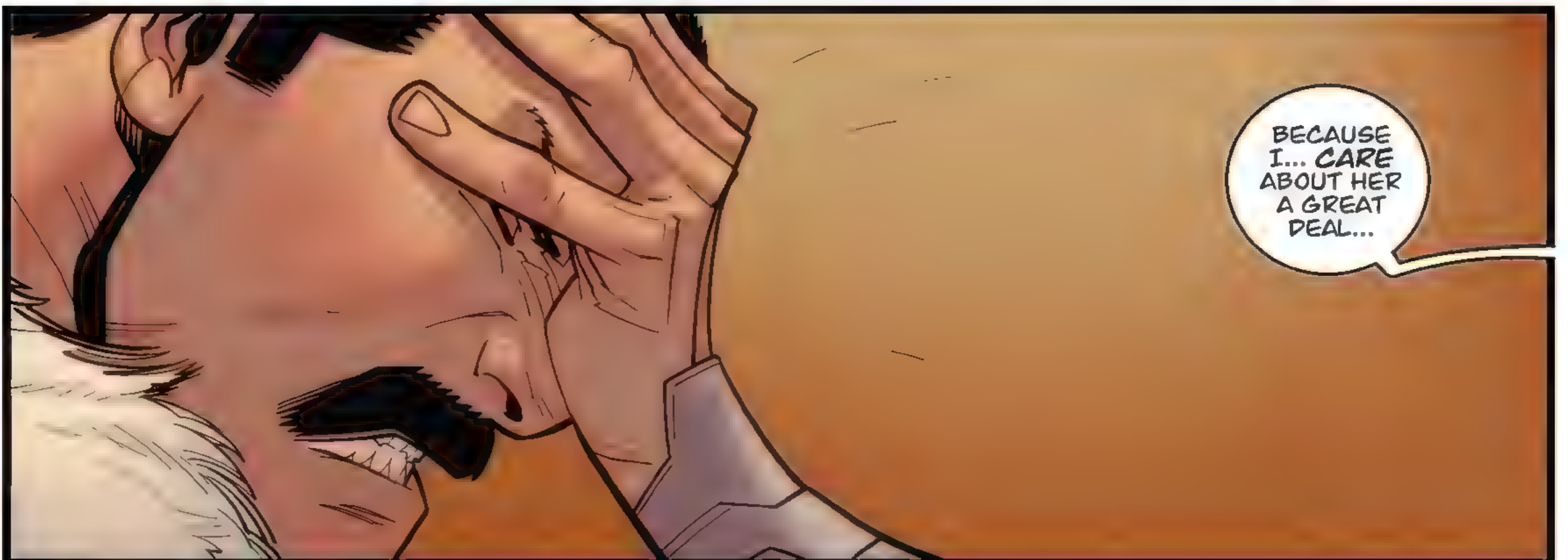
MY MATE WAS IN DANGER... MANY OF THEM WERE. I COULDN'T BRING MYSELF TO SACRIFICE ANY OF THEM.

BESIDES-- ISN'T THE IDEA TO PRODUCE AS MANY OFFSPRING AS POSSIBLE?

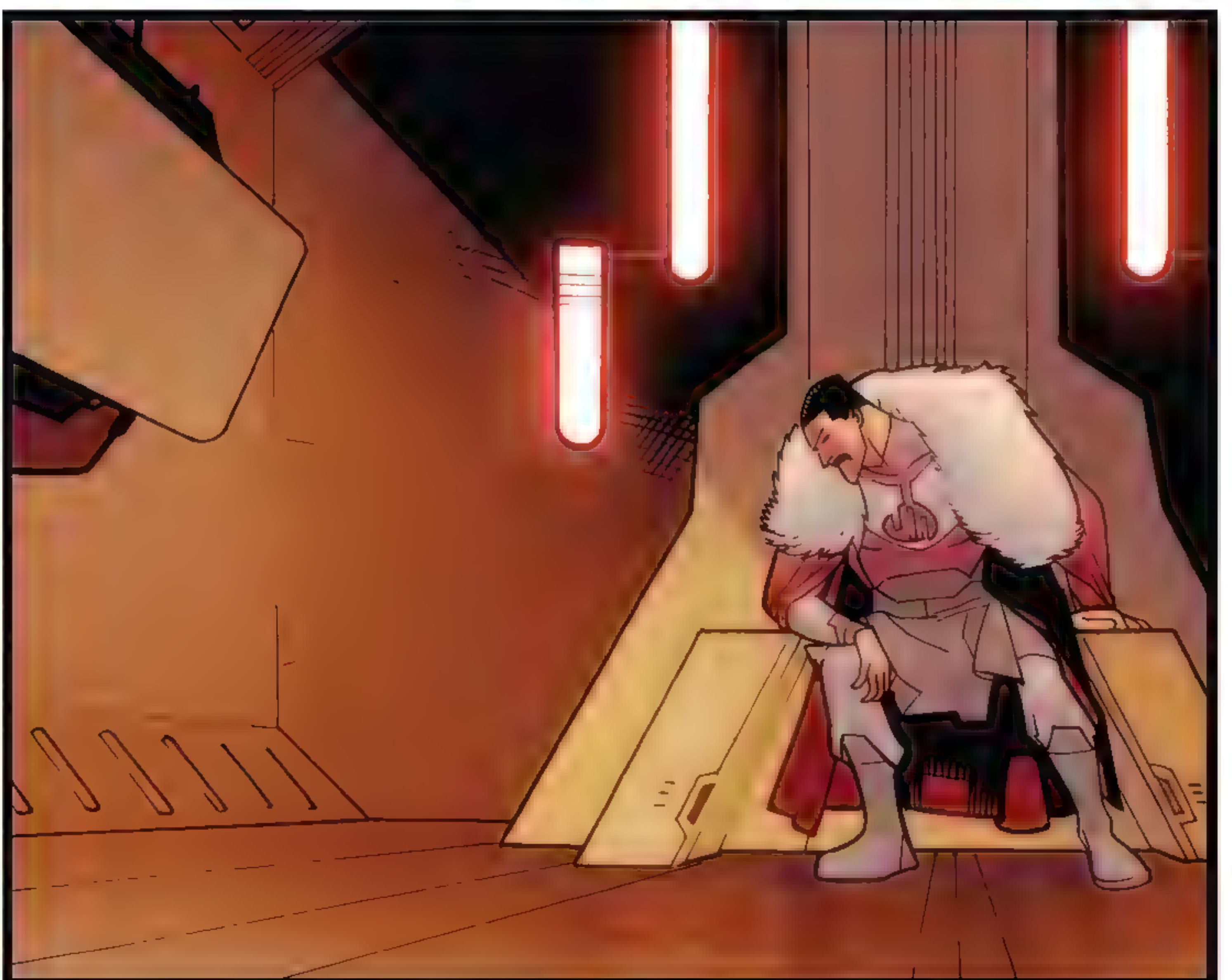
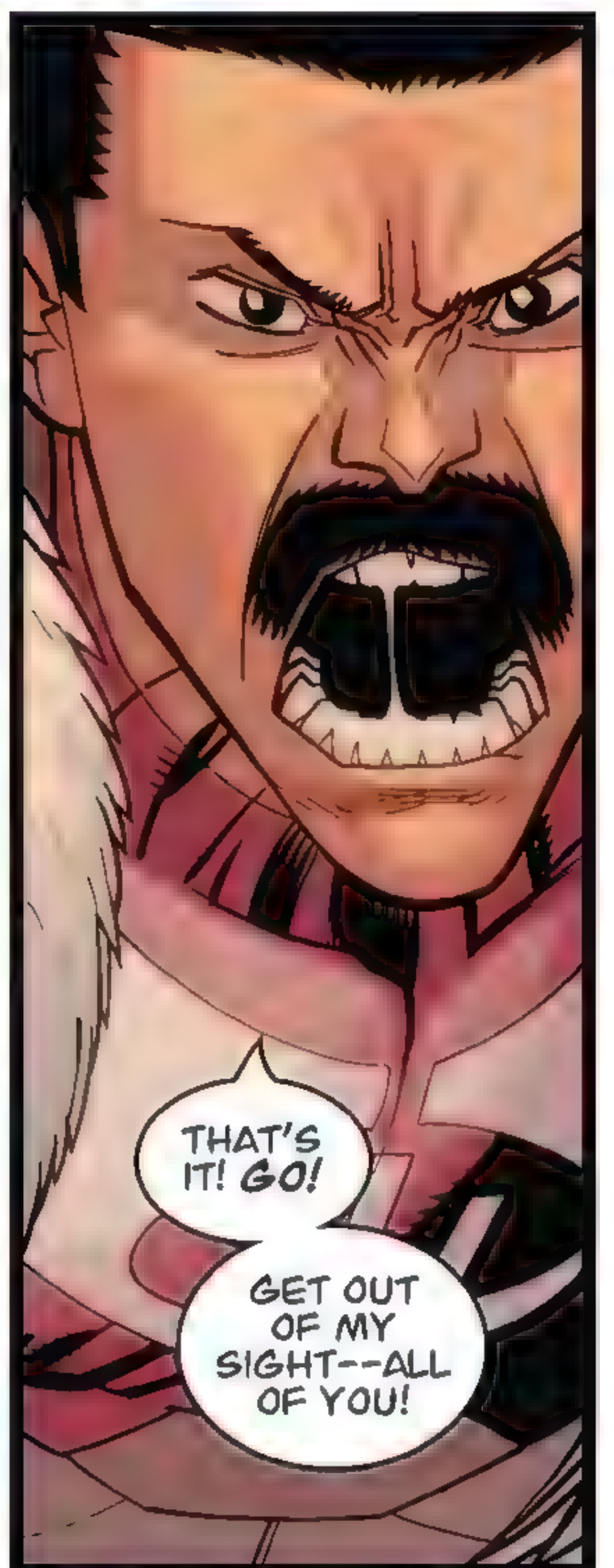


MY MATE, SHE HAS BEEN... HURT IN THE PAST BY A COMPANION WHO WAS DISLOYAL. SHE DOESN'T APPROVE OF MY PROCREATING WITH OTHER WOMEN.

WERE I TO DO SO... SHE WOULD BECOME UPSET. I DON'T WISH TO DO THAT TO HER.

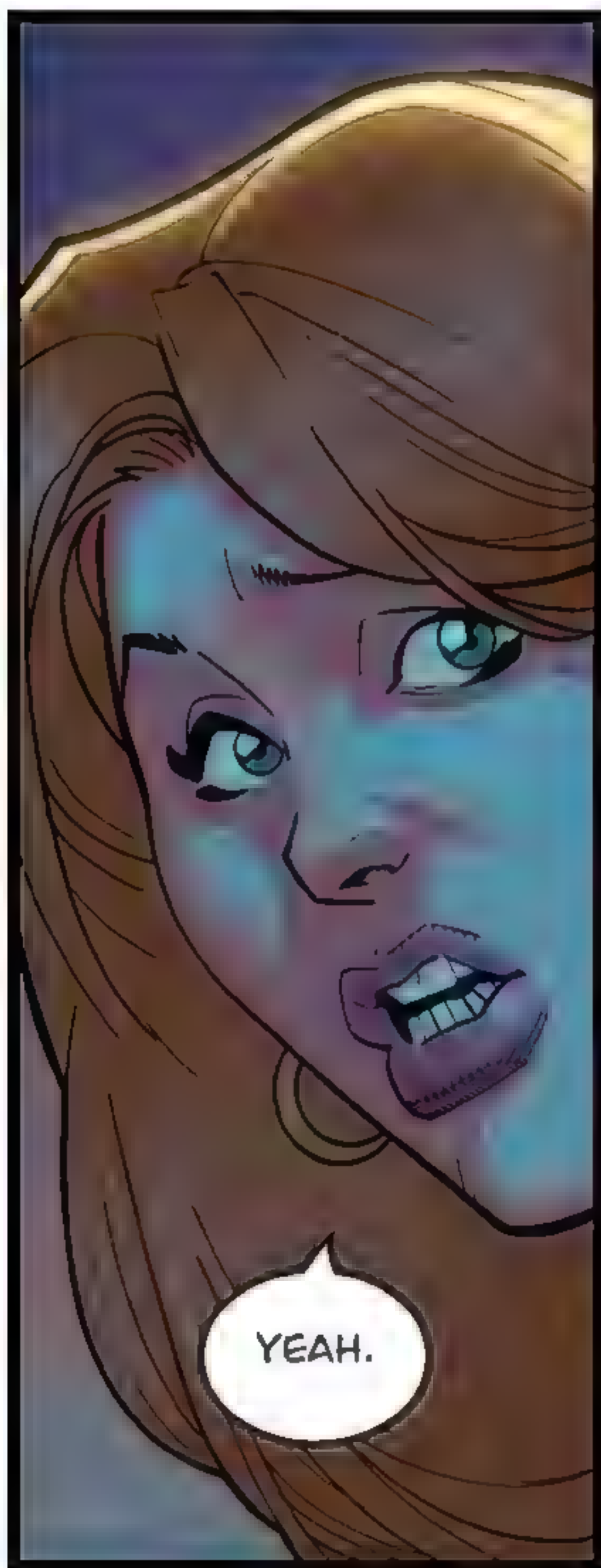


BECAUSE I... CARE ABOUT HER A GREAT DEAL...

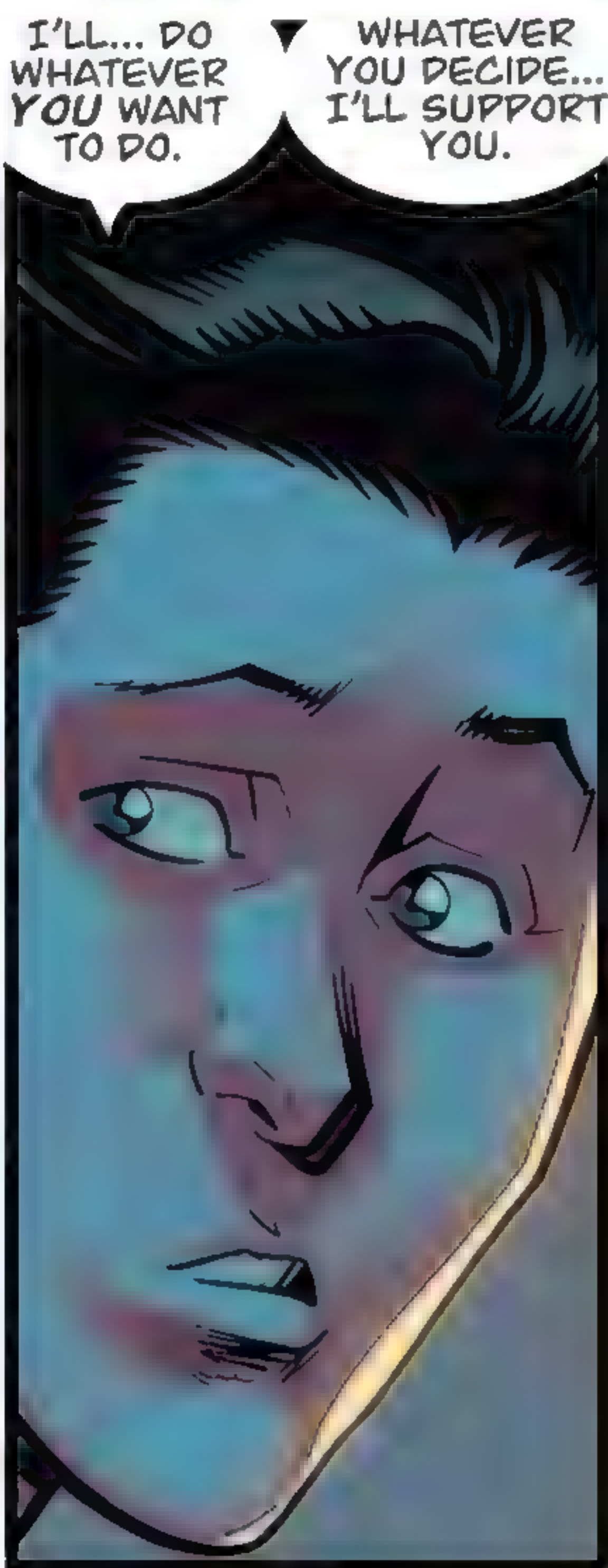
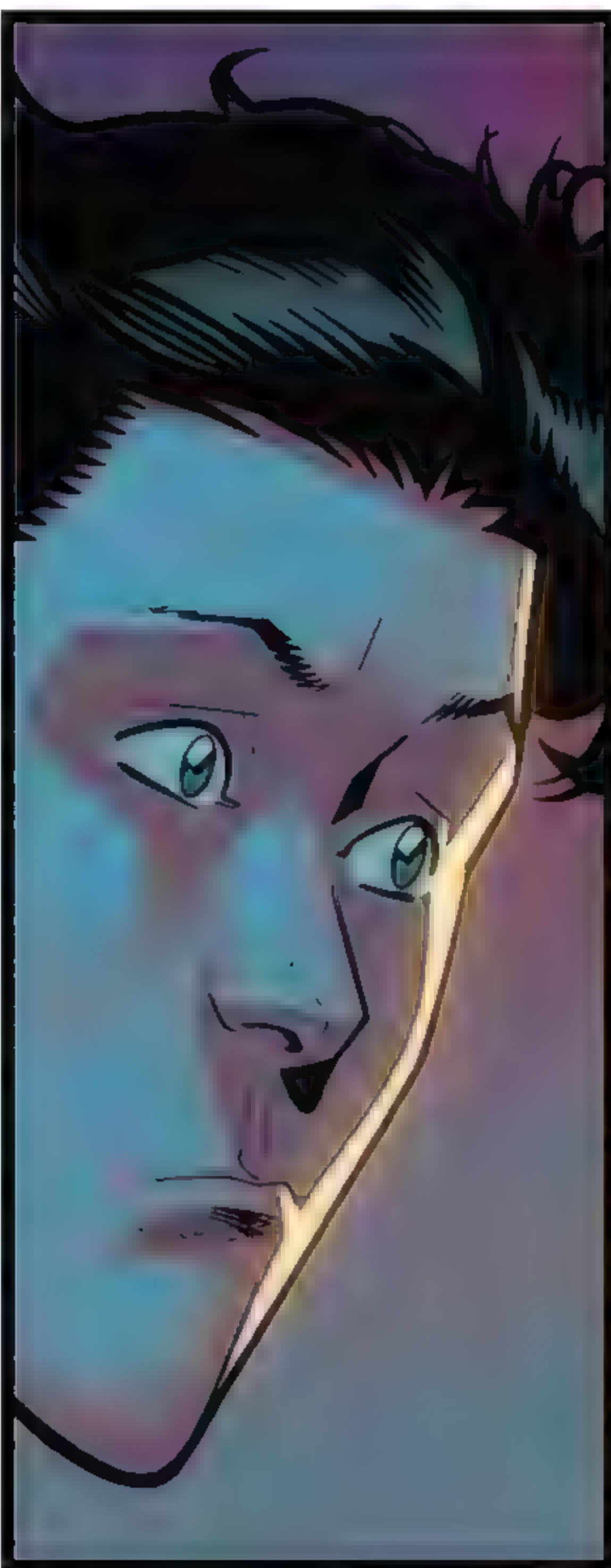




YOU'RE--
YOU'RE
PREGNANT?

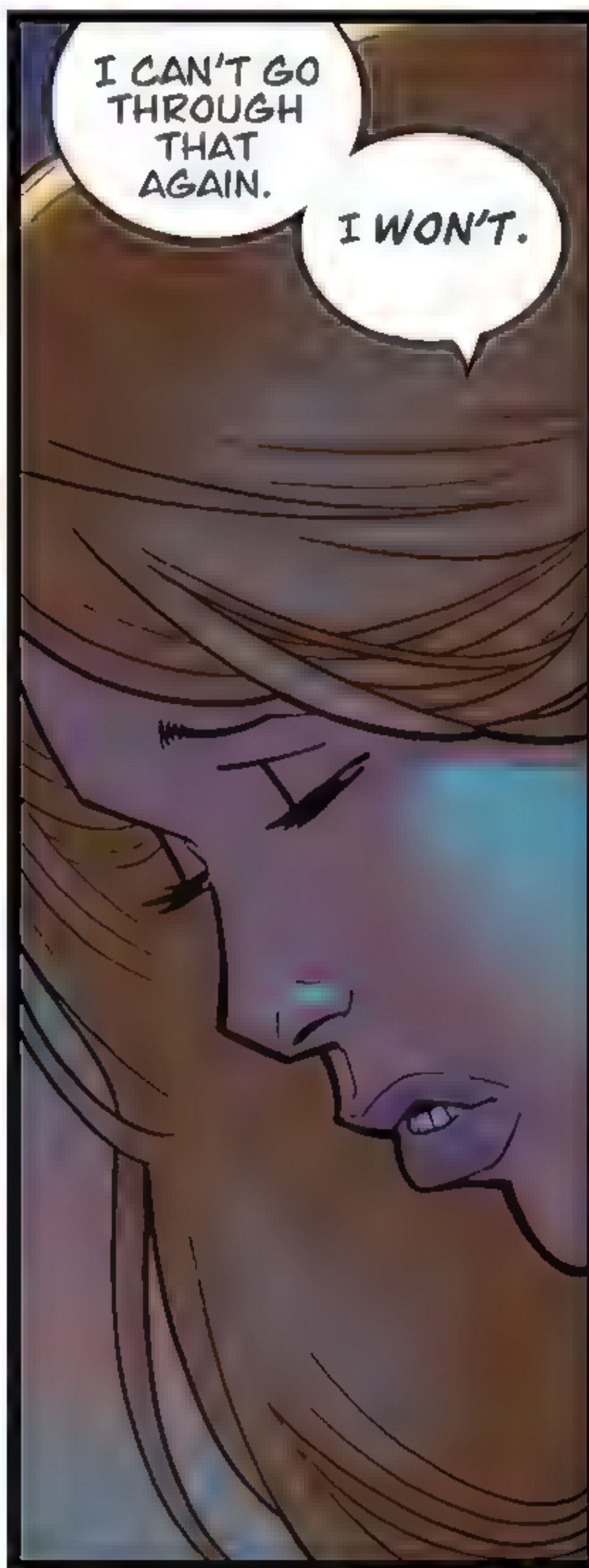


YEAH.



I'LL... DO
WHATEVER
YOU WANT
TO DO.

WHATEVER
YOU DECIDE...
I'LL SUPPORT
YOU.



I CAN'T GO
THROUGH
THAT
AGAIN.

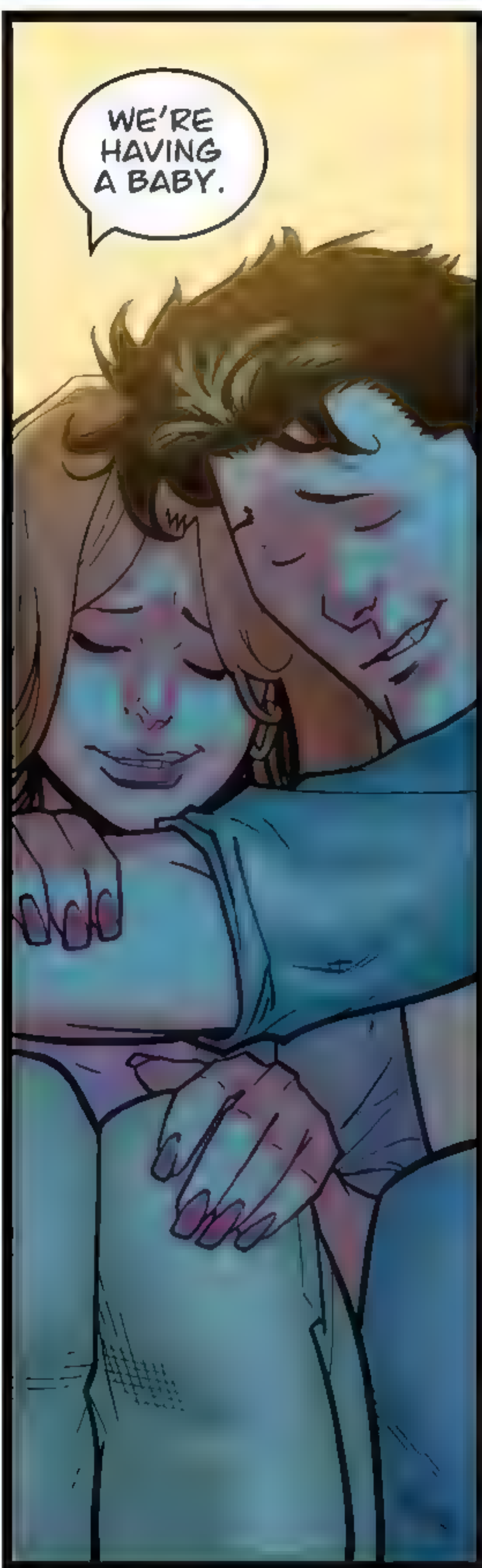
I WON'T.



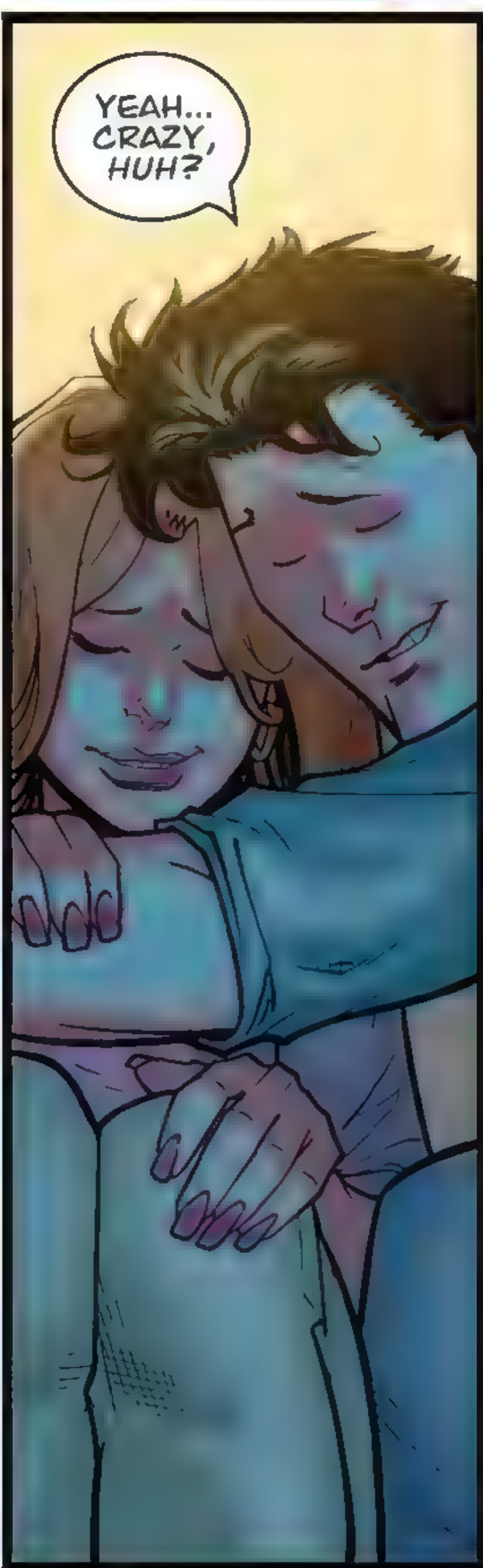
OKAY
THEN...



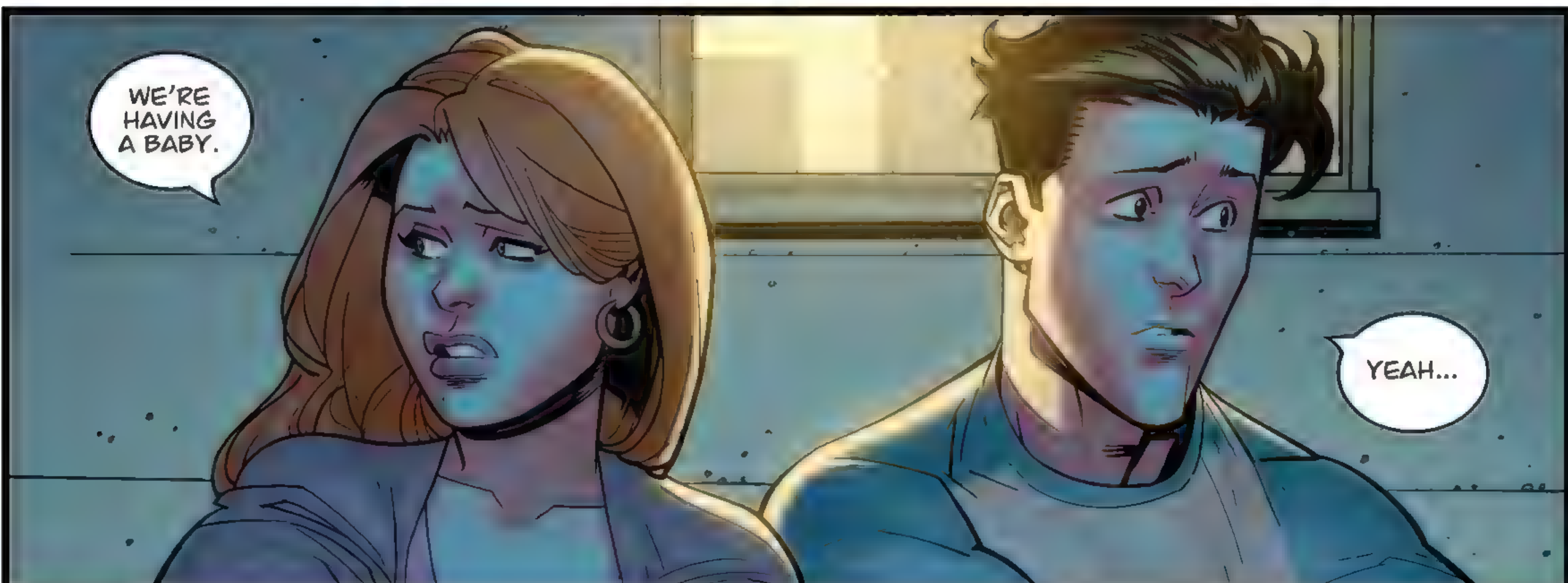
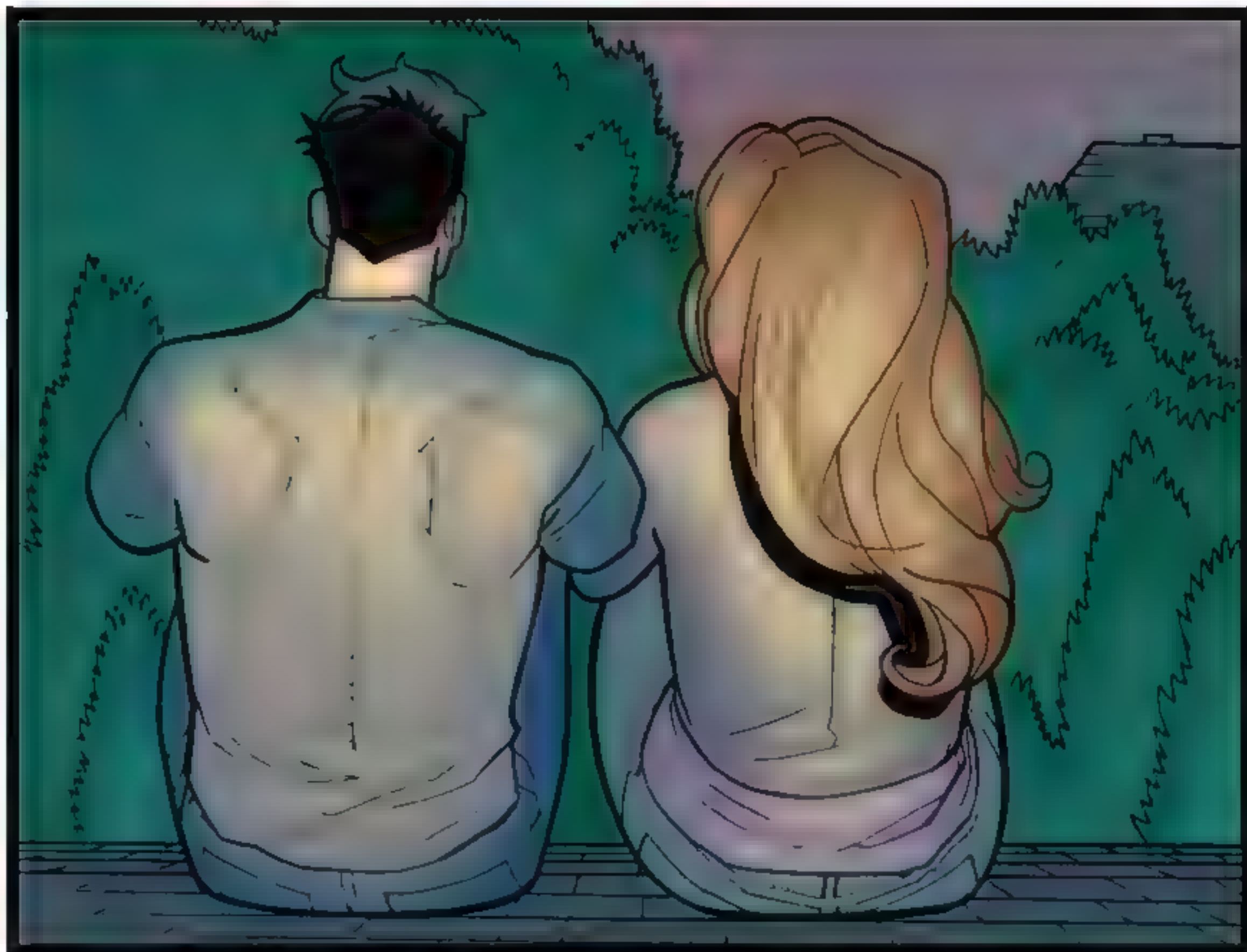
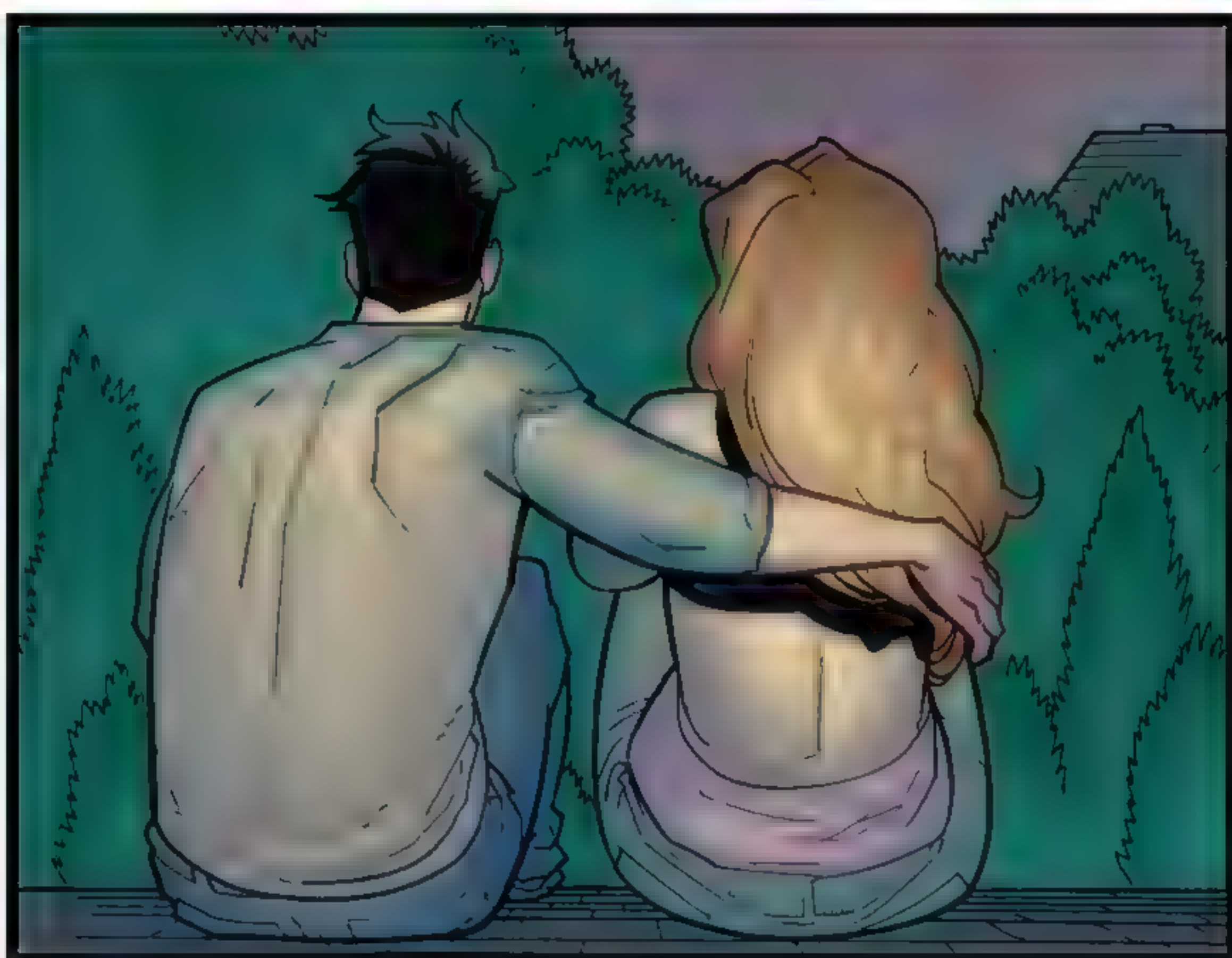
WE'RE
HAVING
A BABY.



WE'RE
HAVING
A BABY.

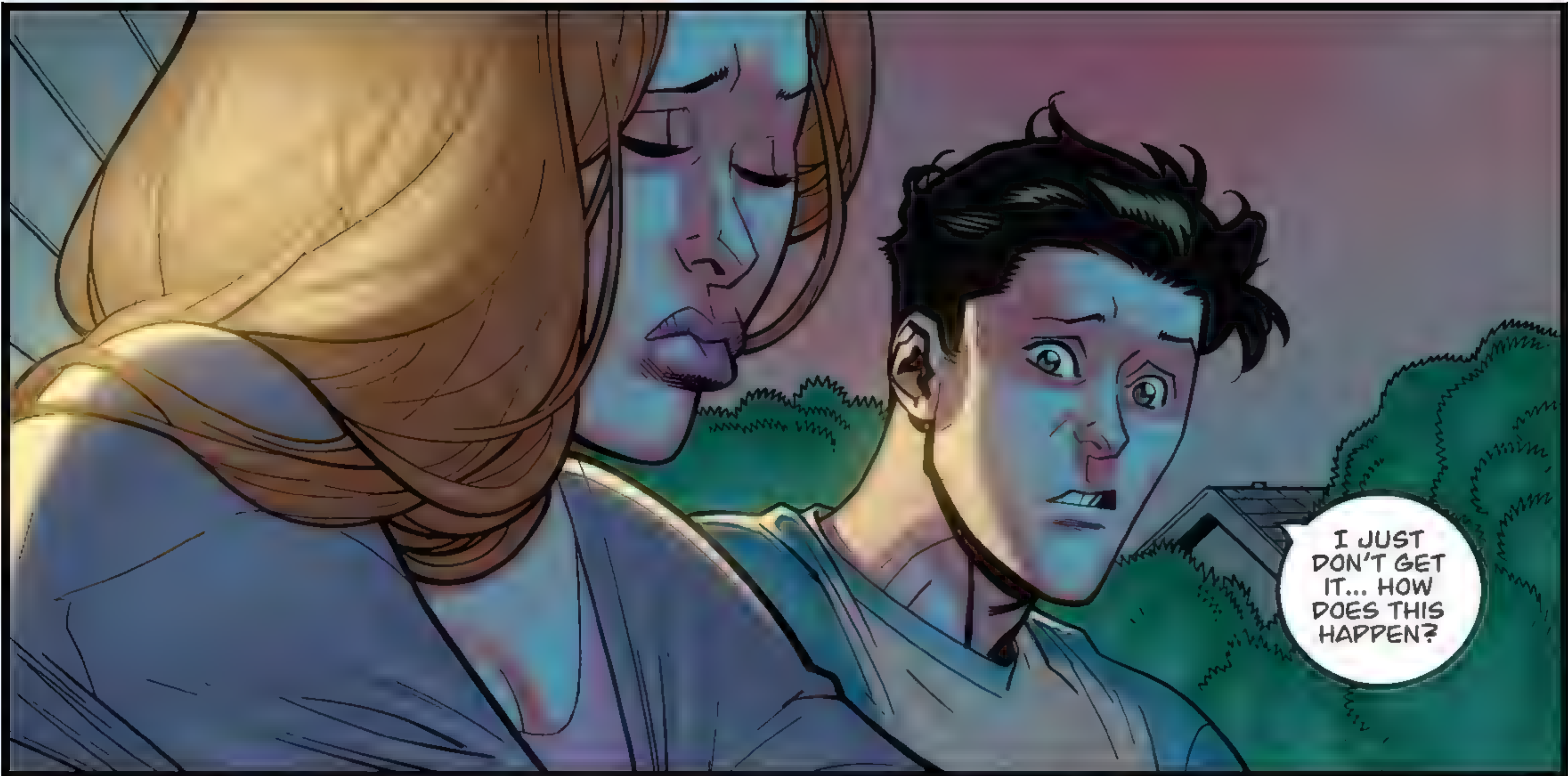


YEAH...
CRAZY,
HUH?



WE'RE
HAVING
A BABY.

YEAH...



I JUST DON'T GET IT... HOW DOES THIS HAPPEN?

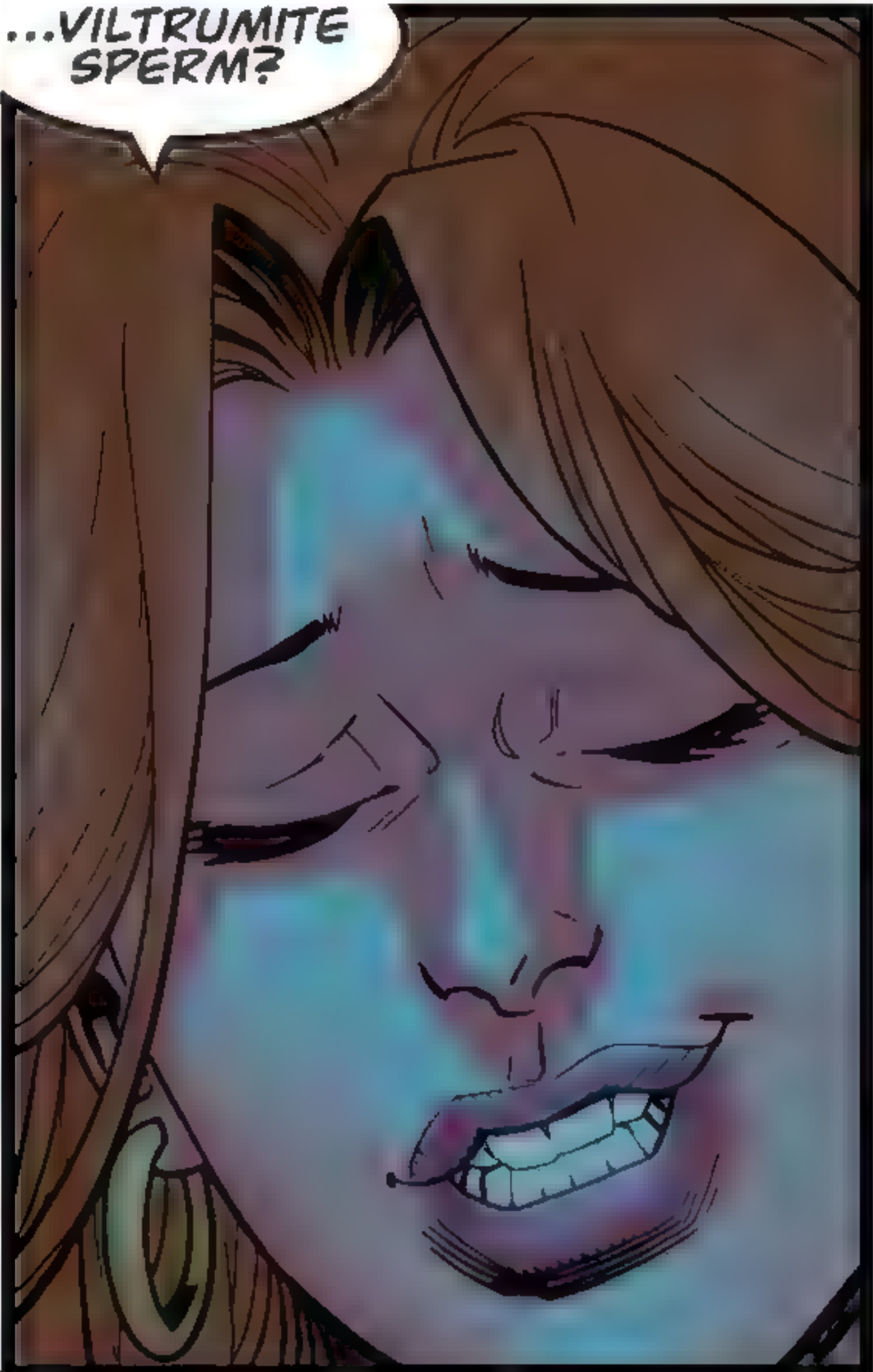


WE'RE CAREFUL. WE'RE NOT STUPID. CONDOMS ARE LIKE NINETY-NINE POINT NINE PERCENT EFFECTIVE, RIGHT?

SO WHAT IS IT?



I DON'T KNOW...



...VILTRUMITE SPERM?



UGH... PLEASE, NEVER SAY THAT AGAIN.

GROSS.



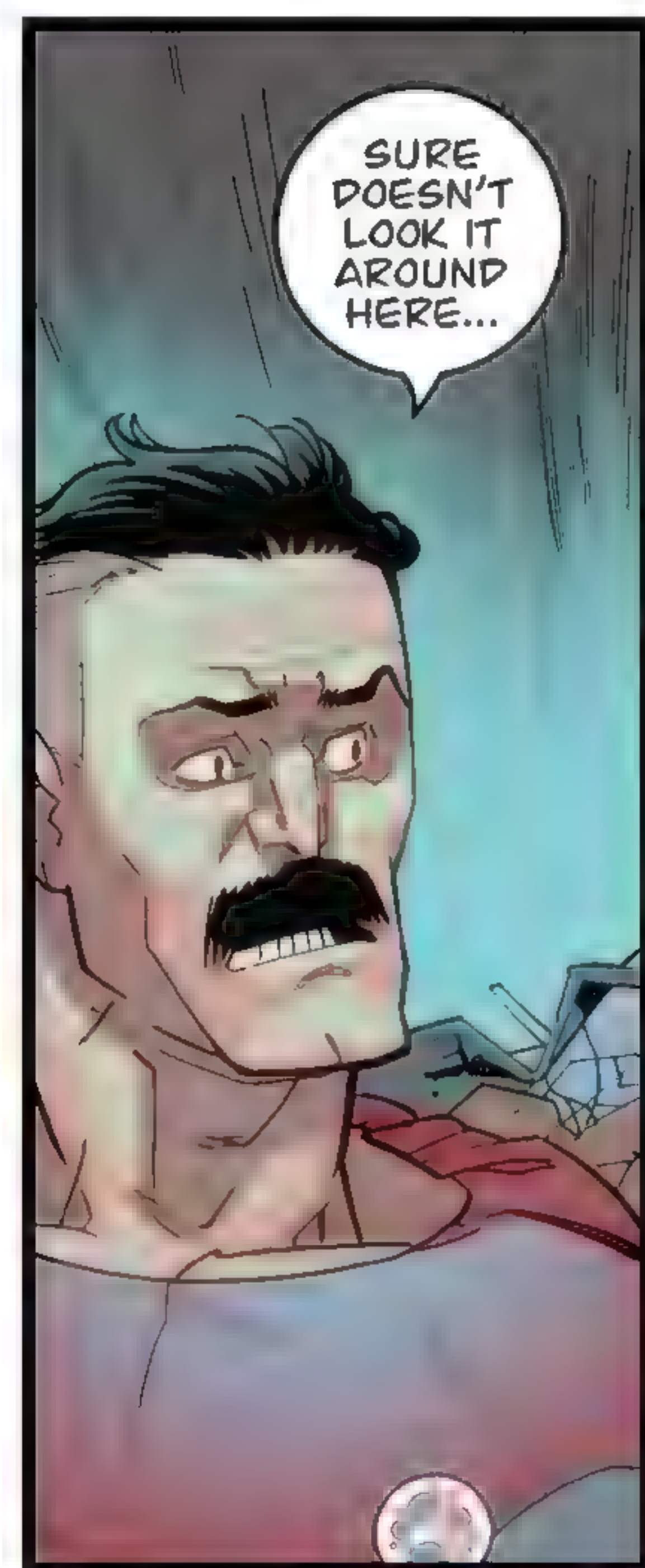
FINE. KEEP THIS JUST BETWEEN US FOR NOW, OKAY?

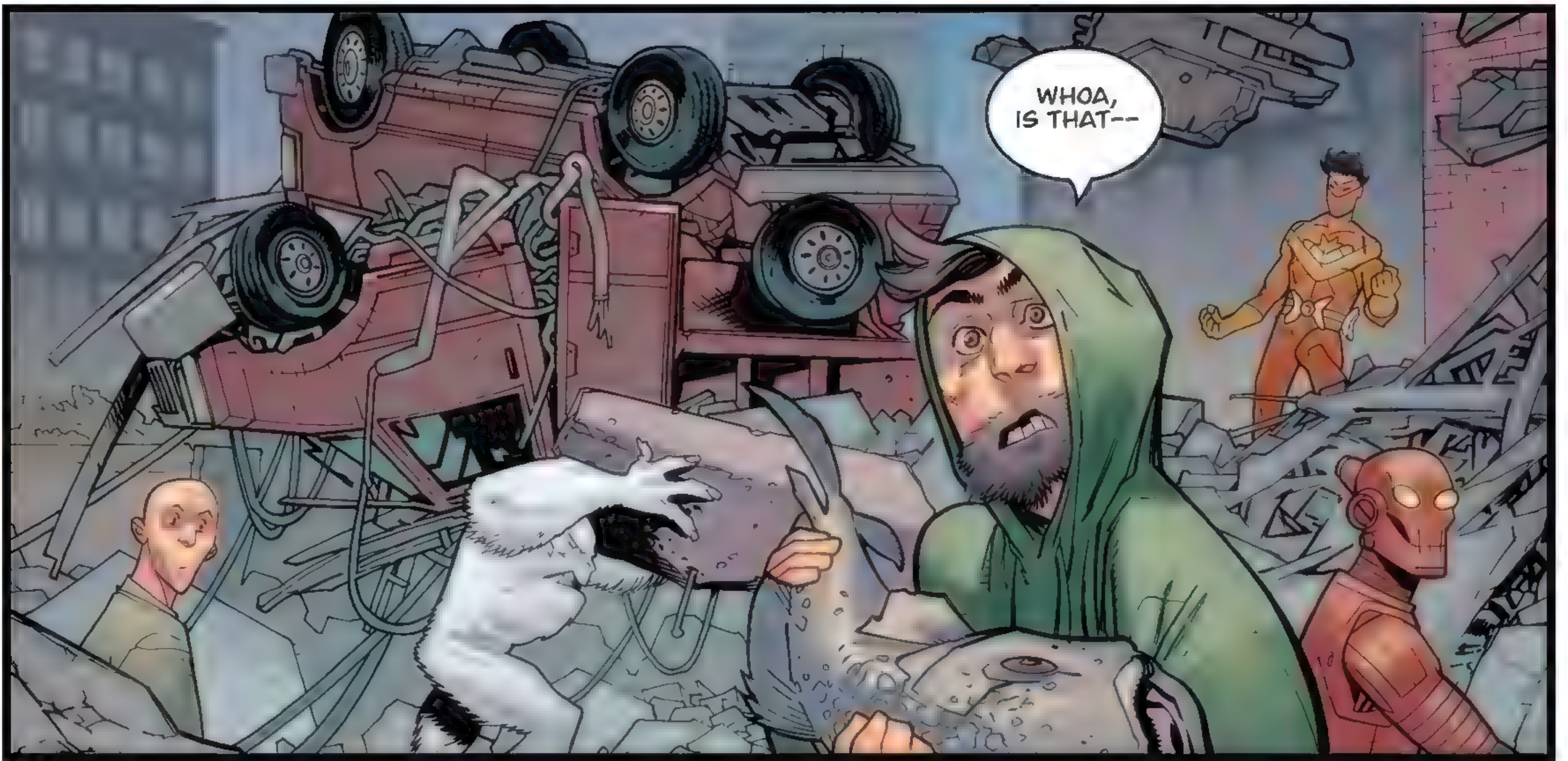
OF COURSE.



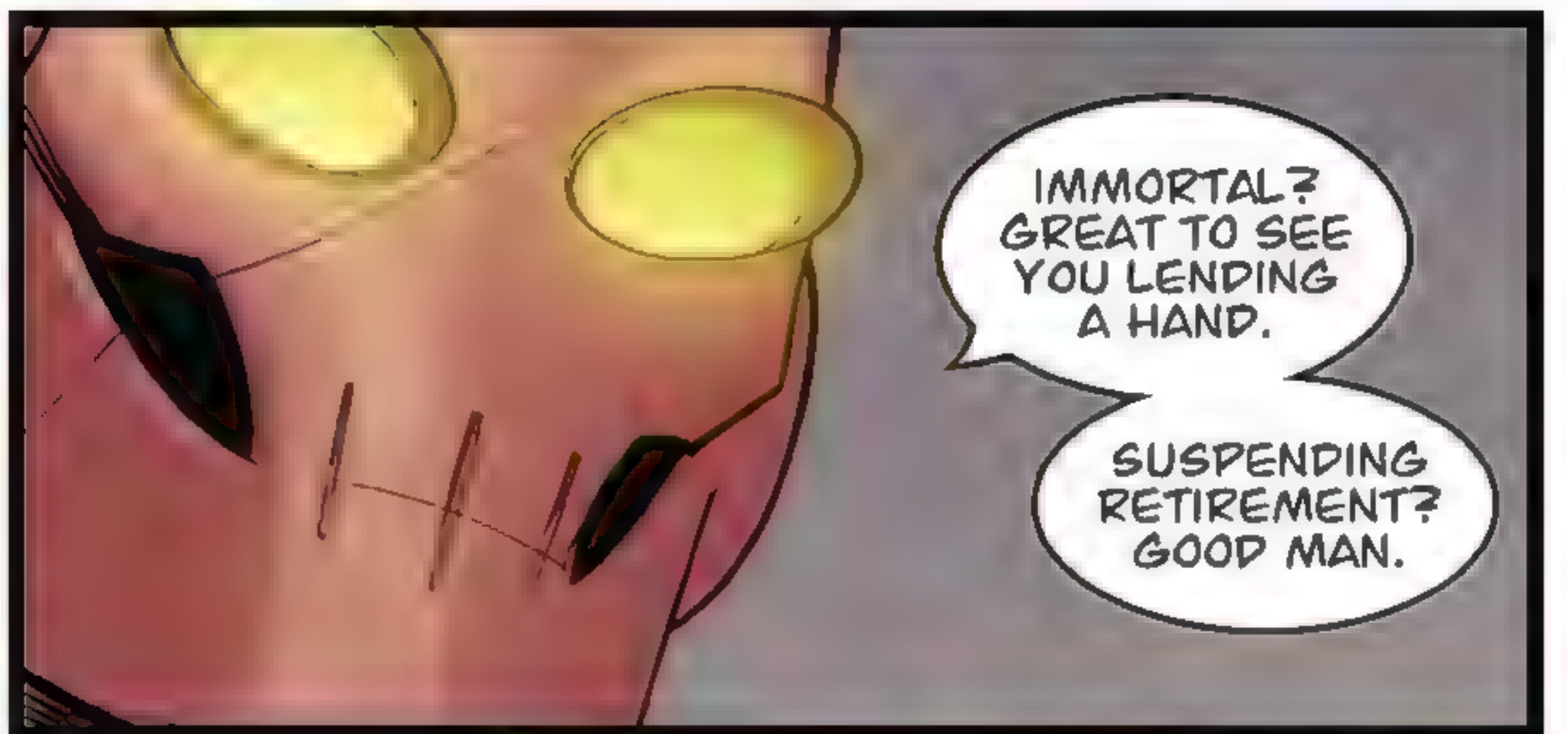
OKAY, THEN. WE SHOULD PROBABLY GET DOWNSTAIRS BEFORE YOUR MOM THINKS WE'RE HAVING SEX.

TOO LATE.





WHOA,
IS THAT--



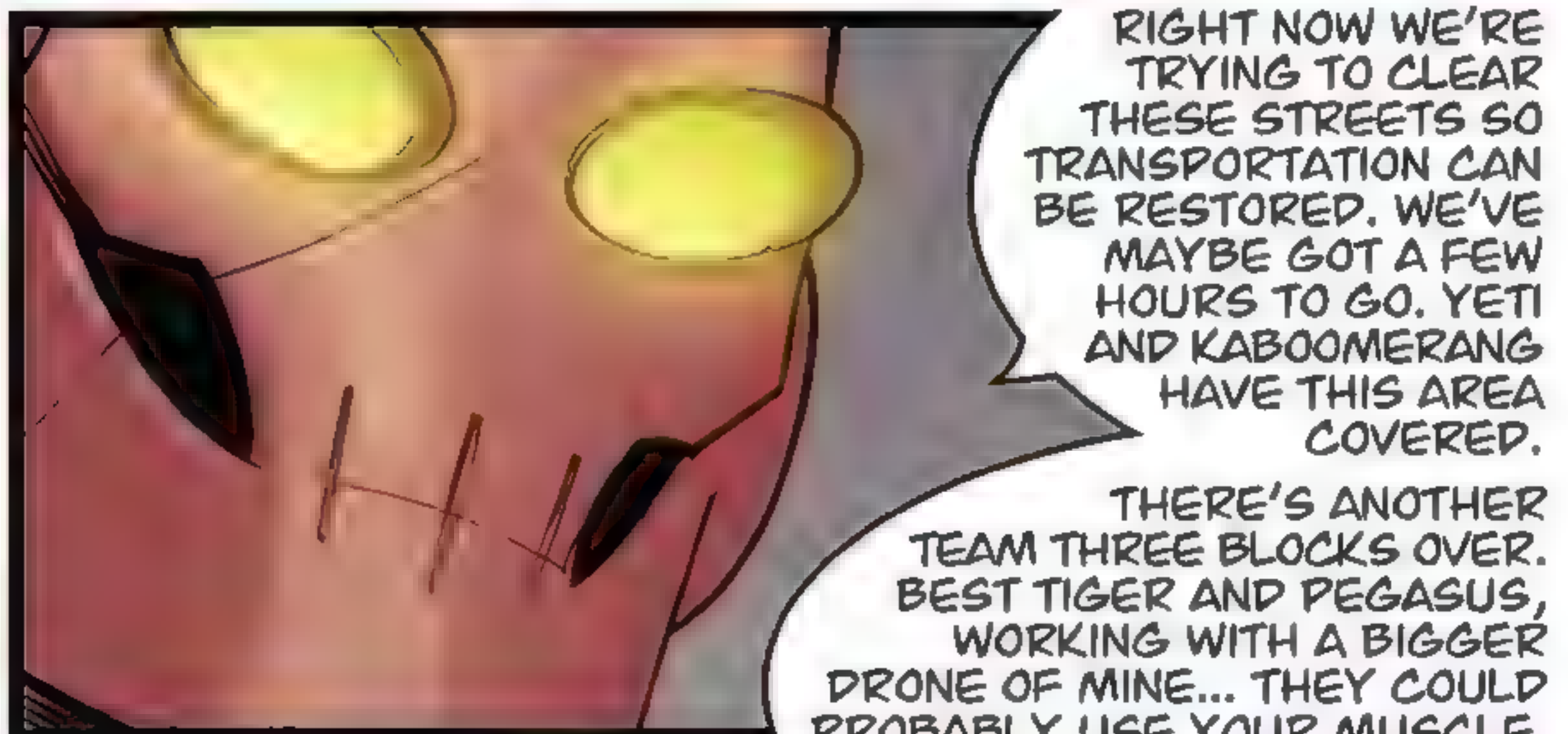
IMMORTAL?
GREAT TO SEE
YOU LENDING
A HAND.

SUSPENDING
RETIREMENT?
GOOD MAN.



I'LL HELP
OUT IN ANY
WAY I
CAN.

WHERE
DO YOU
NEED
ME?



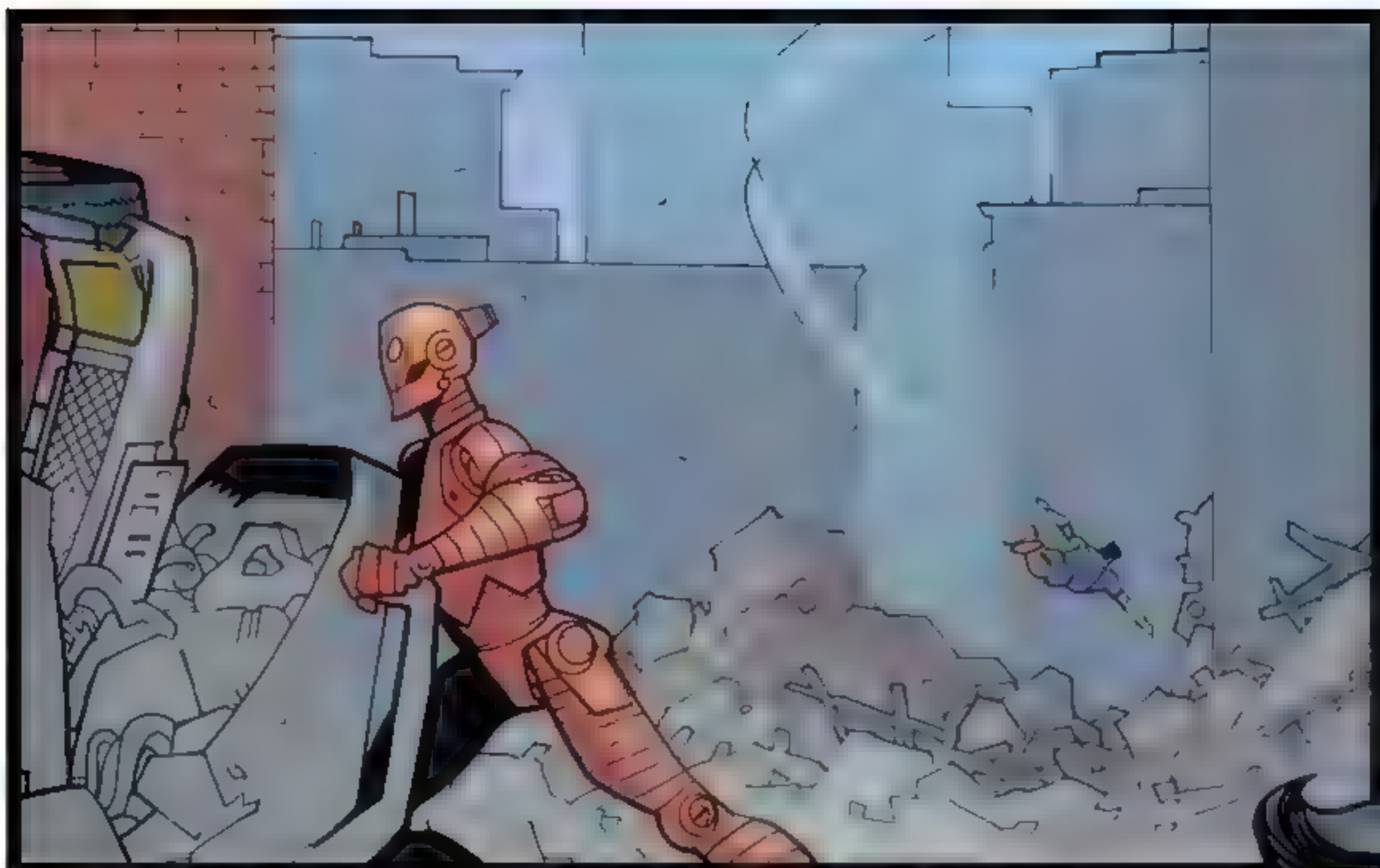
RIGHT NOW WE'RE
TRYING TO CLEAR
THESE STREETS SO
TRANSPORTATION CAN
BE RESTORED. WE'VE
MAYBE GOT A FEW
HOURS TO GO. YETI
AND KABOOMERANG
HAVE THIS AREA
COVERED.

THERE'S ANOTHER
TEAM THREE BLOCKS OVER.
BEST TIGER AND PEGASUS,
WORKING WITH A BIGGER
DRONE OF MINE... THEY COULD
PROBABLY USE YOUR MUSCLE.



PEGASUS? YETI?
KABOOMERANG?
BEST
WHAT?

HOW LONG
WAS I OUT?
I'VE NEVER
HEARD OF ANY
OF THEM.



CECIL TOLD ME YOU GUYS WERE WORKING HERE TODAY, TARGETING THINGS CITY BY CITY, FOCUSING ON ONE PLACE UNTIL IT'S DONE. SMART PLAN.

IS IT TRUE THE WHOLE SQUAD CAN CLEAN UP A CITY IN SIX HOURS? THAT JUST SEEMS NUTS.

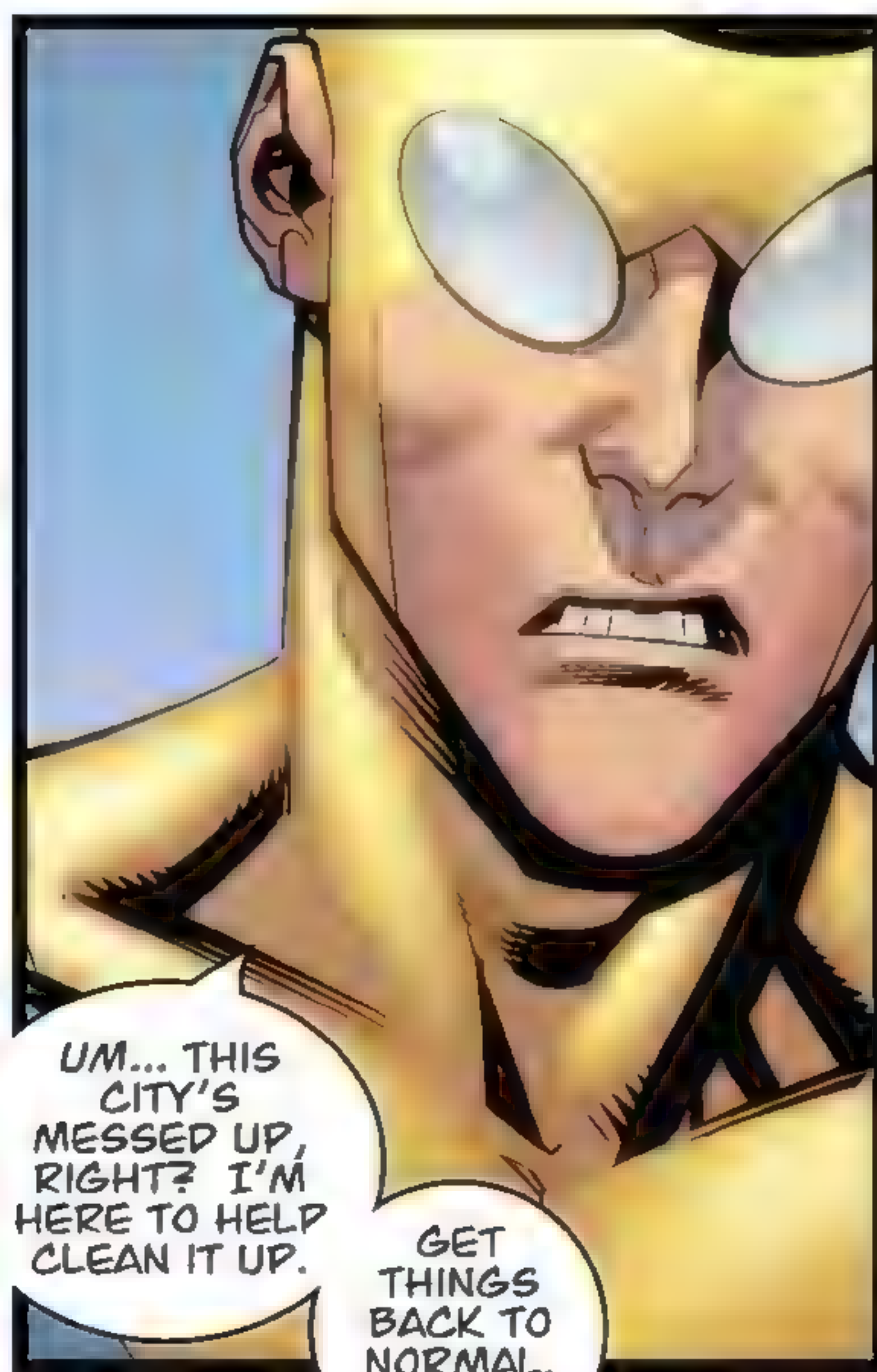
NO WORRIES IF YOU NEED TO SPLIT US UP. WE'LL GO WHEREVER WE'RE NEEDED MOST.



YEAH, I'M ALREADY SICK OF THIS GUY.



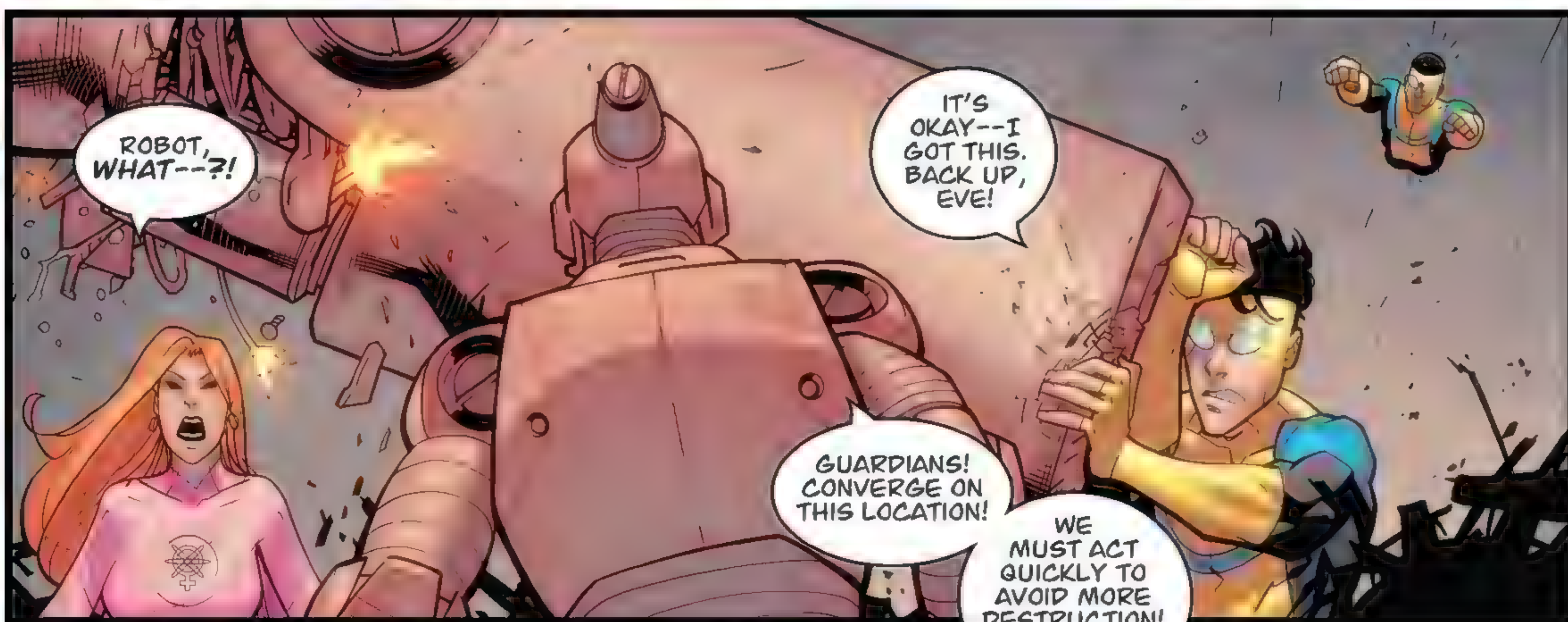
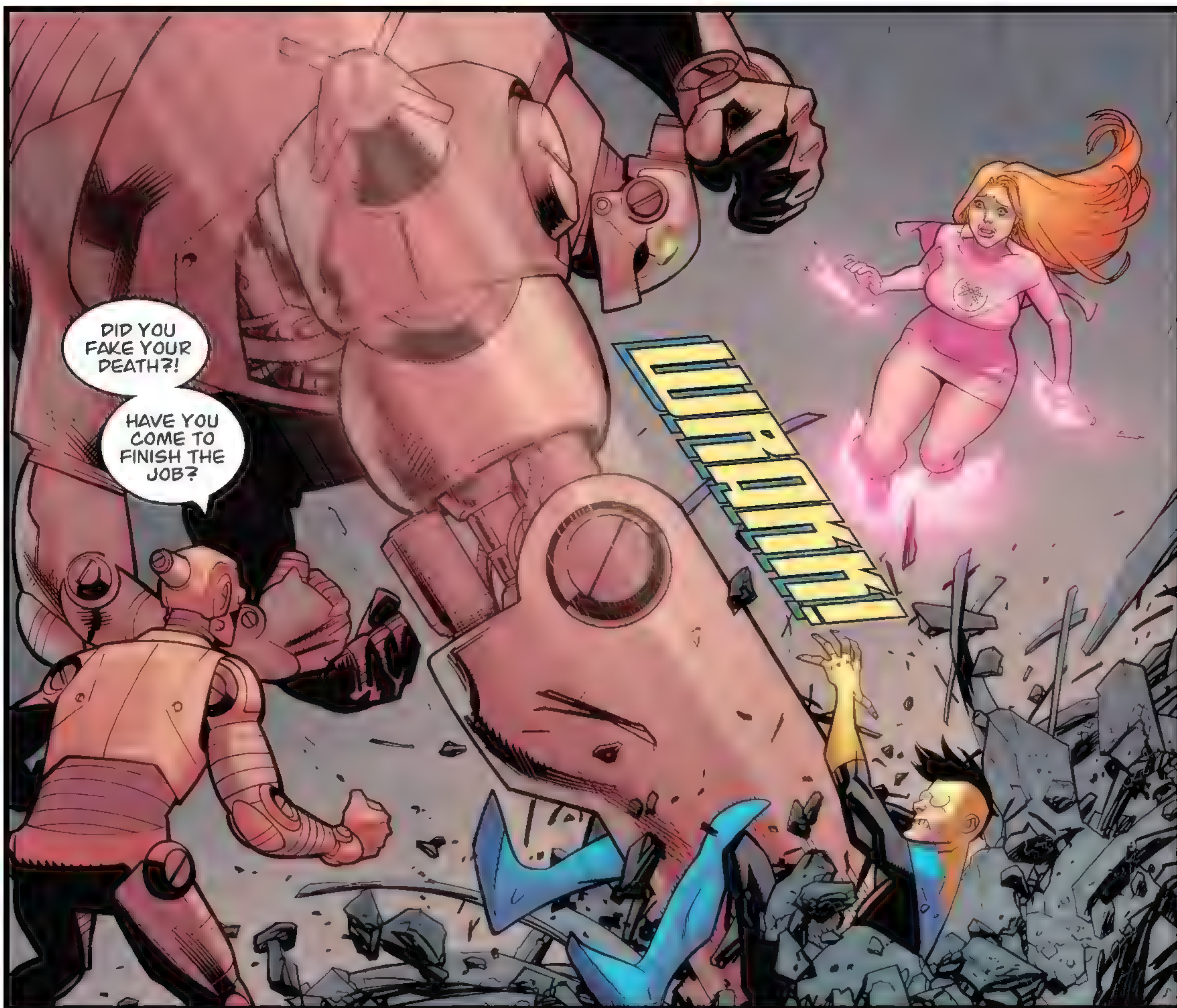
MARK?
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?

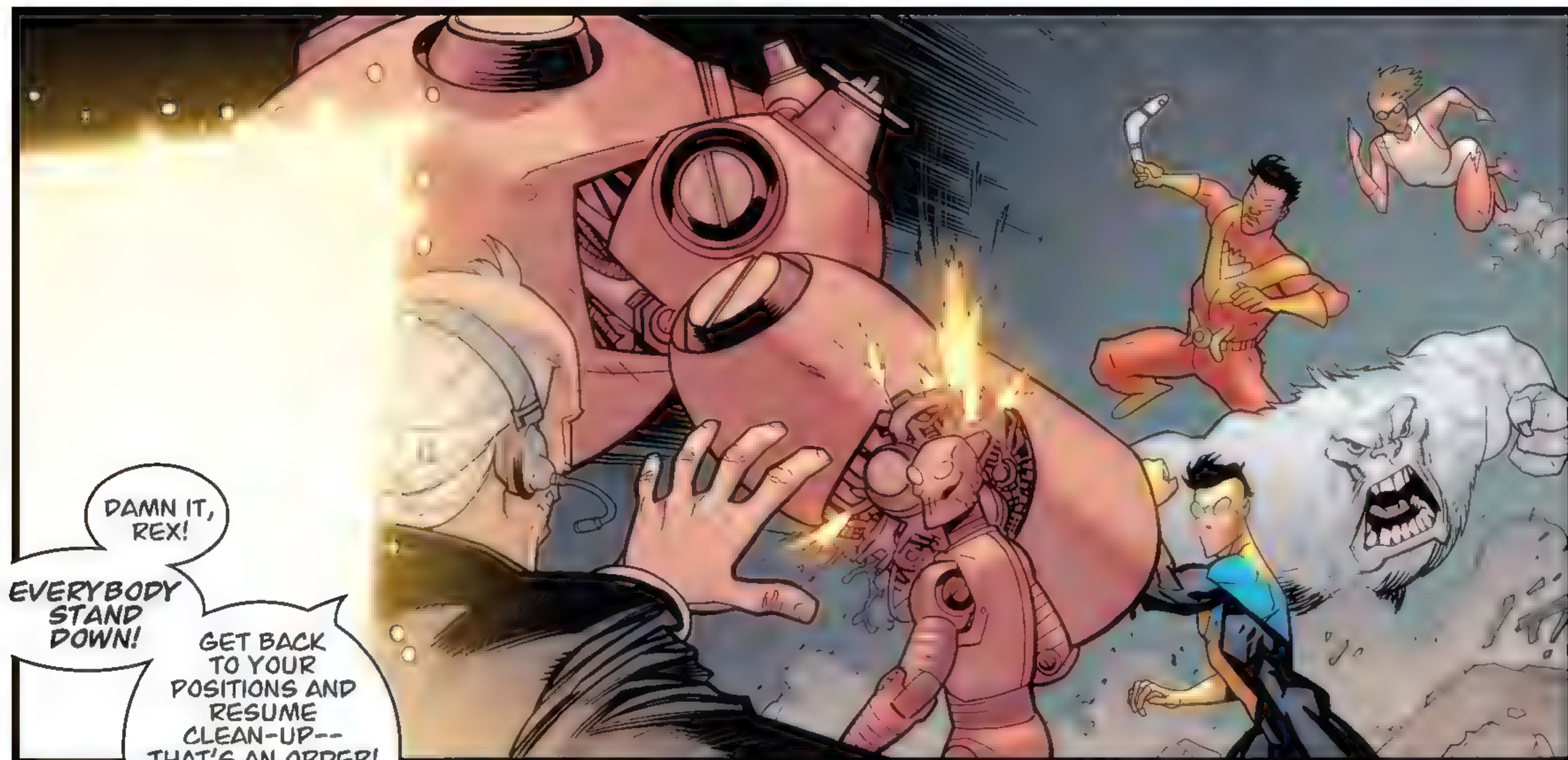


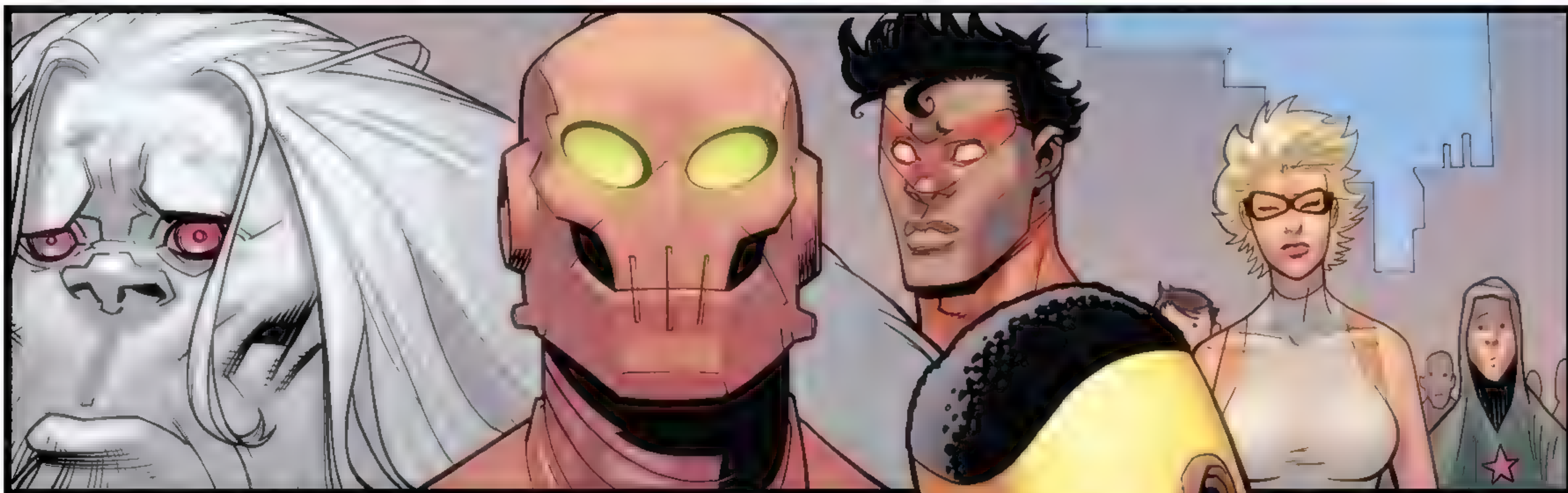
UM... THIS CITY'S MESSED UP, RIGHT? I'M HERE TO HELP CLEAN IT UP.
GET THINGS BACK TO NORMAL.

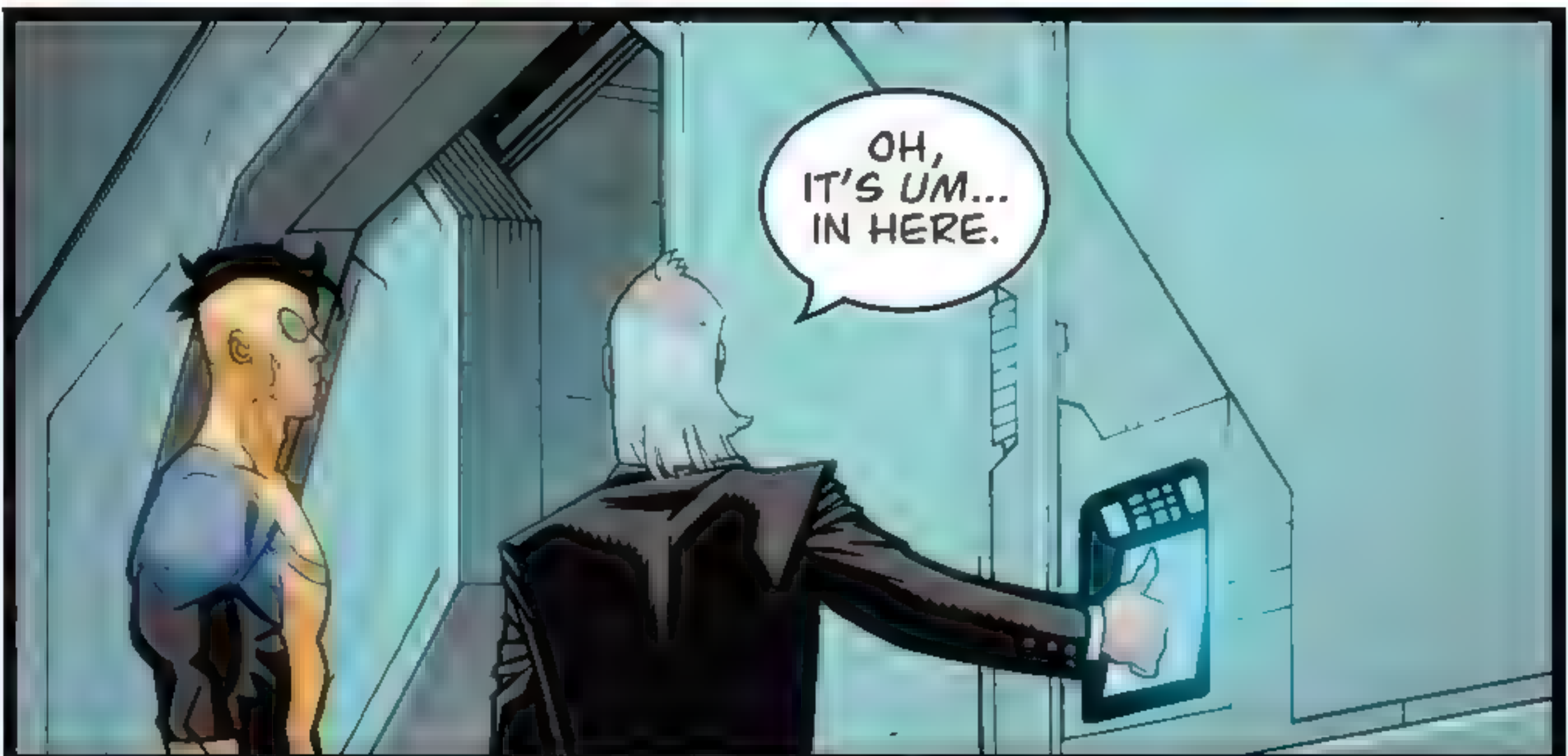


BUT... YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO BE DEAD.
OR AFTER WHAT YOU'VE DONE... IN PRISON.











WHY EXACTLY DID YOU WANT TO SEE THIS?

I MARKED HIS SIXTH VERTEBRAE WITH MY THUMB.

I WANTED TO MAKE SURE HE'S DEAD... THAT YOU DIDN'T SOMEHOW REVIVE HIM, ALLOW HIM TO REVERT TO HUMAN FORM TO HEAL HIMSELF... TRY TO KEEP HIM IN SECRET, TO USE HIM LATER...



...LIKE YOU DID WITH CONQUEST.



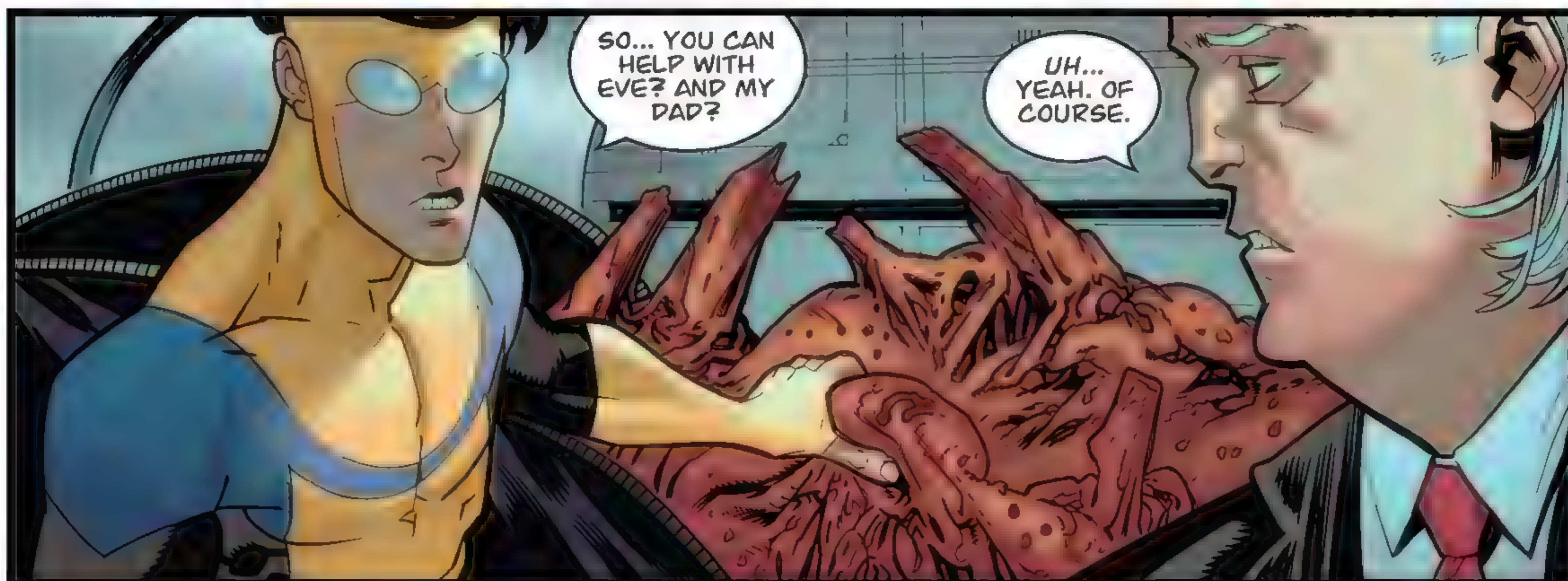
I DIDN'T KNOW IF...

YOU... NEVER DID MENTION THAT.



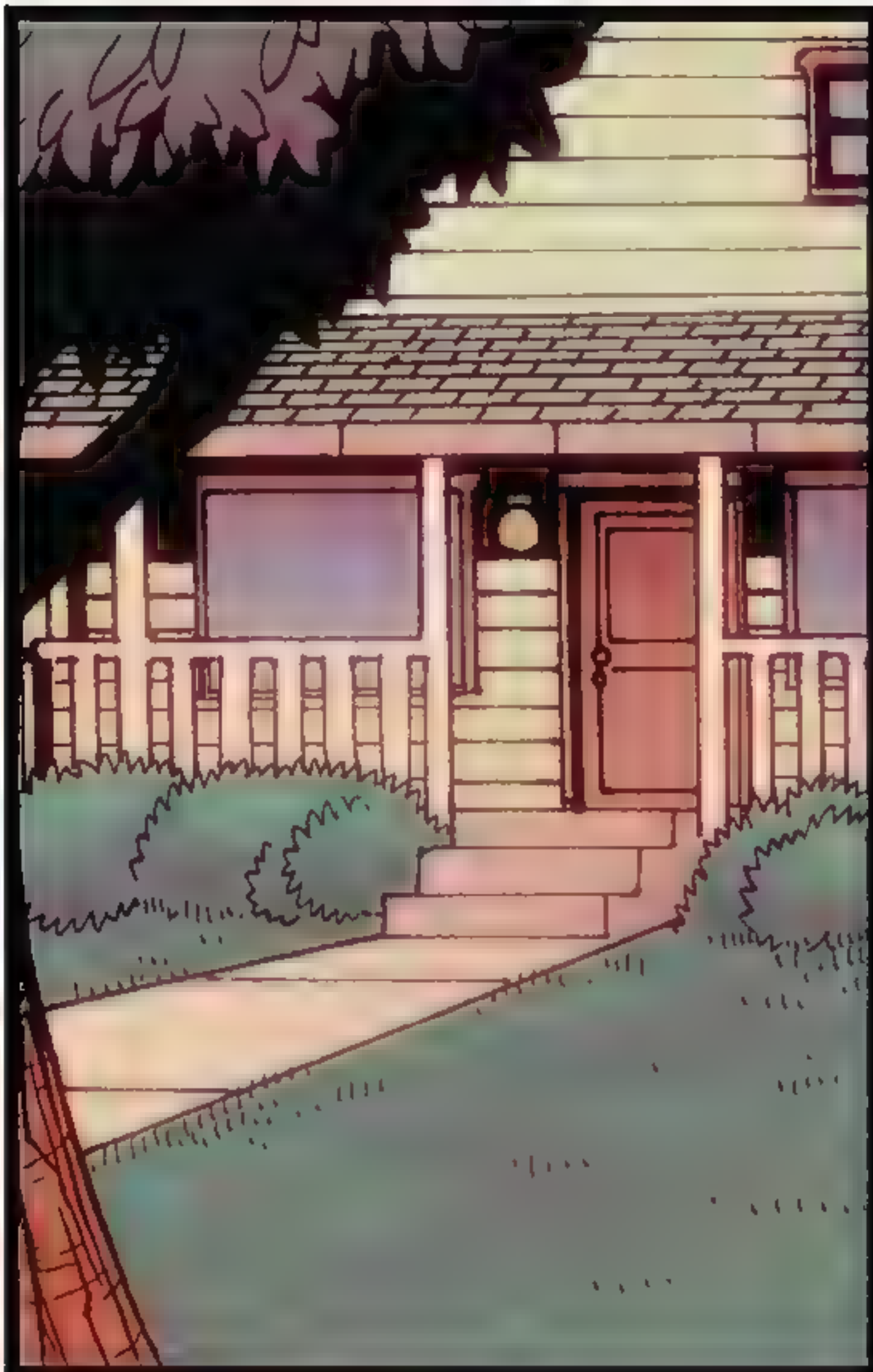
DURING THE VILTRUMITE WAR... I KILLED HIM... AGAIN.

I NEVER BROUGHT IT UP... I WAS KEEPING THE VILTRUMITES ON EARTH FROM YOU... DIDN'T SEEM RIGHT... DIDN'T SEE THE POINT.



SO... YOU CAN HELP WITH EVE? AND MY DAD?

UH... YEAH. OF COURSE.



I CAN
COME
BACK.

NO, IT'S
FINE.

EVE, WE CAN'T TAKE THIS ON--
IT'S TOO **IMPORTANT**. THIS...
IT'S OUR CHILD WE'RE TALKING
ABOUT. AND WITH OUR POWERS
WE JUST DON'T KNOW HOW
THINGS ARE GOING TO
WORK OUT AND...

...WE
NEEDED
HELP.



SO YOU WENT TO CECIL?! YOU
COULDN'T HAVE GONE TO ROBOT?!
ANYONE WHO WASN'T **DIRECTLY**
TIED TO THE GOVERNMENT--
THE SAME GOVERNMENT, IF
YOU'LL RECALL, THAT MADE ME
IN THE FIRST PLACE--AND
TRIED TO TURN ME INTO
A WEAPON!*

THEY KILLED
MY REAL
PARENTS TO GET
TO ME--IF THIS KID HAS
A MIXTURE OF OUR
POWERS COMBINED--
IT MAY BE TOO
TEMPTING TO--

*SEE 'INVINCIBLE PRESENTS: ATOM
EVE & REX SPODE' FOR DETAILS.

THAT WASN'T CECIL--IT
WAS A GUY WHO WORKED
UNDER HIM, AND HE WAS
DOING ALL THAT STUFF
WITHOUT CECIL'S KNOWLEDGE.
THAT GUY WAS **TOTALLY**
EVIL... BUT YOUR POWERS
WENT ALL WACKY WHEN THEY
TRIED TO KILL YOU, AND YOU
WERE ABLE TO ERASE
HIS MEMORY.

ON TOP OF
THAT, BRIT
LATER **KILLED**
THAT GUY... AND
HIS MAD SCIENTIST
FRIEND. I'M
PRETTY SURE.

SO THAT'S
NO LONGER
A THREAT,
RIGHT?



DAMN IT,
MARK!

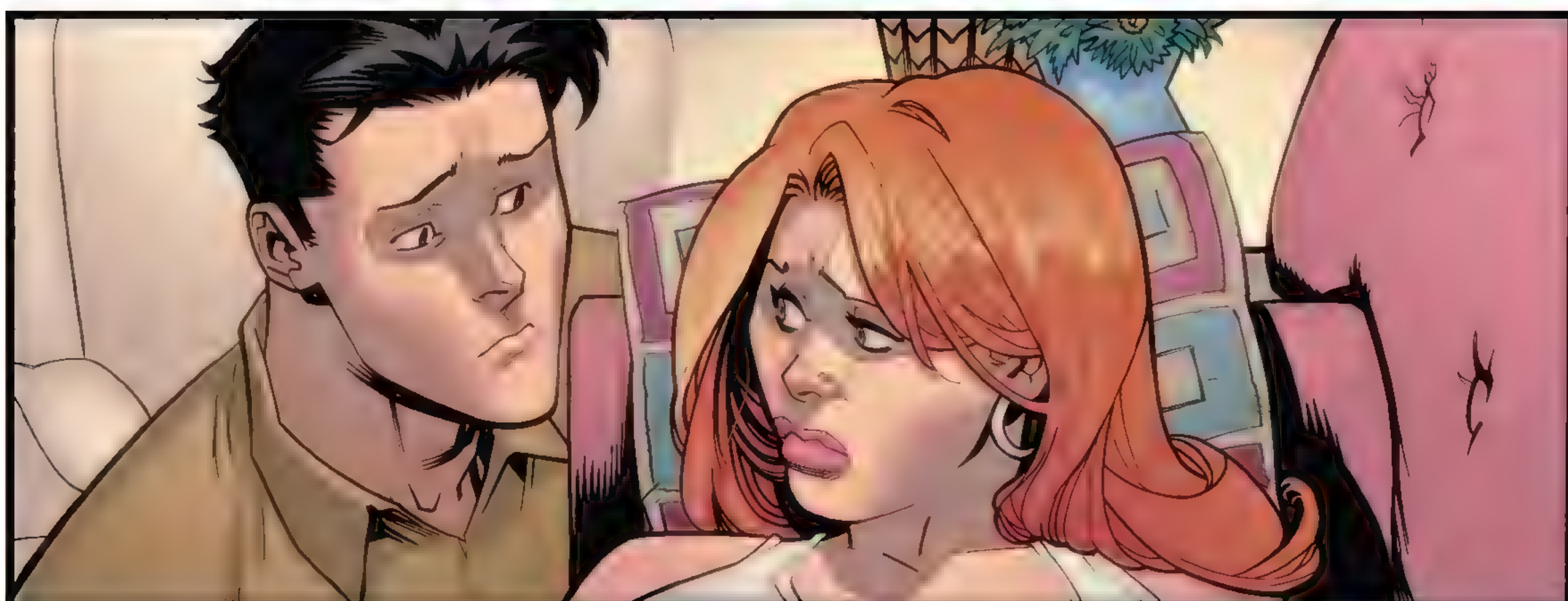
IF I CAN JUST
JUMP IN. I DON'T
WORK FOR ANY
GOVERNMENT. I'M AN
INDEPENDENT
CONTRACTOR WHO
WORKS WITH SUPER-
POWERED PARENTS. I
WAS JUST
RECOMMENDED
BY CECIL.

YOU CAN CALL
DUPLI-KATE AND
IMMORTAL IF YOU'D
LIKE. I DELIVERED
THEIR TWINS AND
HELPED KATE
THROUGH HER
PREGNANCY.

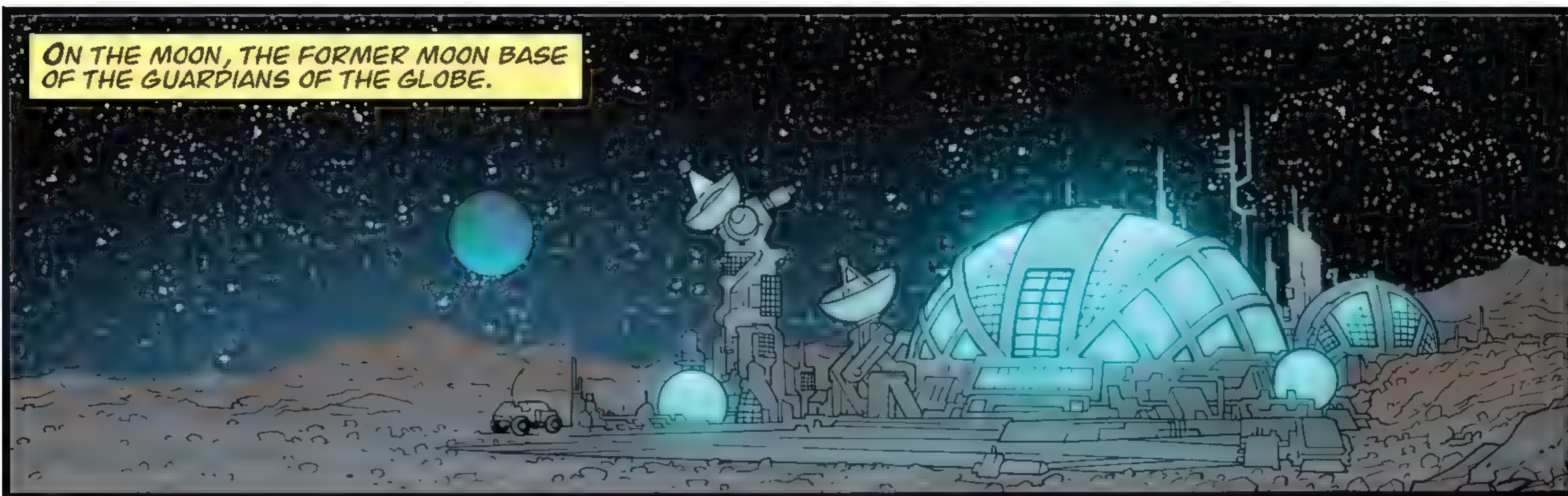
SEE--
COME ON...
SHERRY'S NOT
A BAD PERSON.
WE CAN TRUST
HER. WE NEED
HER.

EVE?





ON THE MOON, THE FORMER MOON BASE OF THE GUARDIANS OF THE GLOBE.



YOU KNOW, WE NEVER TALKED BEFORE, YOU WERE HERE SO BRIEFLY.

I NEVER GOT TO...

WHO AM I KIDDING? YOU WEREN'T "EVIL," IF THAT'S EVEN THE WORD FOR IT. YOU TRIED TO TAKE OVER THE PLANET FOR LIKE A MINUTE AND THEN YOU CAME TO YOUR SENSES AND LEFT.

SINCE THEN, YOU'VE DONE NOTHING BUT GOOD FOR THIS PLANET. FIGHTING IN THE VILTRUMITE WAR, AND I WAS TOLD ABOUT YOU FIGHTING ALLEN TO TRY AND STOP HIM FROM BRINGING THE SCOURGE VIRUS HERE.

I WAS REALLY DAMN PISSED OFF AT FIRST, TO FIND YOU WERE KEEPING YOUR TRUE INTENTIONS FOR THIS PLANET A SECRET.

I'M THE SECRETS GUY. THAT'S MY THING.

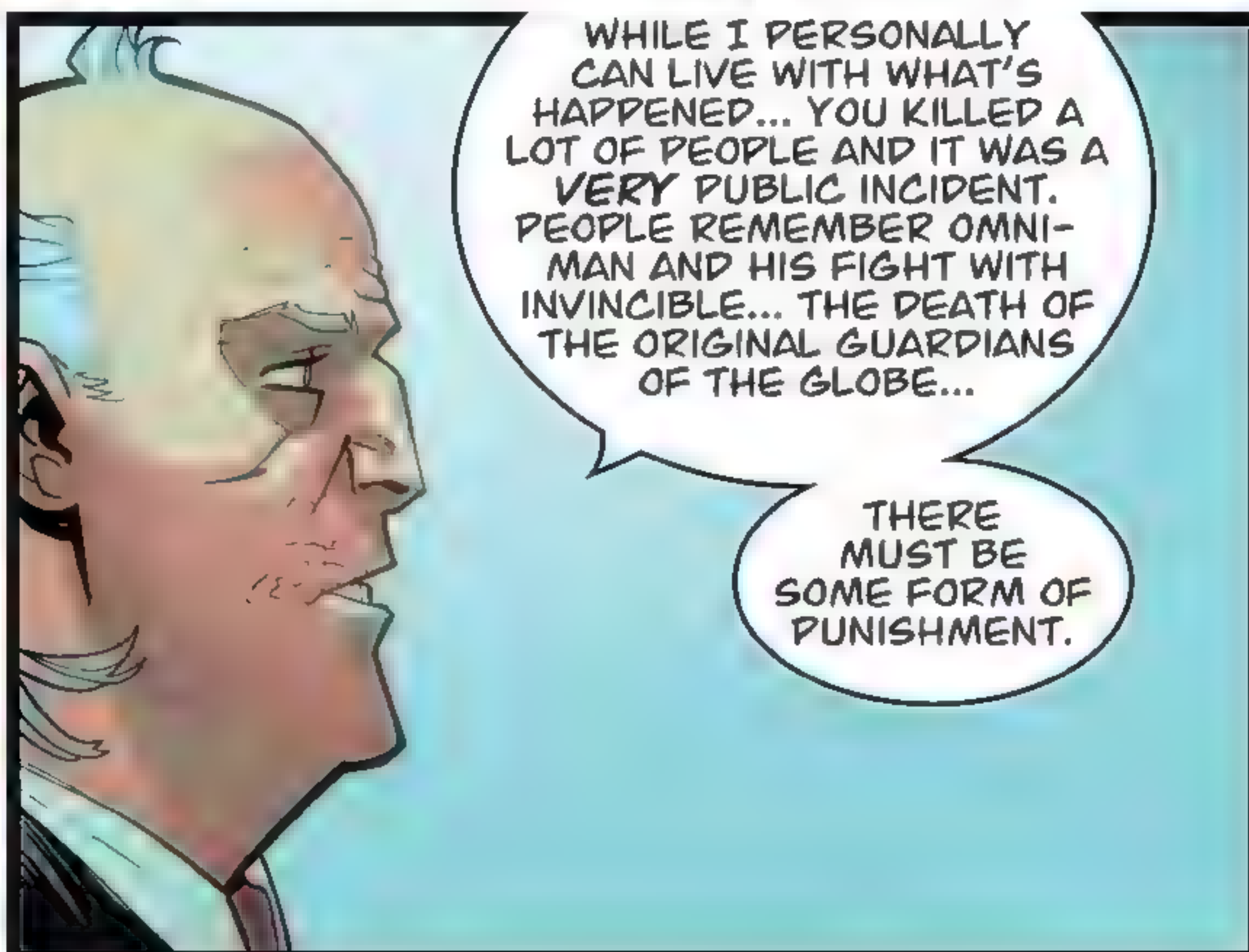


I HAVE MANY REGRETS, THAT TIME IN MY LIFE WAS NOT MY PROUDEST MOMENT. BUT WHAT ARE YOU GETTING AT? WHY DID YOU BRING US HERE?



WHILE I PERSONALLY CAN LIVE WITH WHAT'S HAPPENED... YOU KILLED A LOT OF PEOPLE AND IT WAS A VERY PUBLIC INCIDENT. PEOPLE REMEMBER OMNI-MAN AND HIS FIGHT WITH INVINCIBLE... THE DEATH OF THE ORIGINAL GUARDIANS OF THE GLOBE...

THERE MUST BE SOME FORM OF PUNISHMENT.





I'VE
CHOSEN
EXILE.

WHAT?!



I CAN'T LET YOU
RETURN TO EARTH. IF
IT'S DISCOVERED THAT
YOU'RE JUST ROAMING
FREE--IT WOULD BE A
DISASTER. SOME OF THE
HEROES WOULD COME
AFTER YOU... YOU THINK
THE IMMORTAL WOULD
BE HAPPY TO SEE
YOU?

THE
GUY'S A
BIT OF A
JERK, BUT
HE WOULDN'T
BE WRONG
TO HATE
YOU.

NO, YOU LIVE
HERE IN THIS
SPACE STATION.
THE GUARDIANS OF
THE GLOBE WERE
USING IT AS A BASE,
BUT THEY JUST MOVED
TO THE NEW ORBITING
TIDE-CONTROL
SATELLITES.

THE
SPACE
HAS
OPENED
UP.



YOU CAN'T
EXPECT US
TO LIVE UP
HERE?!



I DON'T
EXPECT YOU
TO DO ANYTHING.
YOU CAN LIVE
WHEREVER YOU
DAMN WELL
PLEASE.

YOUR
HUSBAND
HAS TO LIVE
ON THE
MOON.



YOU CAN'T
ACTUALLY---

NO,
DEBBIE.
THIS IS
OKAY. I...
I DESERVE
WORSE...



THIS IS THE
SUPERHERO
EQUIVALENT OF A
SLAP ON THE WRIST.
YOU NEED TO GO
SHOPPING? HOP IN
THE TELEPORTER
AND SHOP
AWAY.

YOU WANT
TO SNEAK DOWN
AND VISIT YOUR
SON? YOU CAN FLY
DOWN TO THE
PLANET IN A
MATTER OF
MINUTES.

EASY.



THAT'S NOT IT, THOUGH. GONNA NEED YOU TO PAY SOME KIND OF RENT.

THING IS, THE VILTRUMITES ARE HERE, YOU KNOW THIS. AND THEIR BASE... IT'S A COUPLE THOUSAND MILES THAT WAY, ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE MOON.



ARE YOU SAYING YOU WANT ME TO CONFRONT THEM? DRIVE THEM AWAY?

I HAVE TO ADVISE AGAINST THAT. THRAGG WAS VERY CLEAR IN HIS STIPULATIONS.



NO, THAT'S NOT IT AT ALL. I JUST WANT YOU TO KEEP AN EYE ON THEM--BE THE FIRST LINE OF DEFENSE FOR EARTH IF THEY TRY SOMETHING.

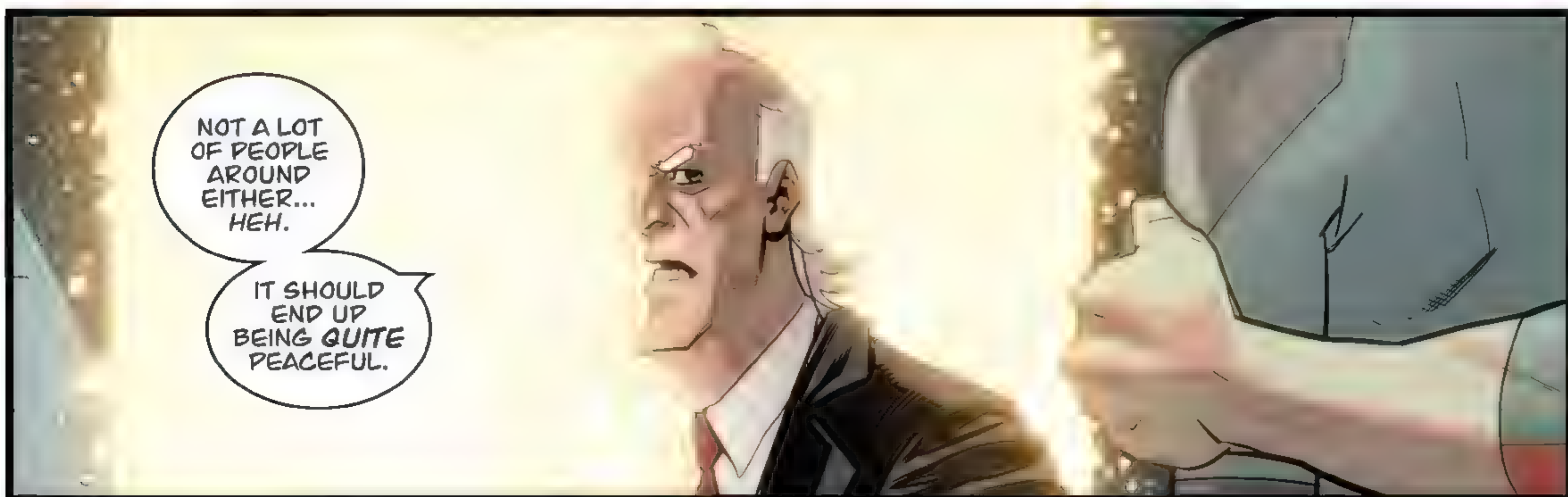
SIMPLE ENOUGH, RIGHT?



I'M NOT EVEN GOING TO GIVE YOU A CHOICE.

CHECK THE PLACE OUT, IT'S QUITE COMFORTABLE. LET ME KNOW IF THERE'S ANY FURNITURE OR ANYTHING YOU NEED SENT UP HERE.

IT'S A NICE PLACE.



NOT A LOT OF PEOPLE AROUND EITHER... HEH.

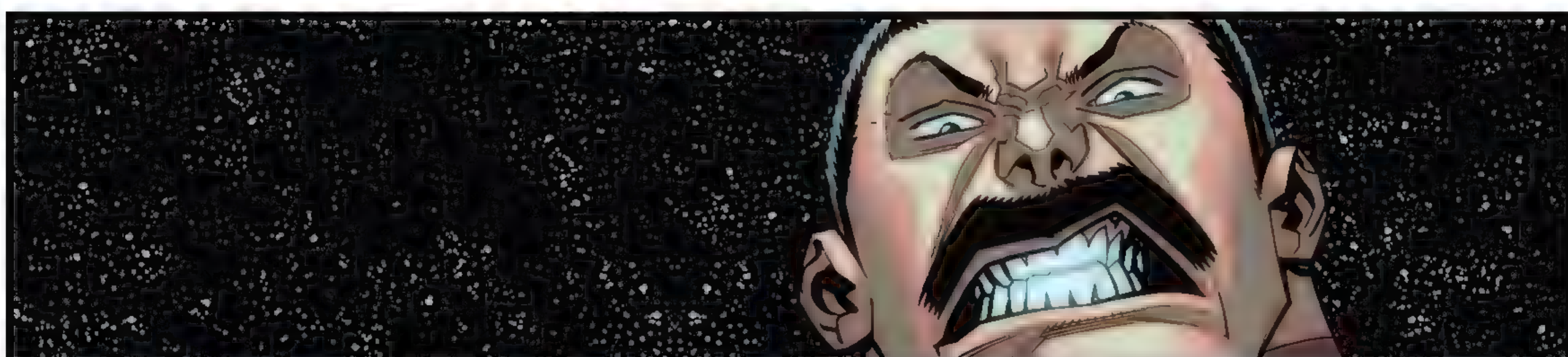
IT SHOULD END UP BEING QUITE PEACEFUL.

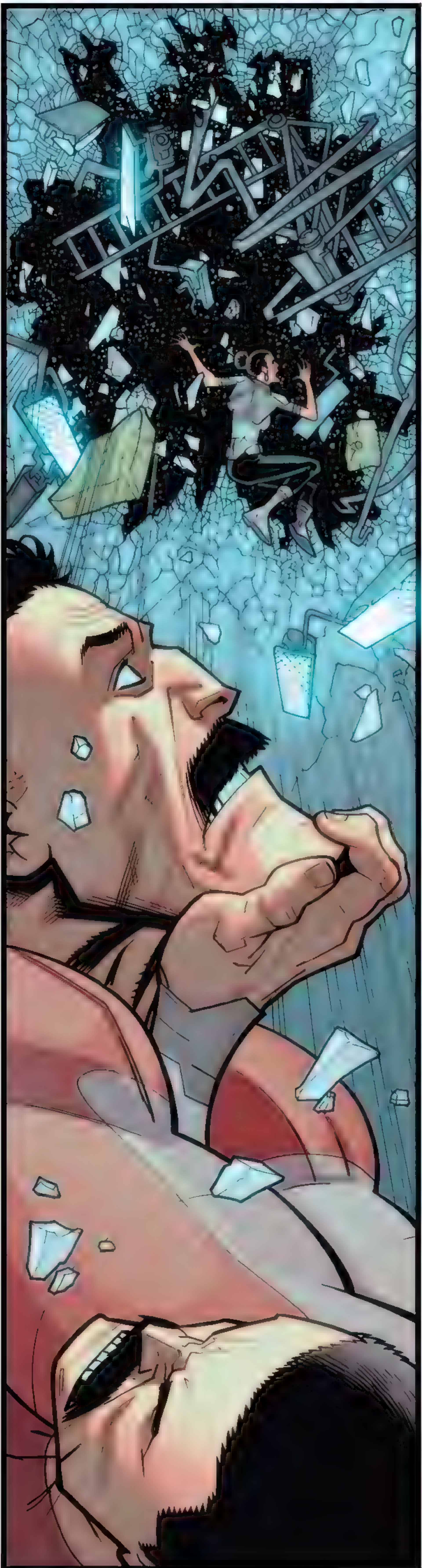
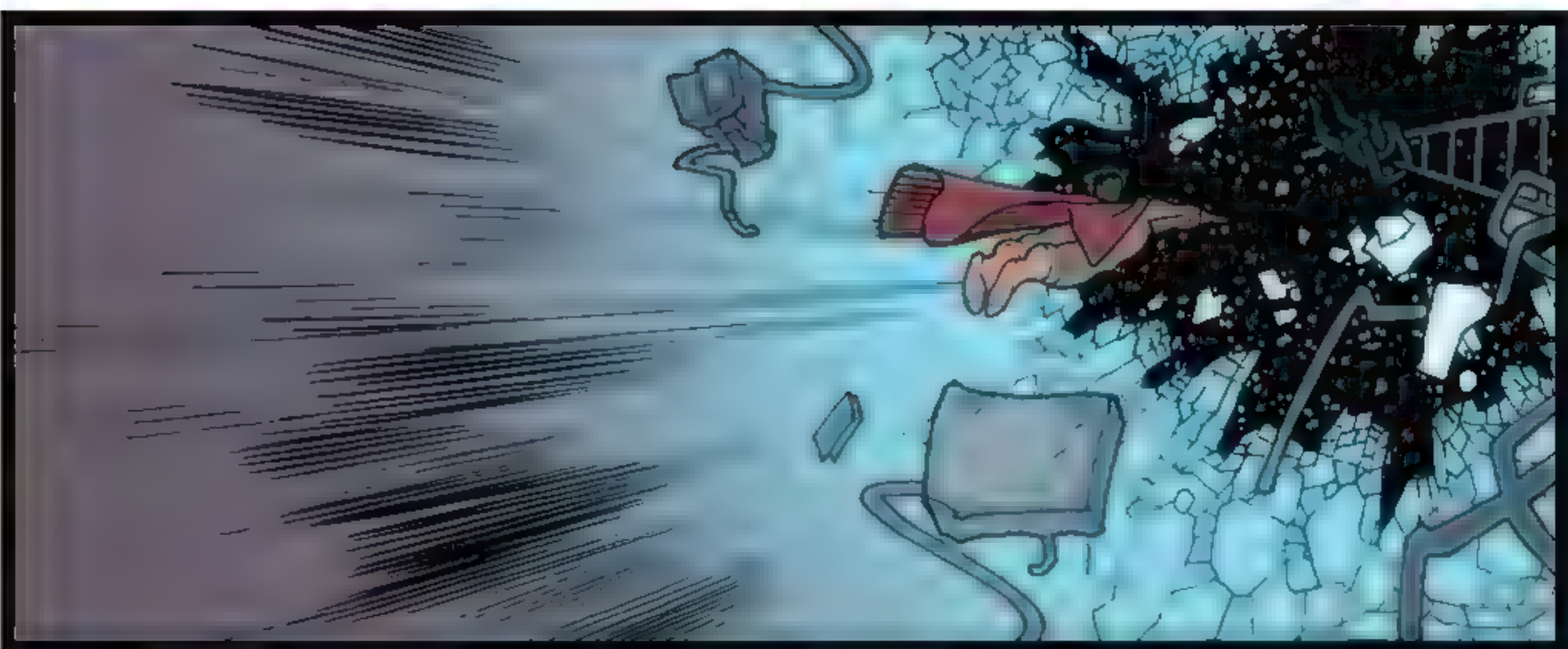
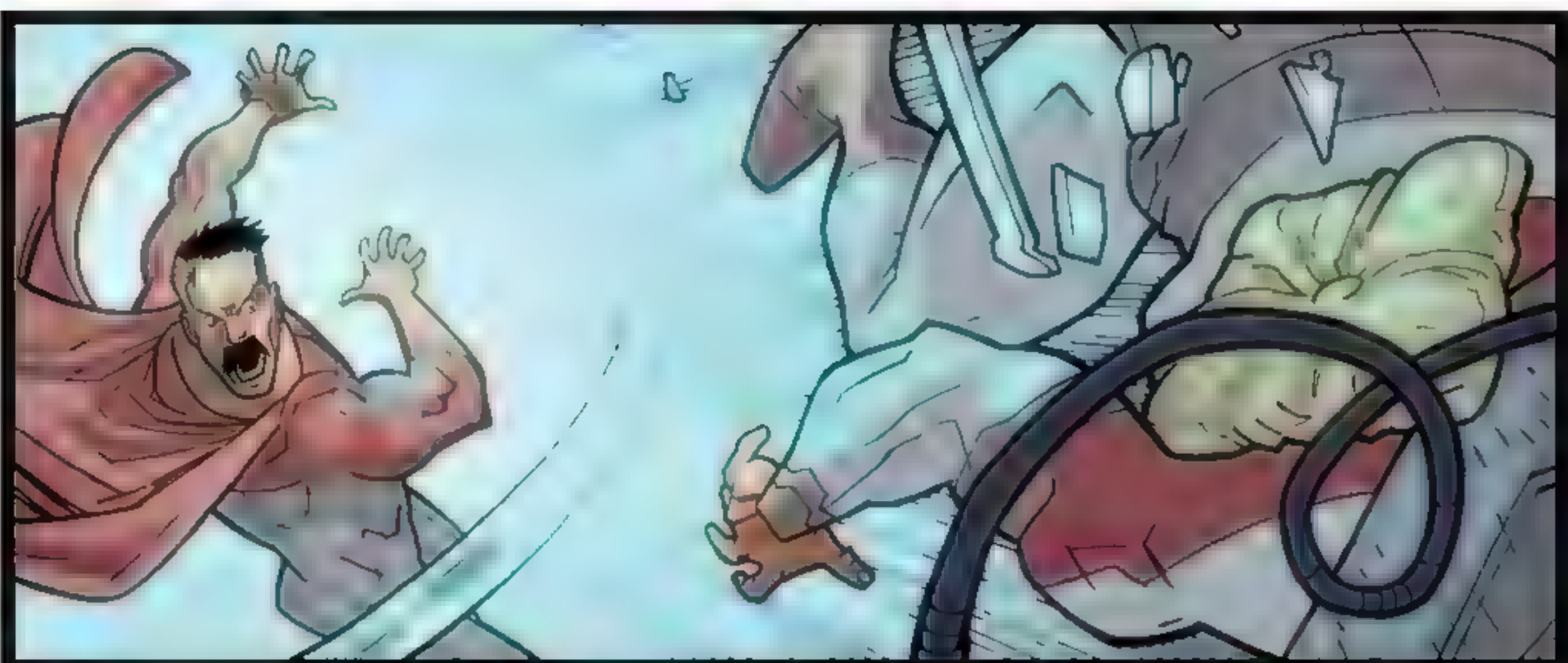
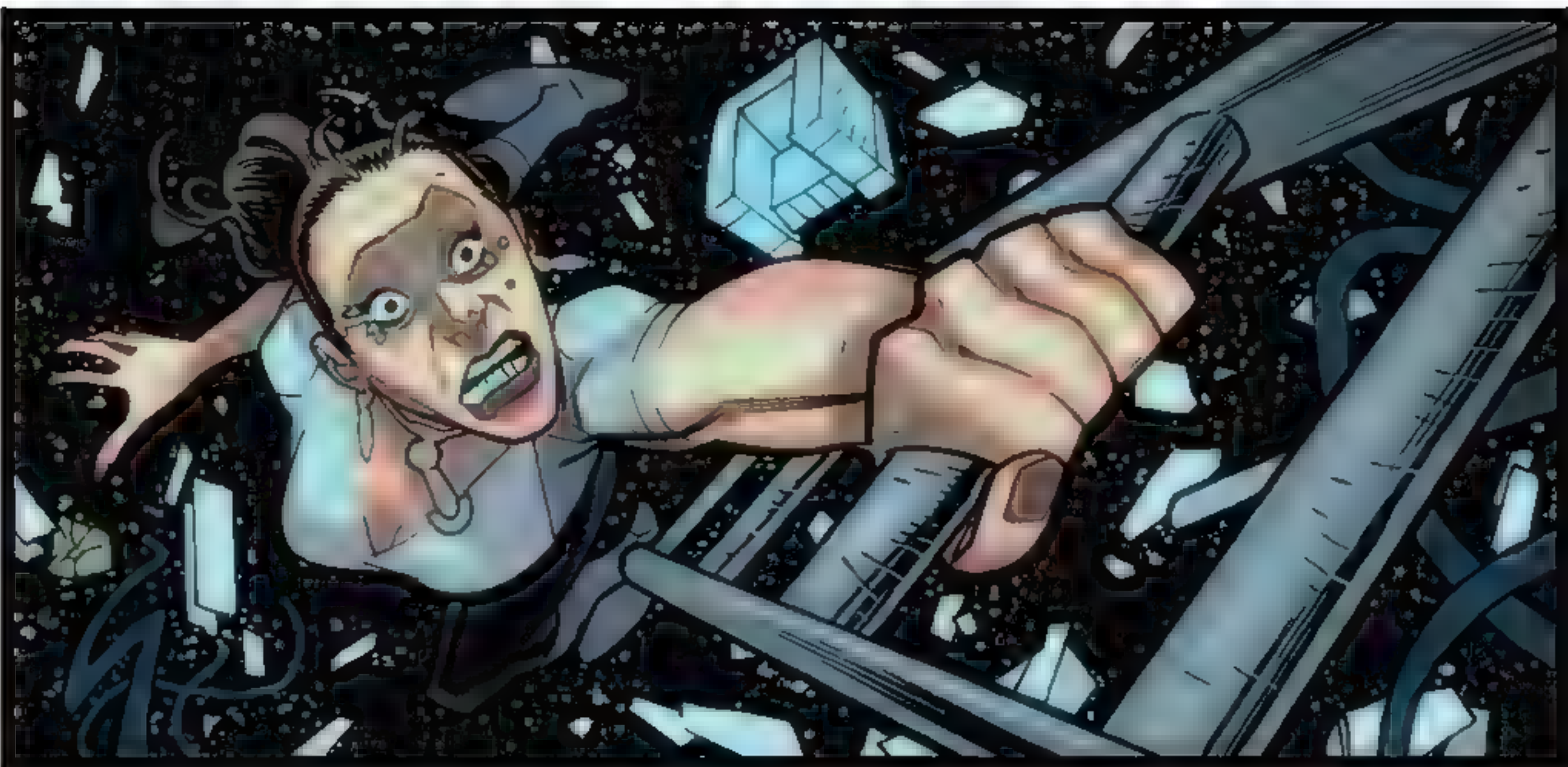


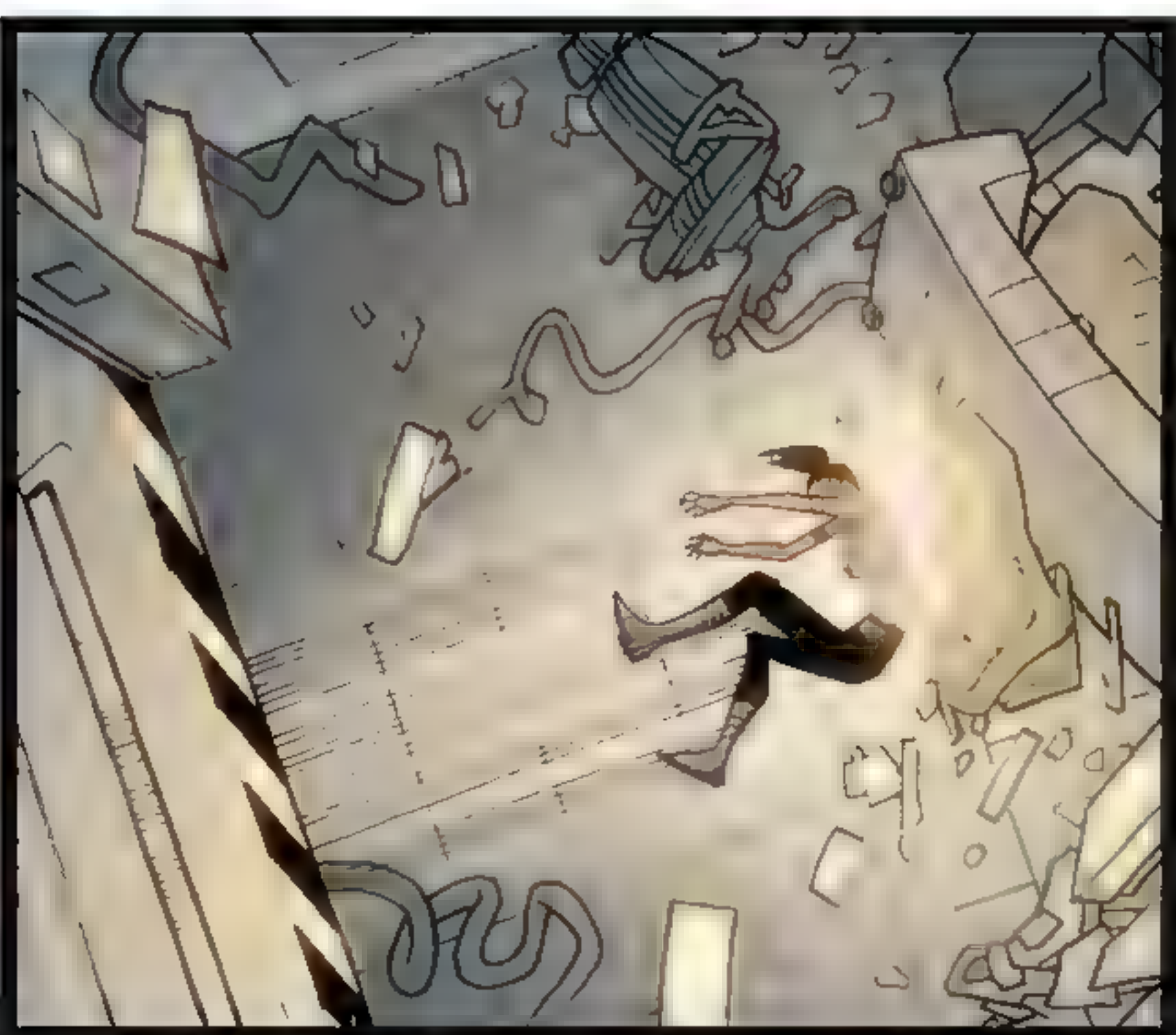
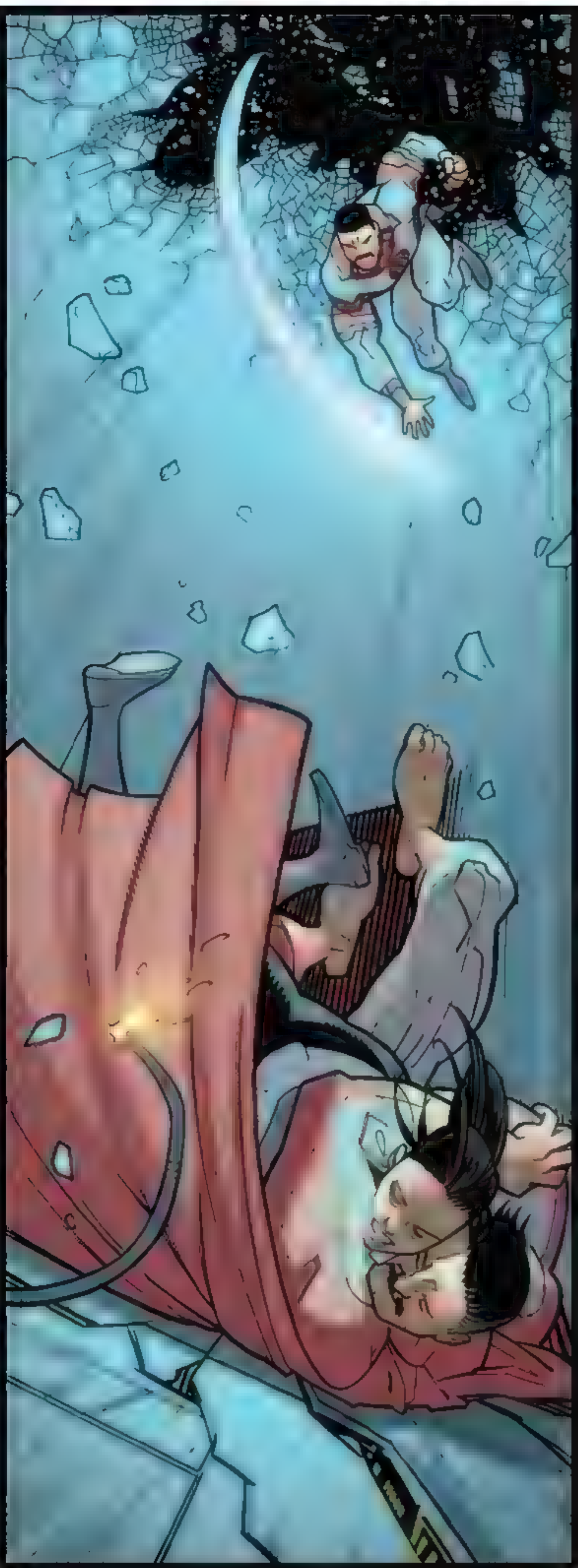
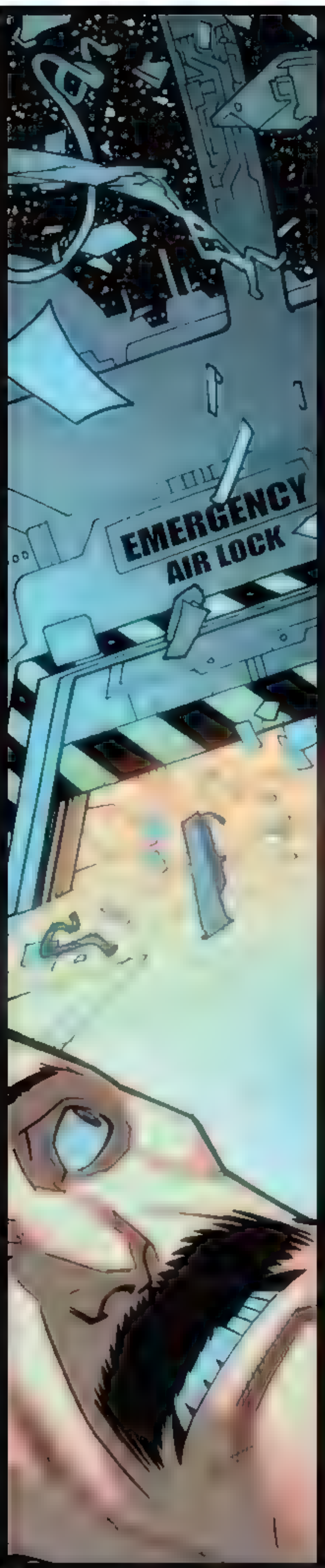


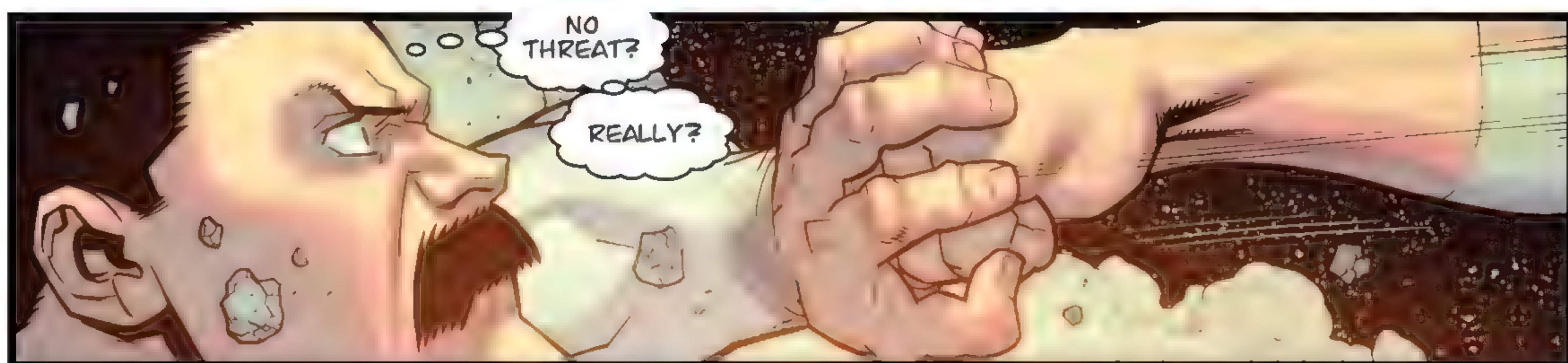
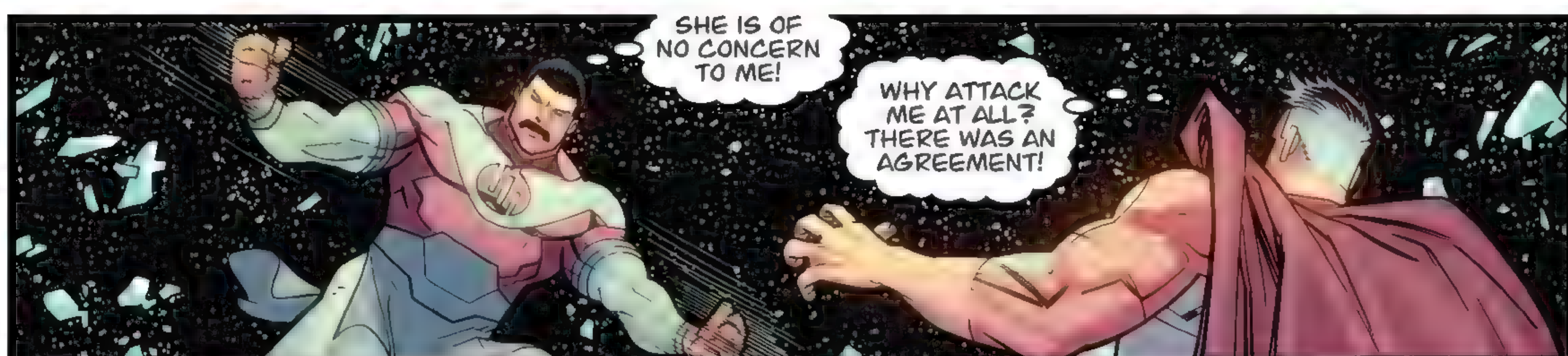
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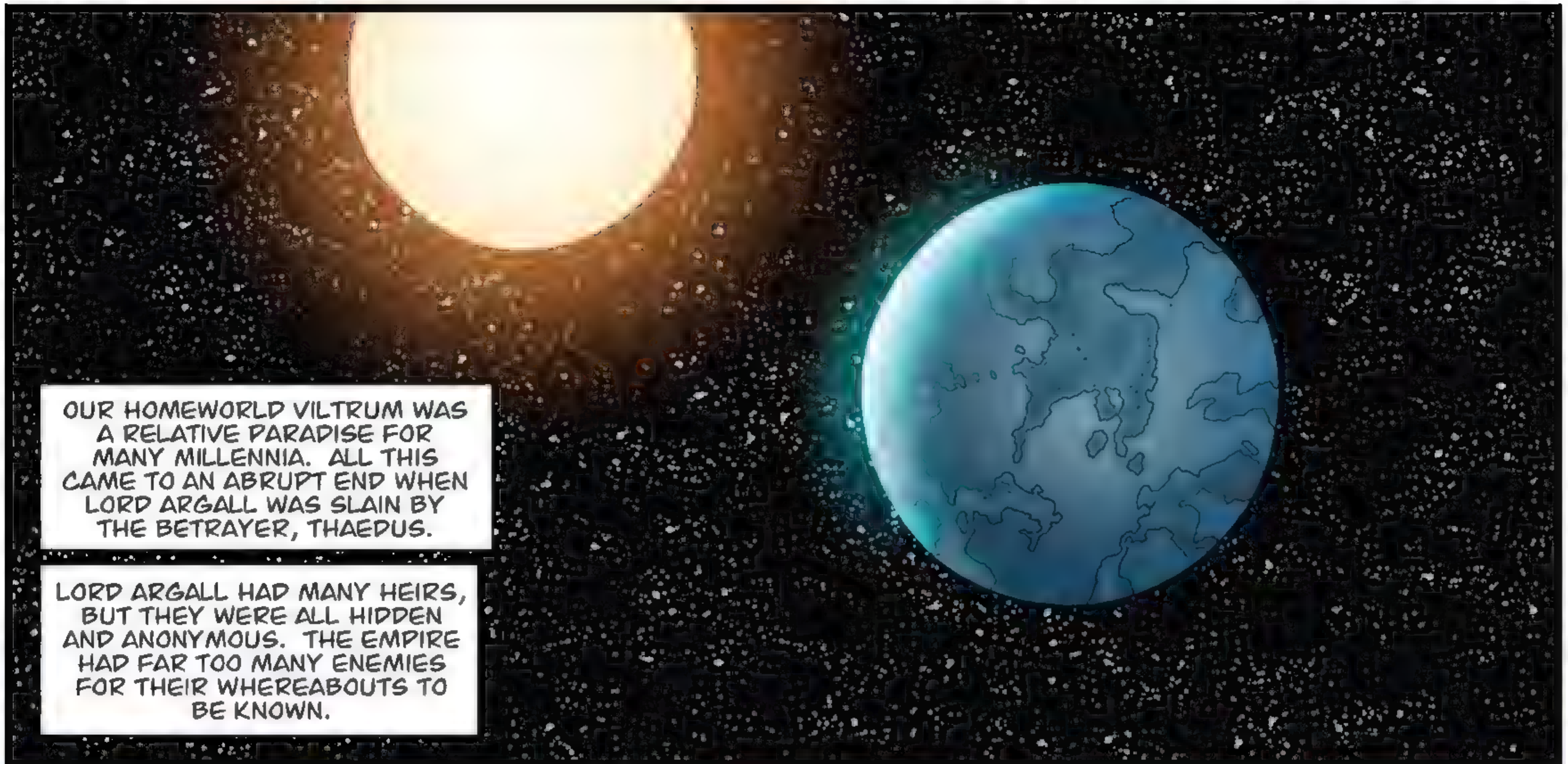






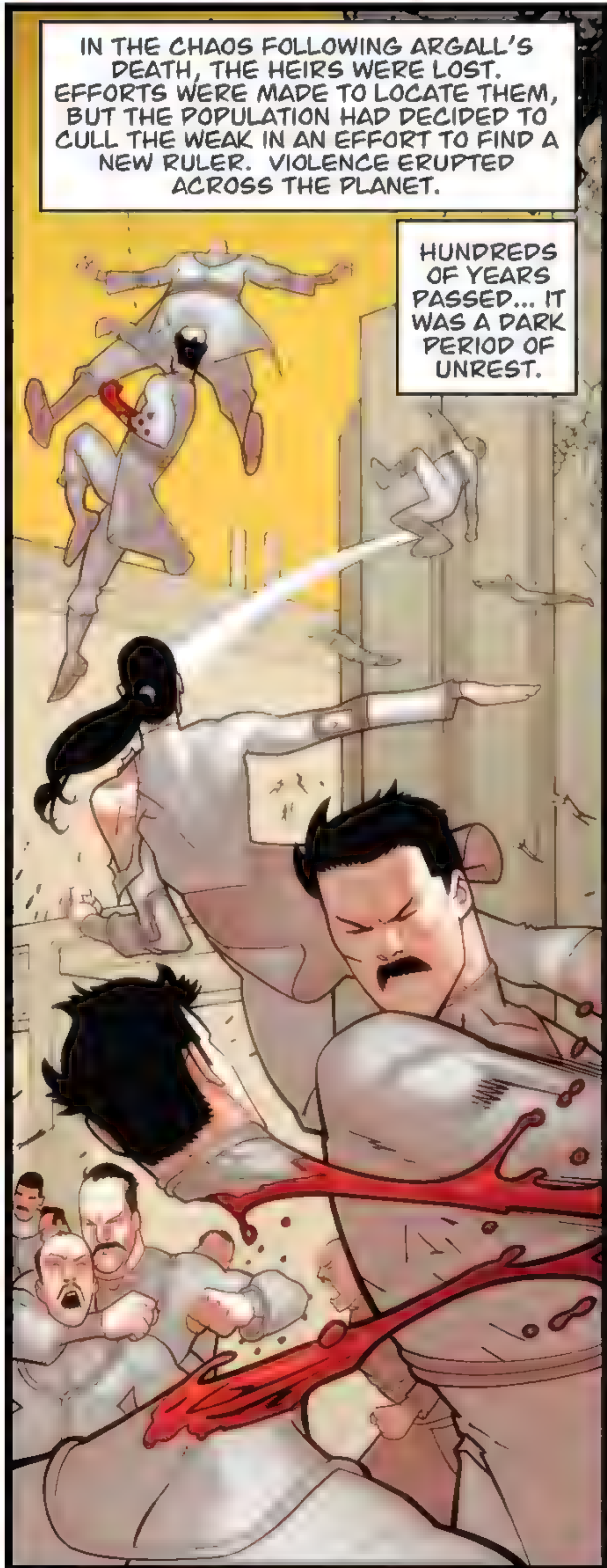
BEFORE YOU
DIE... YOU MIGHT
AS WELL KNOW
THE TRUTH.

LET ME TELL
YOU WHERE YOU
REALLY COME
FROM.



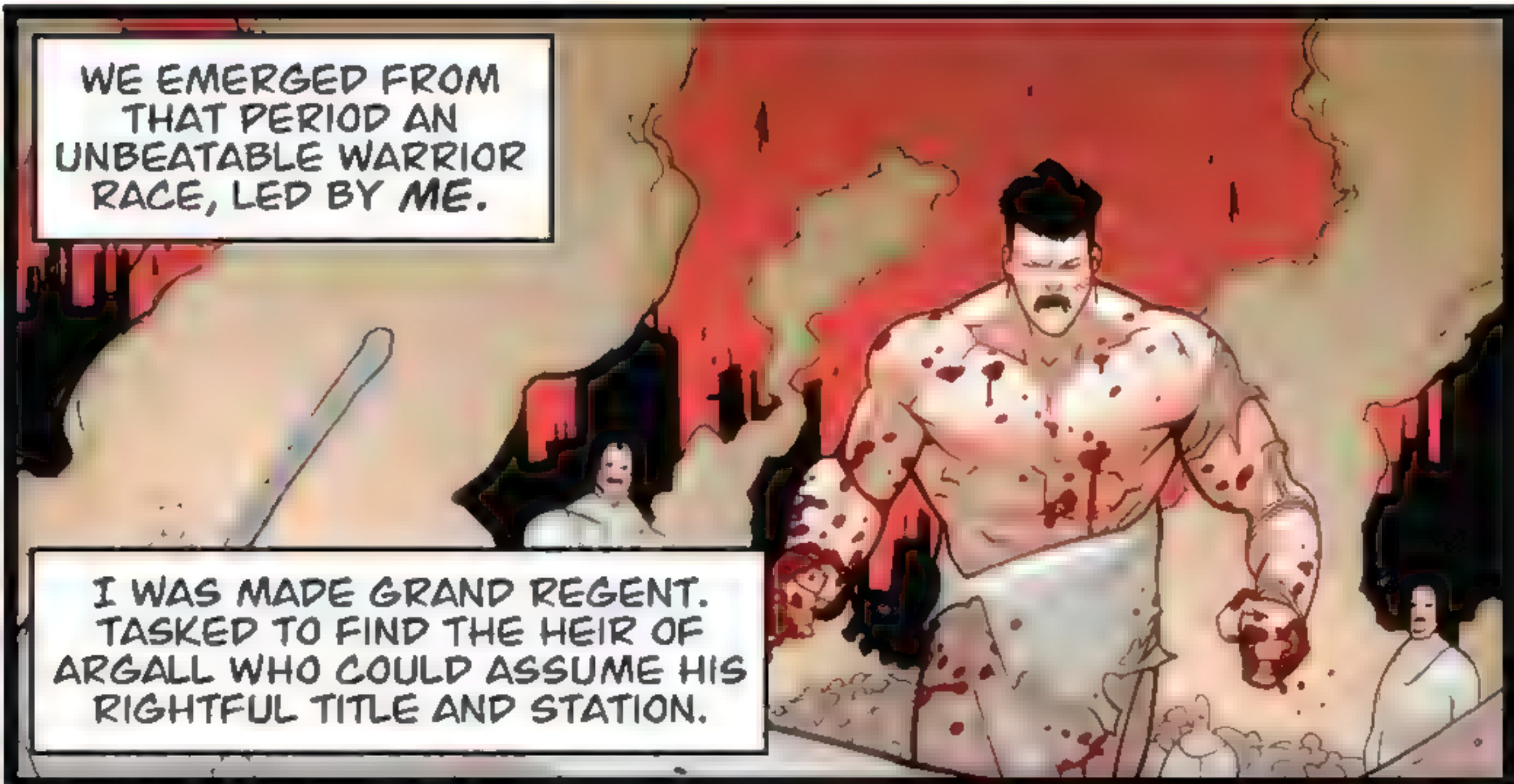
OUR HOMEWORLD VILTRUM WAS A RELATIVE PARADISE FOR MANY MILLENNIA. ALL THIS CAME TO AN ABRUPT END WHEN LORD ARGALL WAS SLAIN BY THE BETRAYER, THAEDUS.

LORD ARGALL HAD MANY HEIRS, BUT THEY WERE ALL HIDDEN AND ANONYMOUS. THE EMPIRE HAD FAR TOO MANY ENEMIES FOR THEIR WHEREABOUTS TO BE KNOWN.



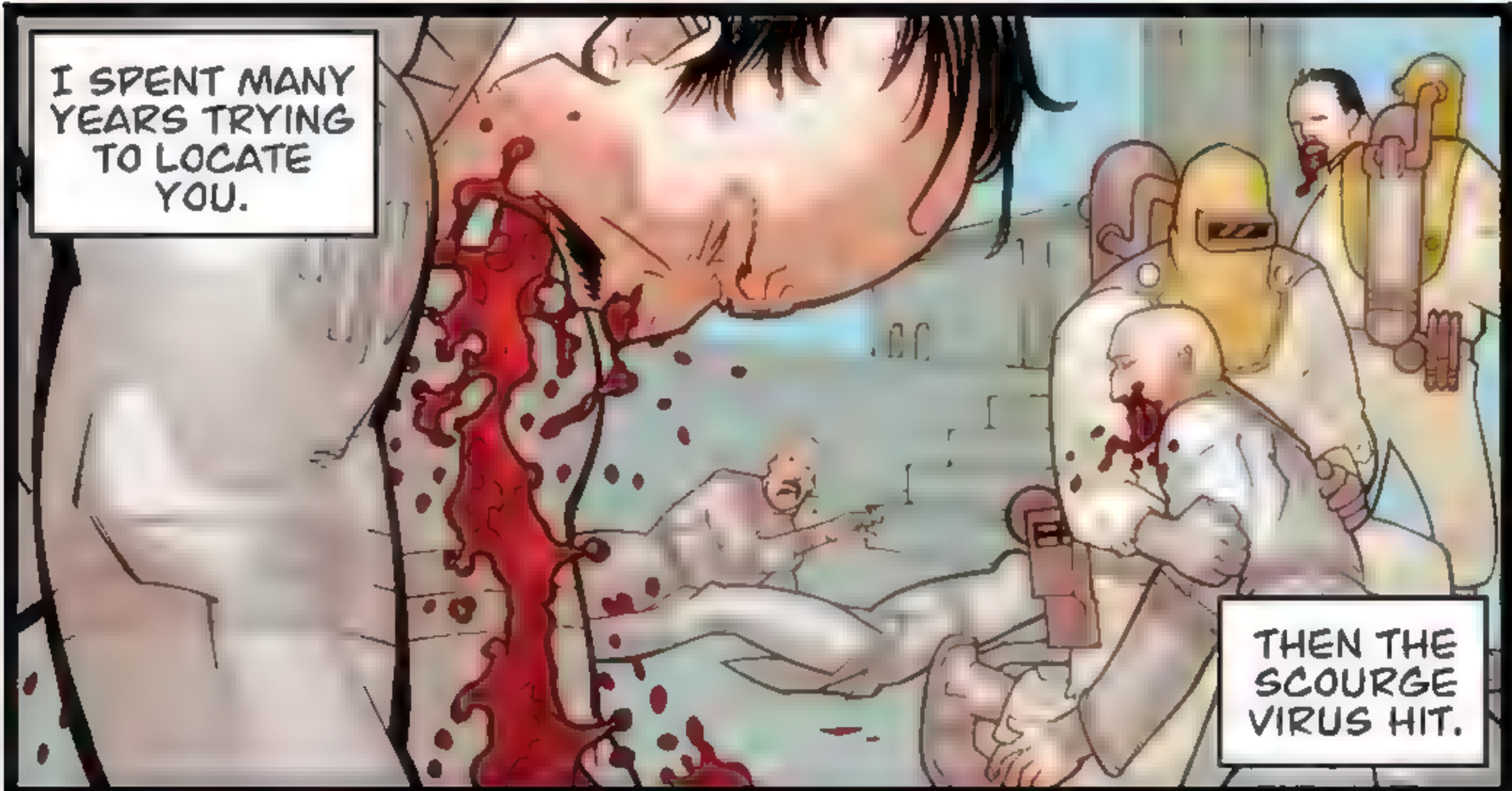
IN THE CHAOS FOLLOWING ARGALL'S DEATH, THE HEIRS WERE LOST. EFFORTS WERE MADE TO LOCATE THEM, BUT THE POPULATION HAD DECIDED TO CULL THE WEAK IN AN EFFORT TO FIND A NEW RULER. VIOLENCE ERUPTED ACROSS THE PLANET.

HUNDREDS OF YEARS PASSED... IT WAS A DARK PERIOD OF UNREST.



WE EMERGED FROM THAT PERIOD AN UNBEATABLE WARRIOR RACE, LED BY ME.

I WAS MADE GRAND REGENT. TASKED TO FIND THE HEIR OF ARGALL WHO COULD ASSUME HIS RIGHTFUL TITLE AND STATION.



I SPENT MANY YEARS TRYING TO LOCATE YOU.

THEN THE SCOURGE VIRUS HIT.



I ASSUMED THE HEIR HAD BEEN LOST TO THE VIRUS.



I LED MY PEOPLE THROUGH THESE DARK TIMES. I HELPED US TOGETHER.

I'VE MADE IT POSSIBLE FOR OUR PEOPLE TO SURVIVE. I WAS A BETTER RULER THAN EVEN ARGALL HIMSELF.



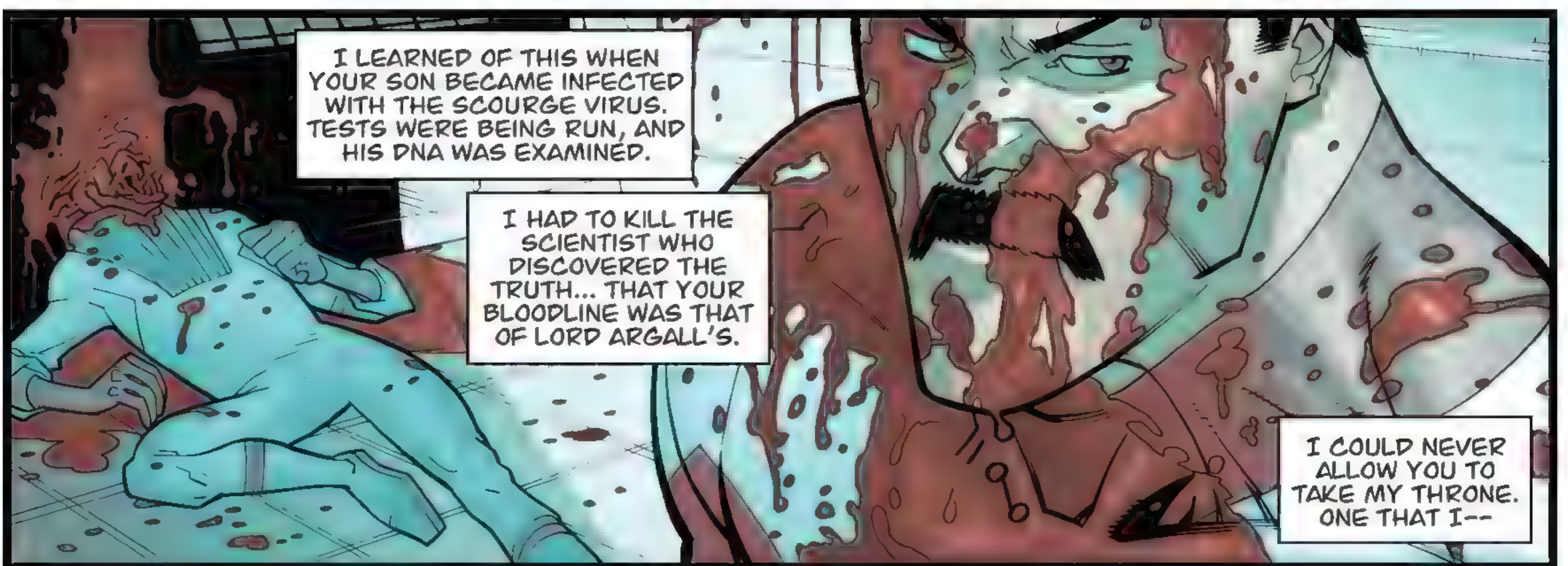
STILL, THROUGHOUT IT ALL, I'VE KEPT ARGALL'S SKULL BY MY SIDE... A REMINDER OF HOW EASILY I COULD LOSE MY COMMAND.

I CEASED ALL ATTEMPTS TO FIND THE HEIR. I FELT I'D EARNED MY PLACE AS RULER, EVEN IF YOU'D SOMEHOW SURVIVED.



CAN YOU IMAGINE HOW **DISGUSTED** I WAS TO LEARN THAT YOU, WHO SIDED WITH THE BETRAYER, THAEDUS--WHO **MURDERED** YOUR FATHER, WAS THE RIGHTFUL RULER OF THE VILTRUM EMPIRE?!

YOU, WHO DESTROYED OUR HOME PLANET!

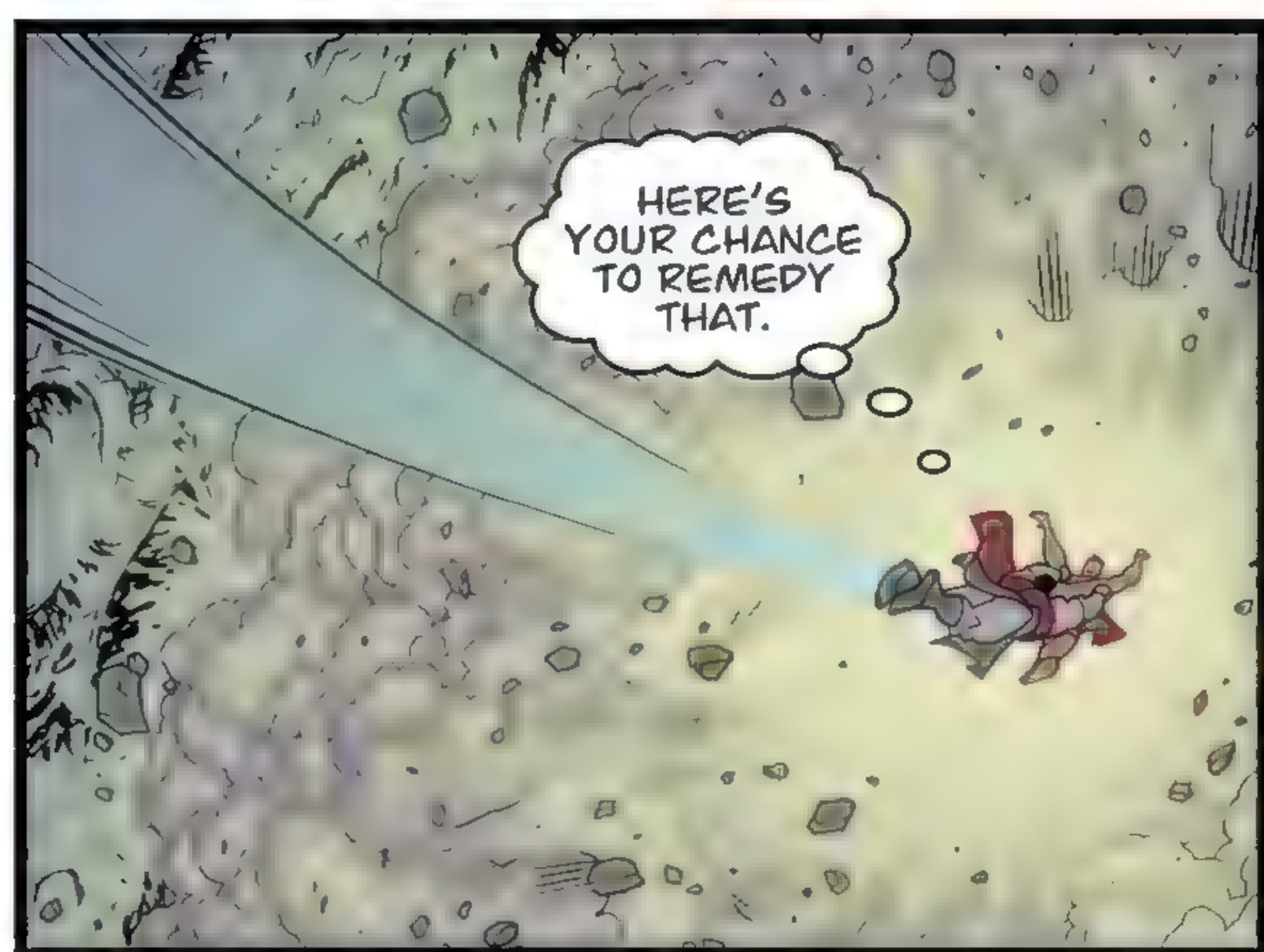
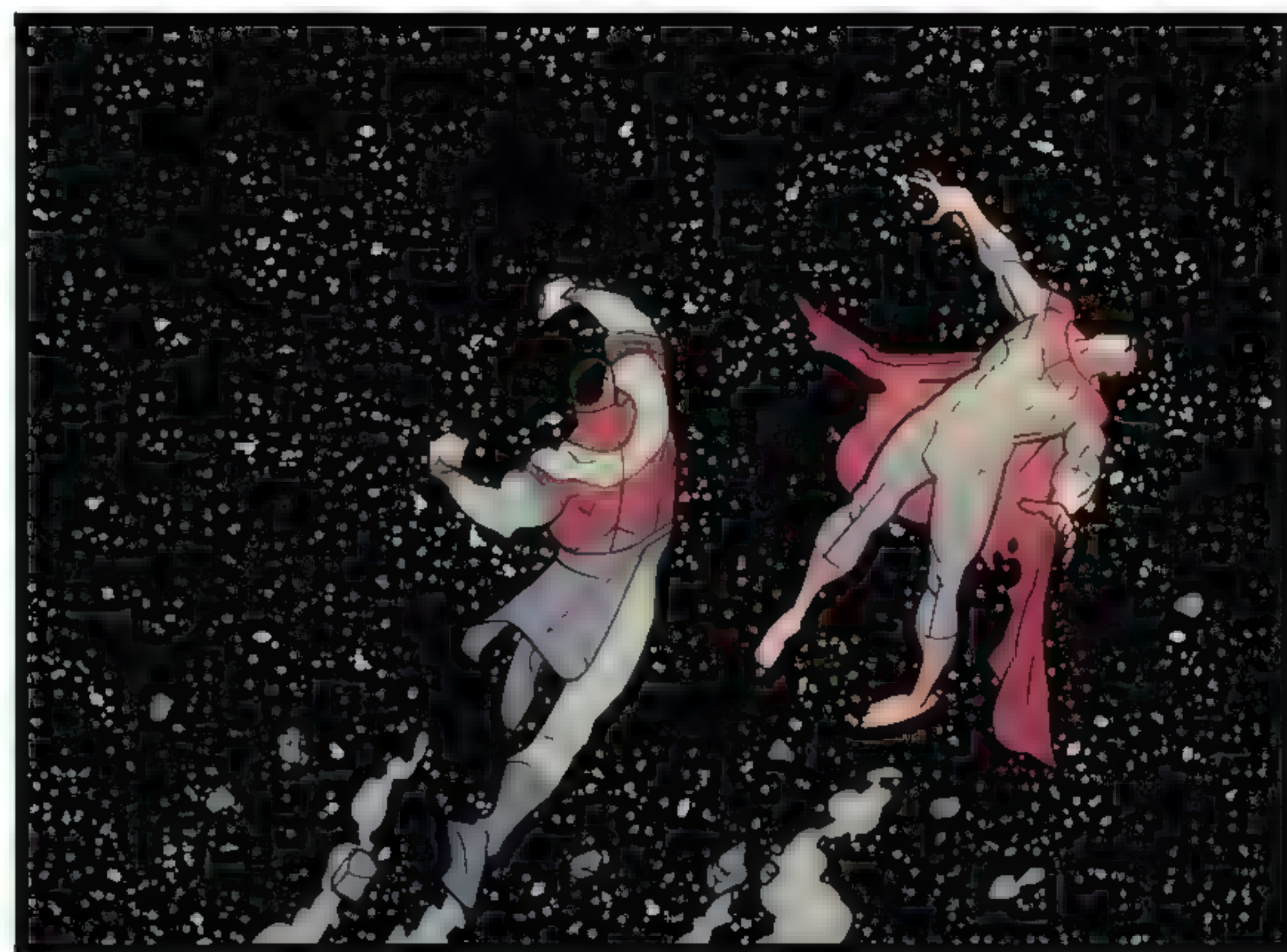


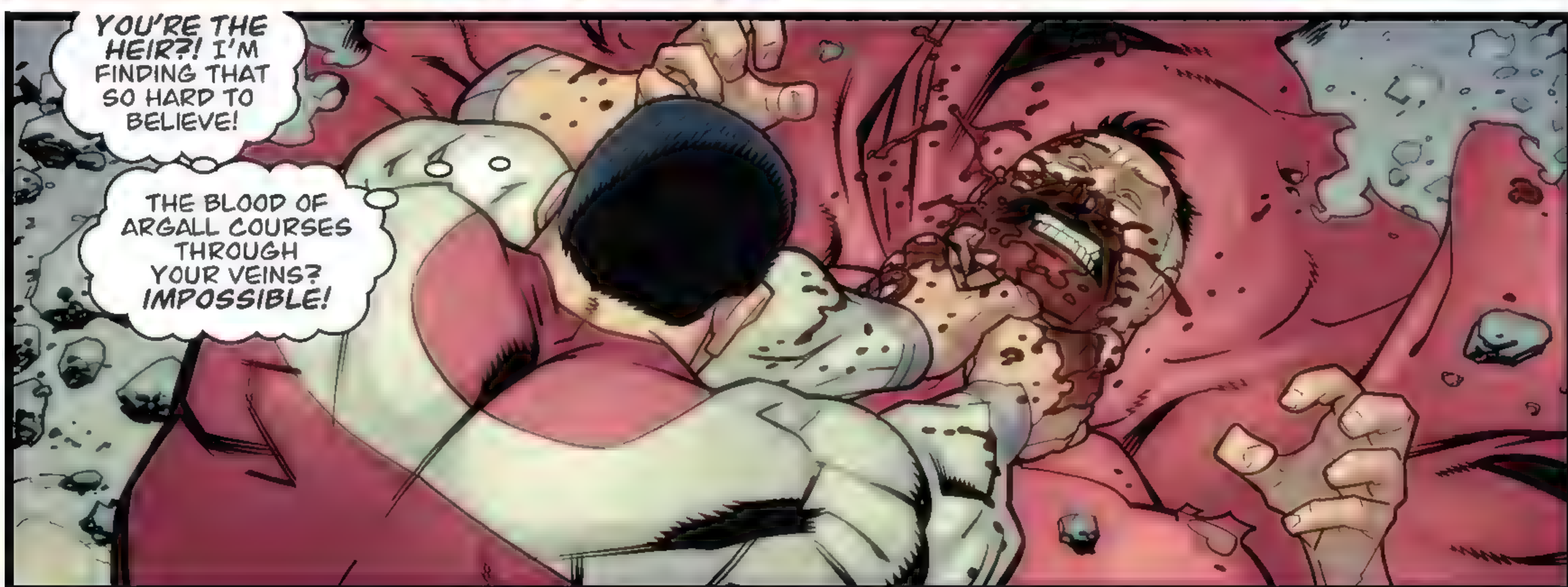
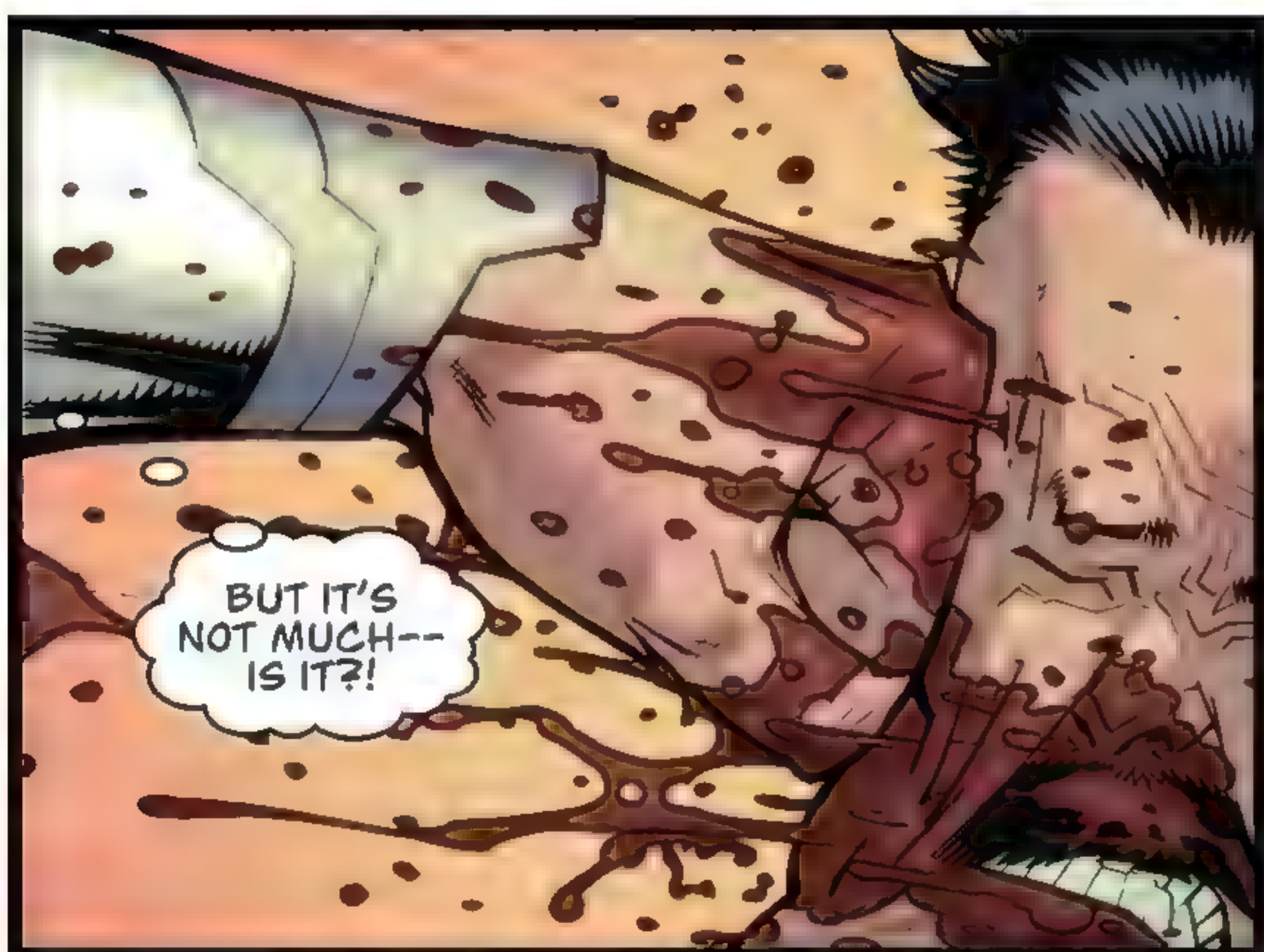
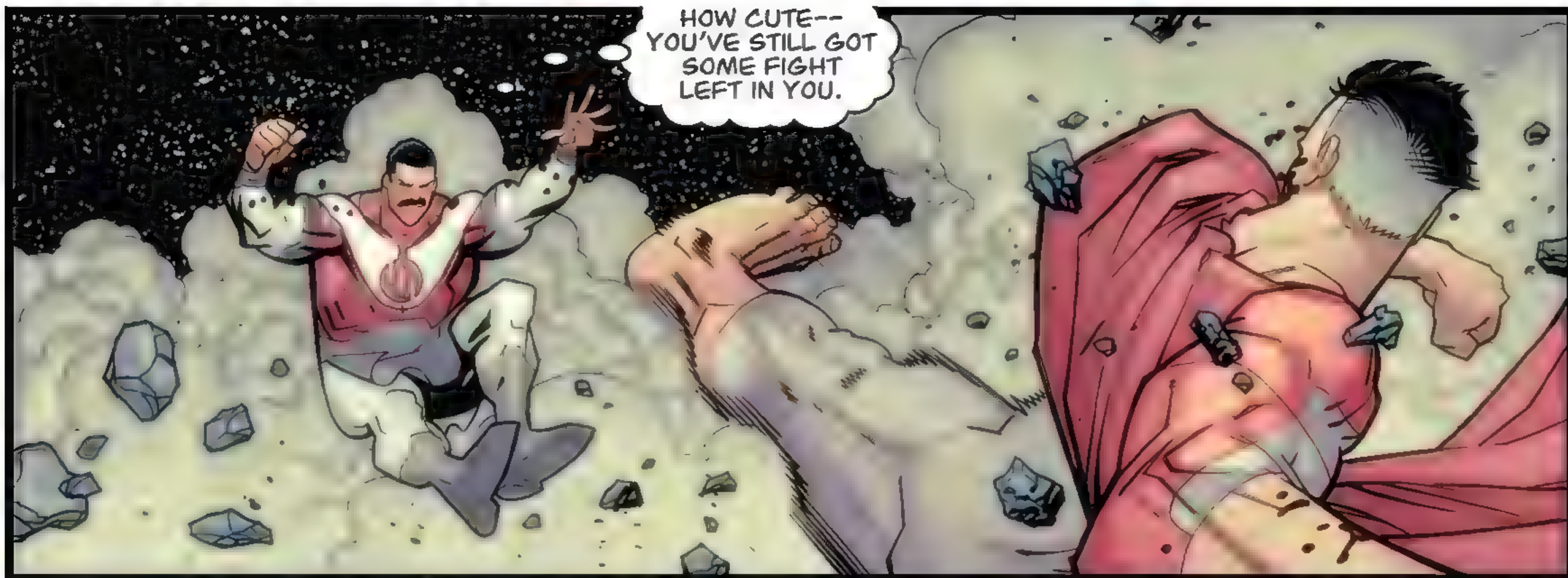
I LEARNED OF THIS WHEN YOUR SON BECAME INFECTED WITH THE SCOURGE VIRUS. TESTS WERE BEING RUN, AND HIS DNA WAS EXAMINED.

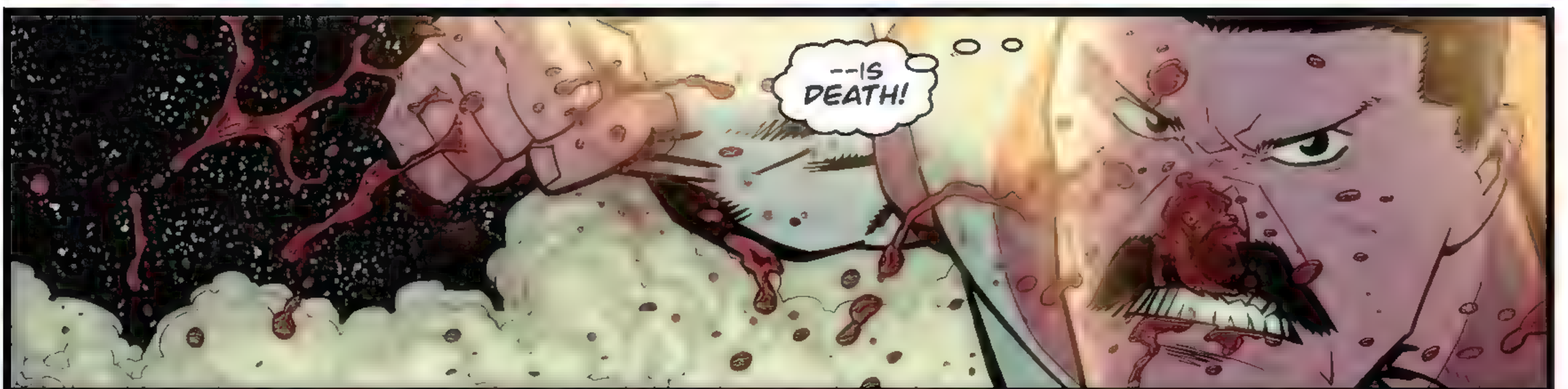
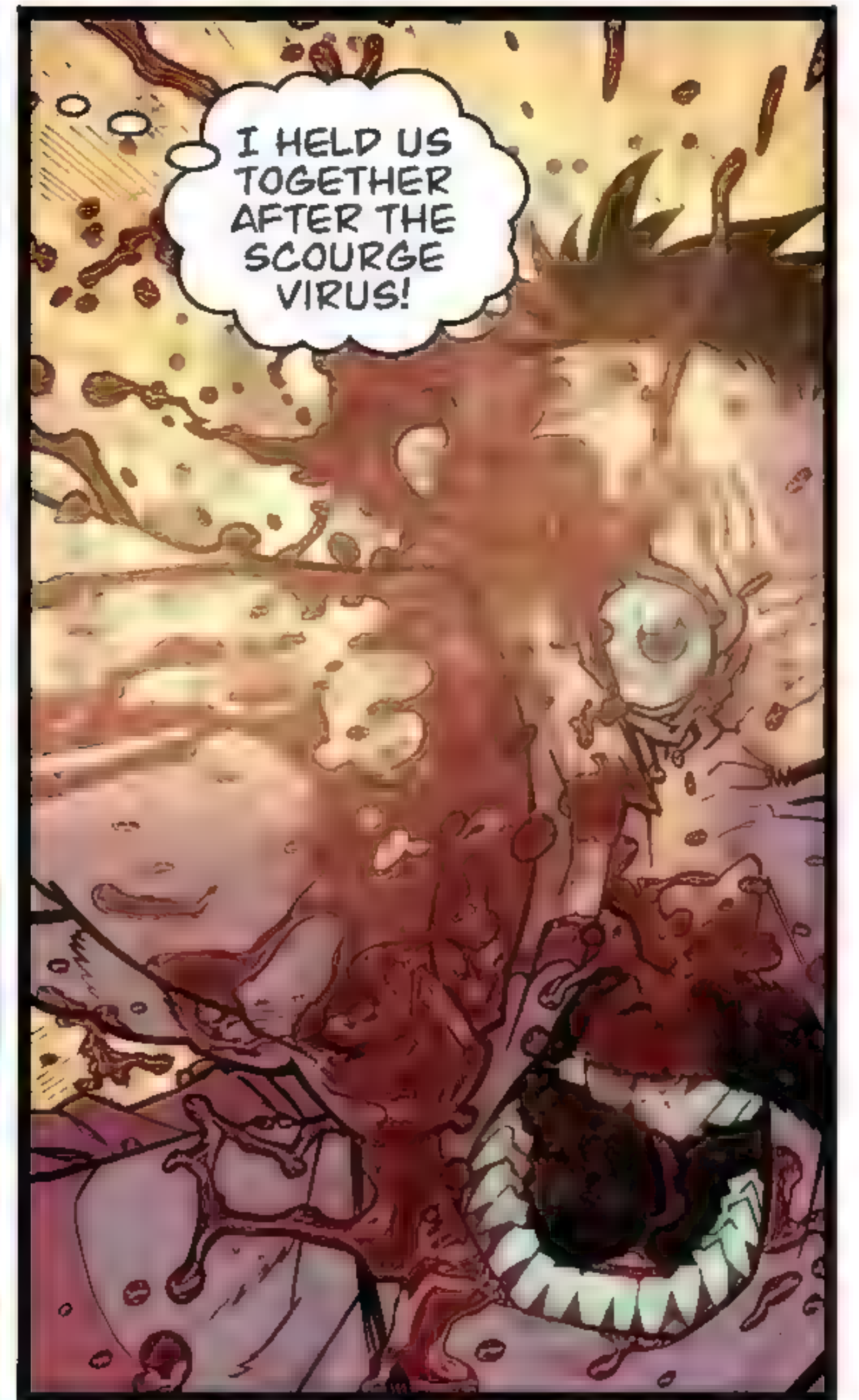
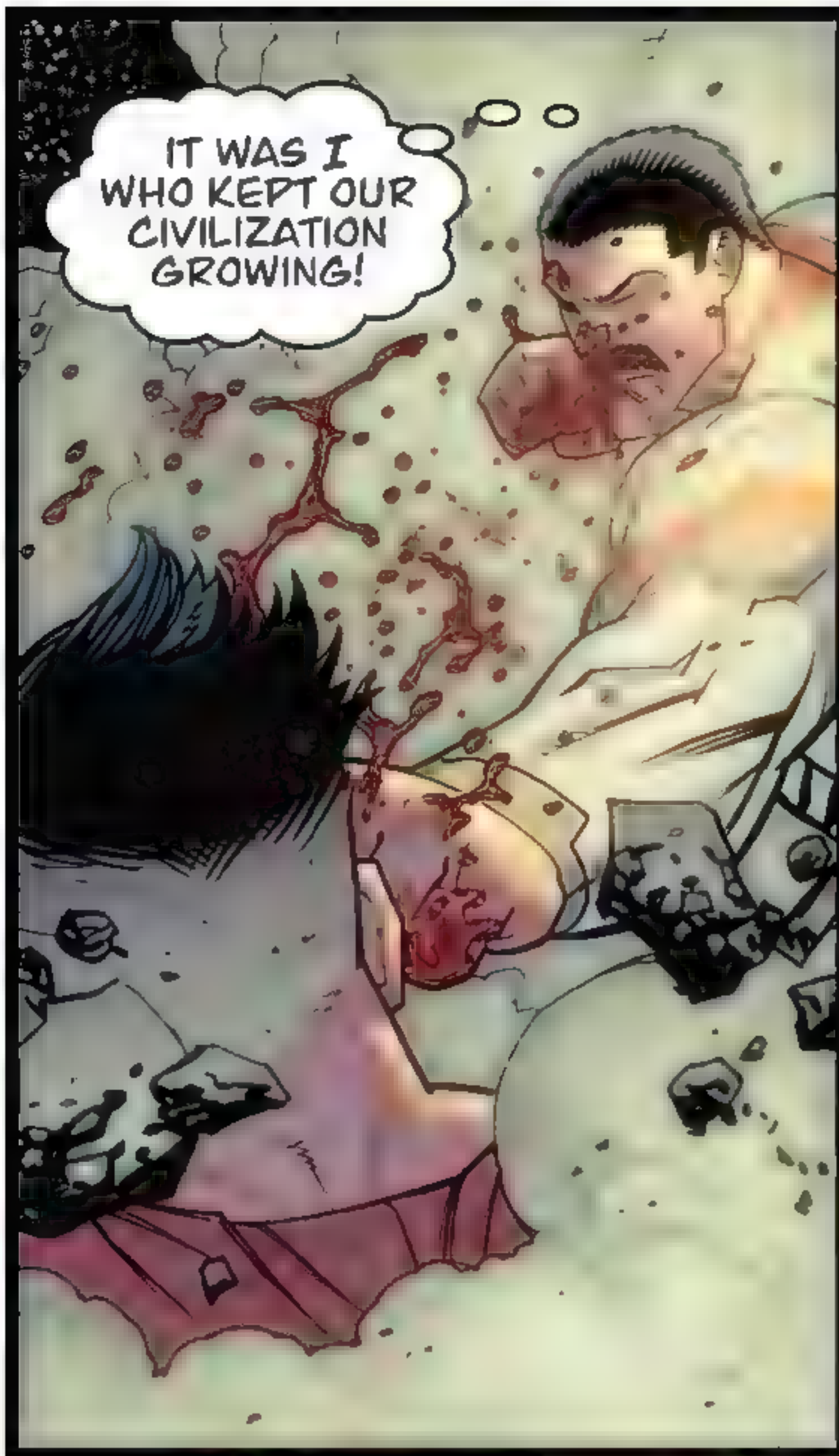
I HAD TO KILL THE SCIENTIST WHO DISCOVERED THE TRUTH... THAT YOUR BLOODLINE WAS THAT OF LORD ARGALL'S.

I COULD NEVER ALLOW YOU TO TAKE MY THRONE. ONE THAT I--

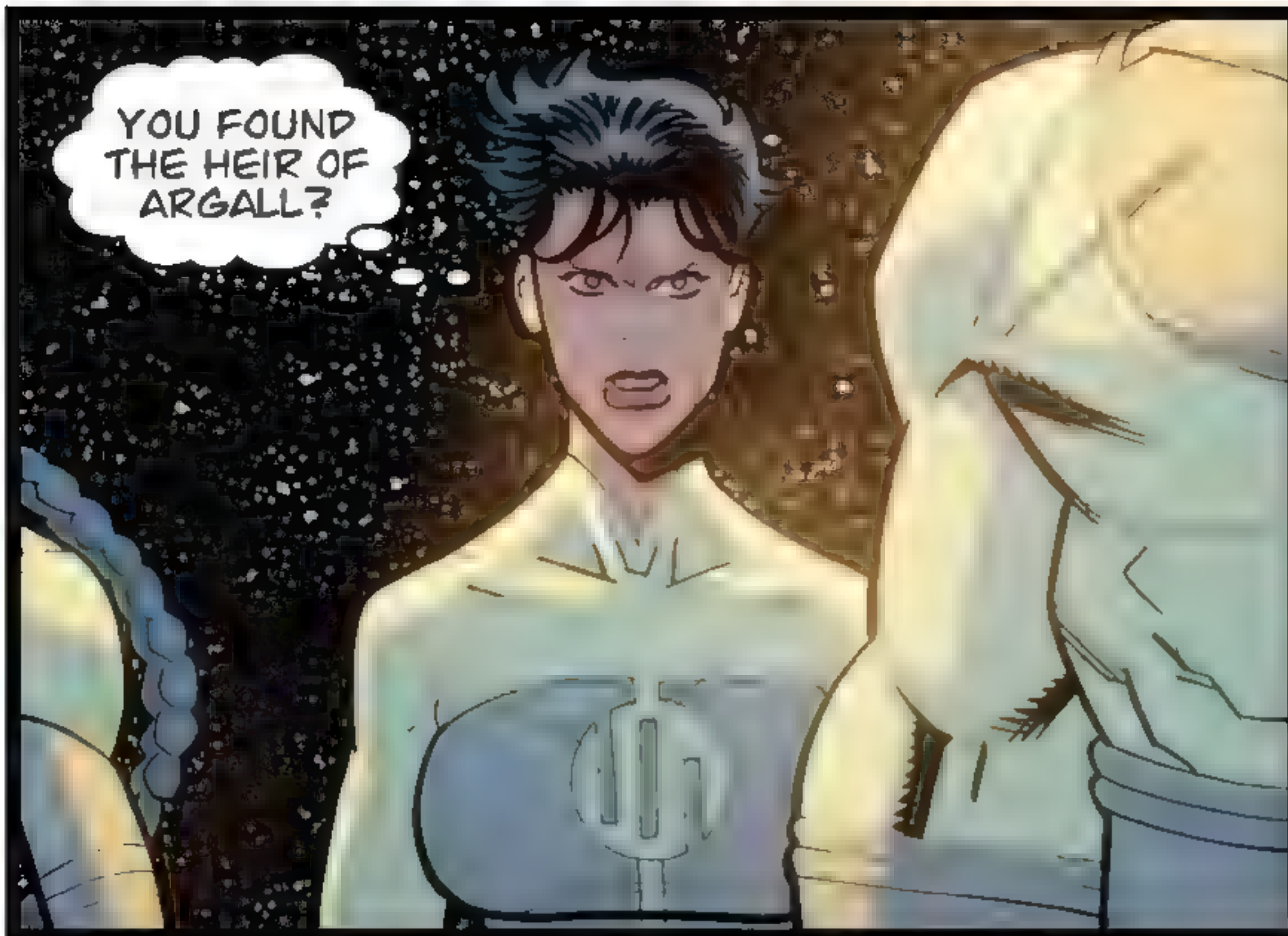












YOU FOUND
THE HEIR OF
ARGALL?

AND HE IS WEAK!
LOOK AT HIM
BEFORE YOU! HE
IS NOT WORTHY
OF--



IT WAS NEVER ARGALL'S
STRENGTH WE FOLLOWED!
IT WAS HIS WISDOM!

THAT YOU DON'T
UNDERSTAND THAT
SHOWS HOW FOOLISH
WE WERE TO EVER
FOLLOW YOU!



YOU WILL DIE FOR
THIS BETRAYAL! I
CALL FOR THE RITE
OF EXECUTION!

NO!



LET HIM
LIVE.





THE LAST REMAINING VILTRUMITE WARSHIP, STATIONED ON THE MOON.



YOU WILL FORGIVE ME IF I MAKE THIS SOMEWHAT BRIEF.

WE ARE ALL RECEIVING A STARTLING BIT OF NEWS THIS DAY. WE'VE LEARNED THAT THE HEIR OF ARGALL HAS BEEN FOUND... AND THAT I AM THAT HEIR.

IT WAS NEVER MY DESIRE TO LEAD, BUT WHO AM I TO DENY MY BIRTHRIGHT? I'VE NEVER SKIRTED RESPONSIBILITY AND I'M NOT ABOUT TO START DOING THAT NOW.

I STAND BEFORE YOU NOW, EMPEROR NOLAN, RULER OF THE VILTRUM EMPIRE.



SOME OF YOU KNOW ME TO BE A TRAITOR... AN ENEMY OF THE EMPIRE. I SEE THINGS A DIFFERENT WAY AND I EXPECT YOU TO NOW DO THE SAME.

FOR TOO LONG OUR EMPIRE HAS EXPANDED OUTWARD, FOCUSING ON THIS EXPANSION... AND THE DOMINATION OF OTHER WORLDS.

ALL THE WHILE, WE AS A PEOPLE... HAVE BEEN WITHERING.





GRAND REGENT
THRAGG WAS
RIGHT TO BRING
YOU HERE, RIGHT TO
FOCUS ON OUR
REPOPULATION...

...RIGHT
TO ALLOW US
TO INTERACT
WITH THE HUMAN
POPULATION OF
THIS PLANET.

I KNOW
WE HAVE
ALREADY BEGUN
TO LEARN A NEW
WAY OF LIFE FROM
THESE PEOPLE...
THAT WILL
CONTINUE...



...AND I
WANT YOU
TO WELCOME
THE CHANGES
YOU WILL
EXPERIENCE.

OUR TIME HERE
WILL STRENGTHEN
US, NOT WEAKEN
US. WE'LL BE AN
EMPIRE OF PEACE...
AND WE WILL
FLOURISH.

IT IS A
NEW DAWN
FOR THE
VILTRUM
EMPIRE.



ALL HAIL EMPEROR NOLAN!

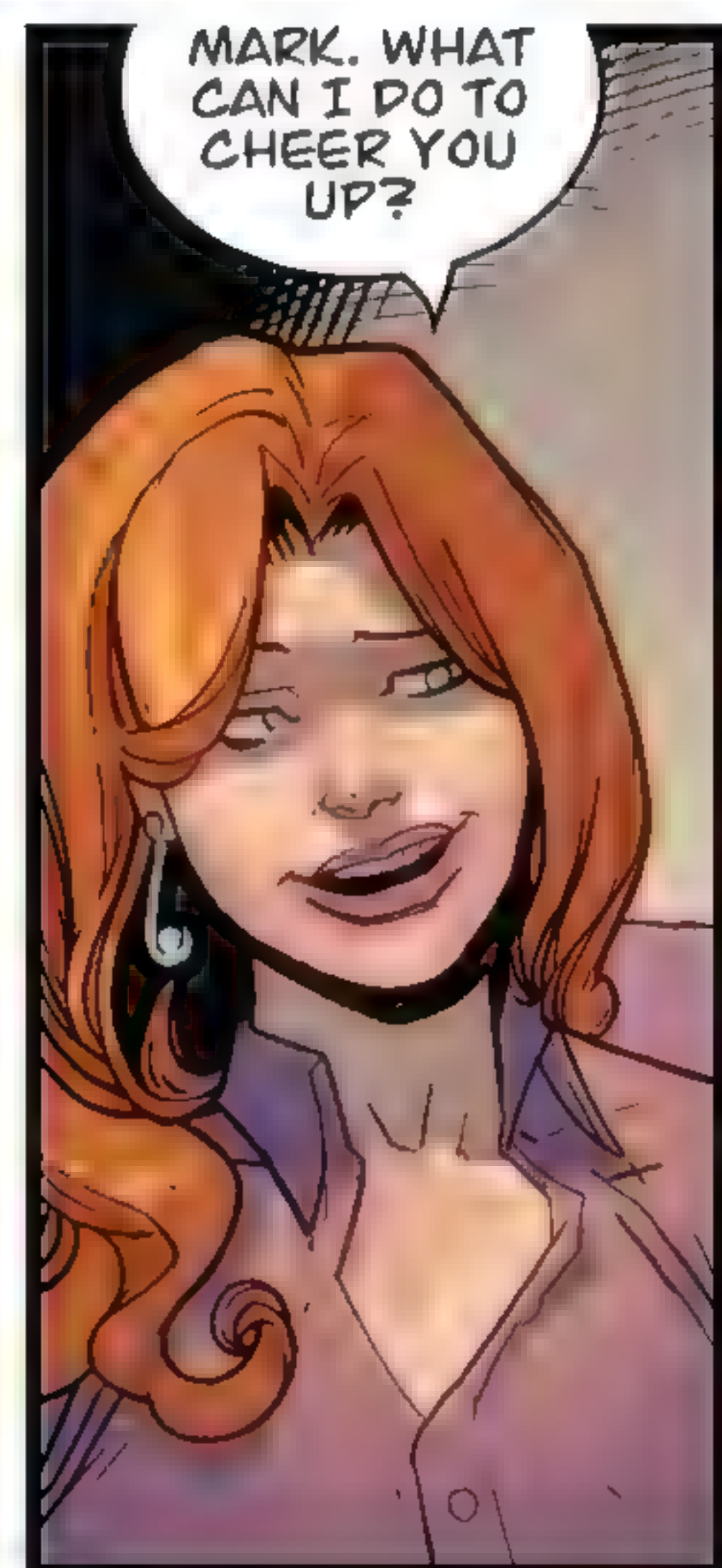
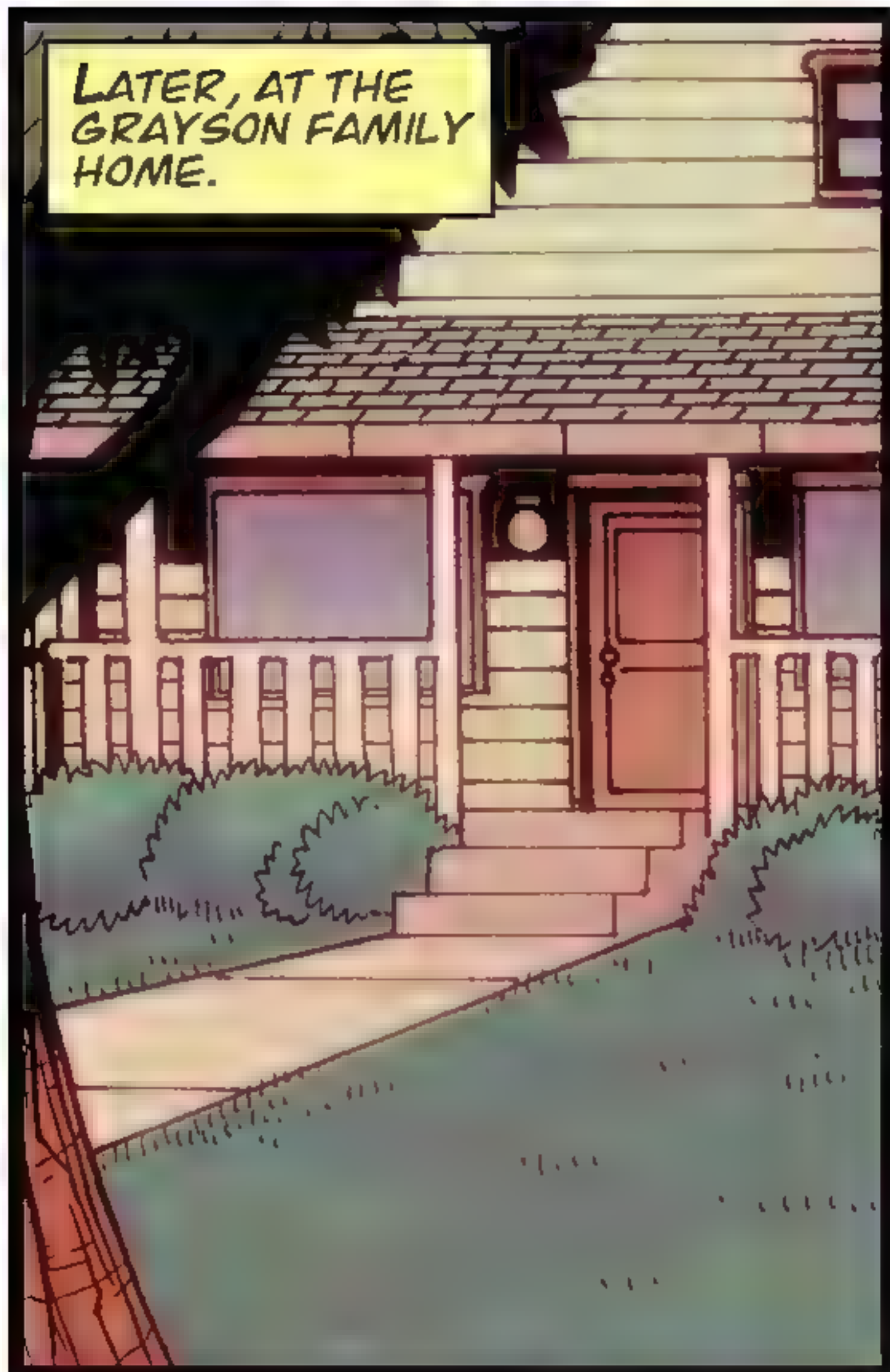


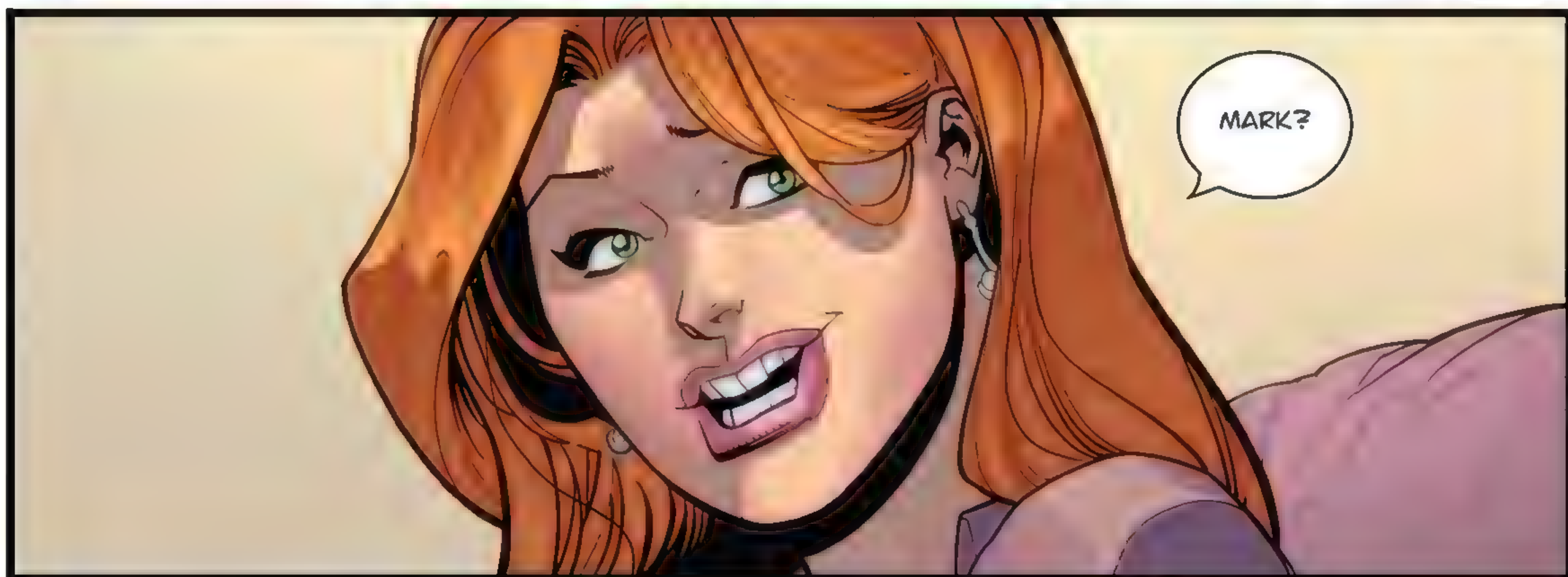
THANK
YOU.

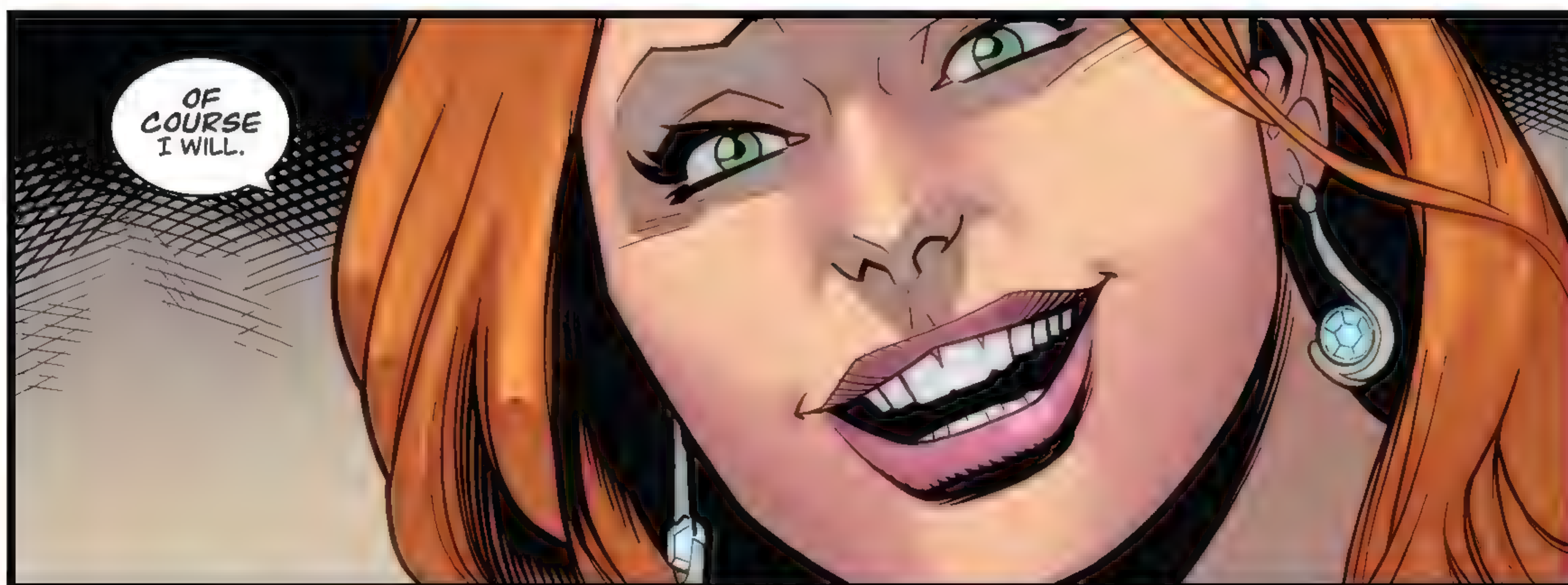
NOW
IF YOU'LL
EXCUSE ME...
I'M GOING TO
NEED A COUPLE
DAYS TO
HEAL.



THIS
IS SO
WEIRD.



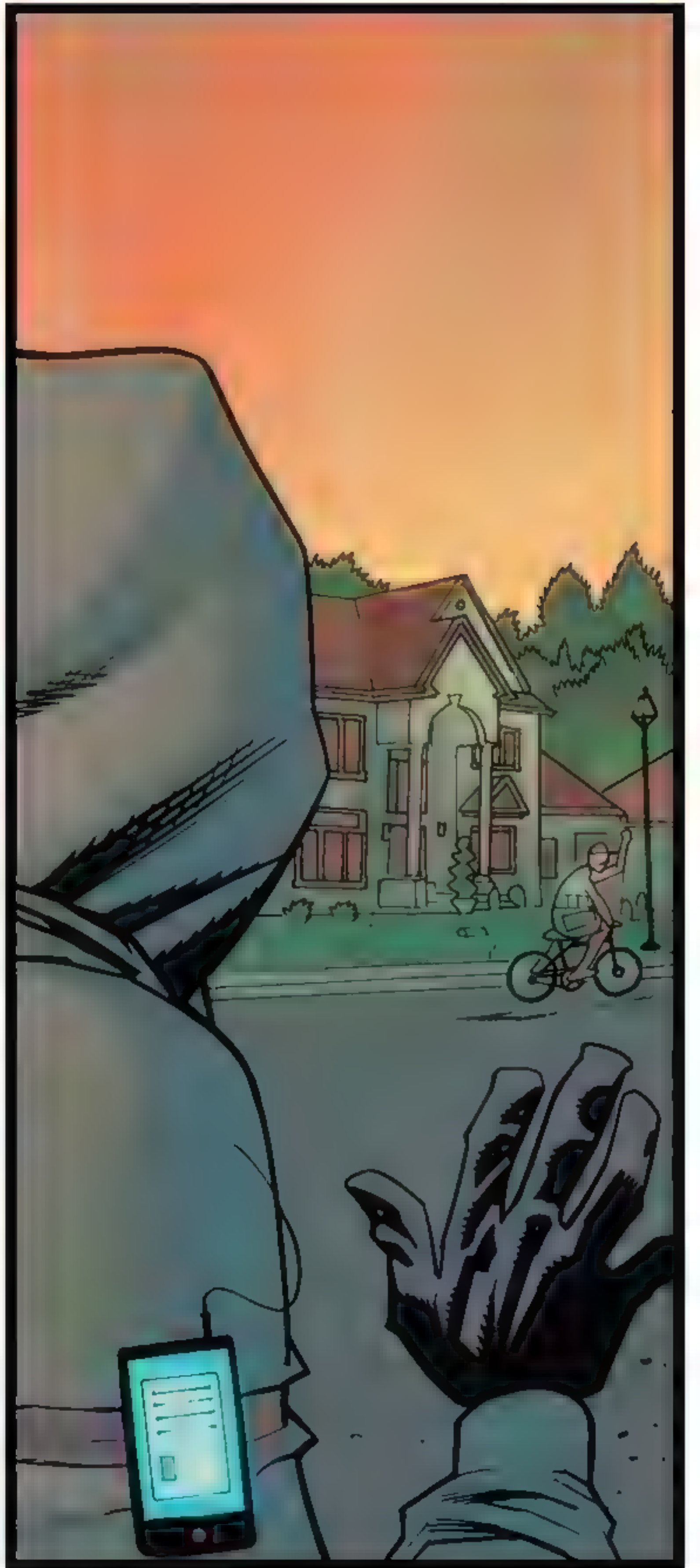




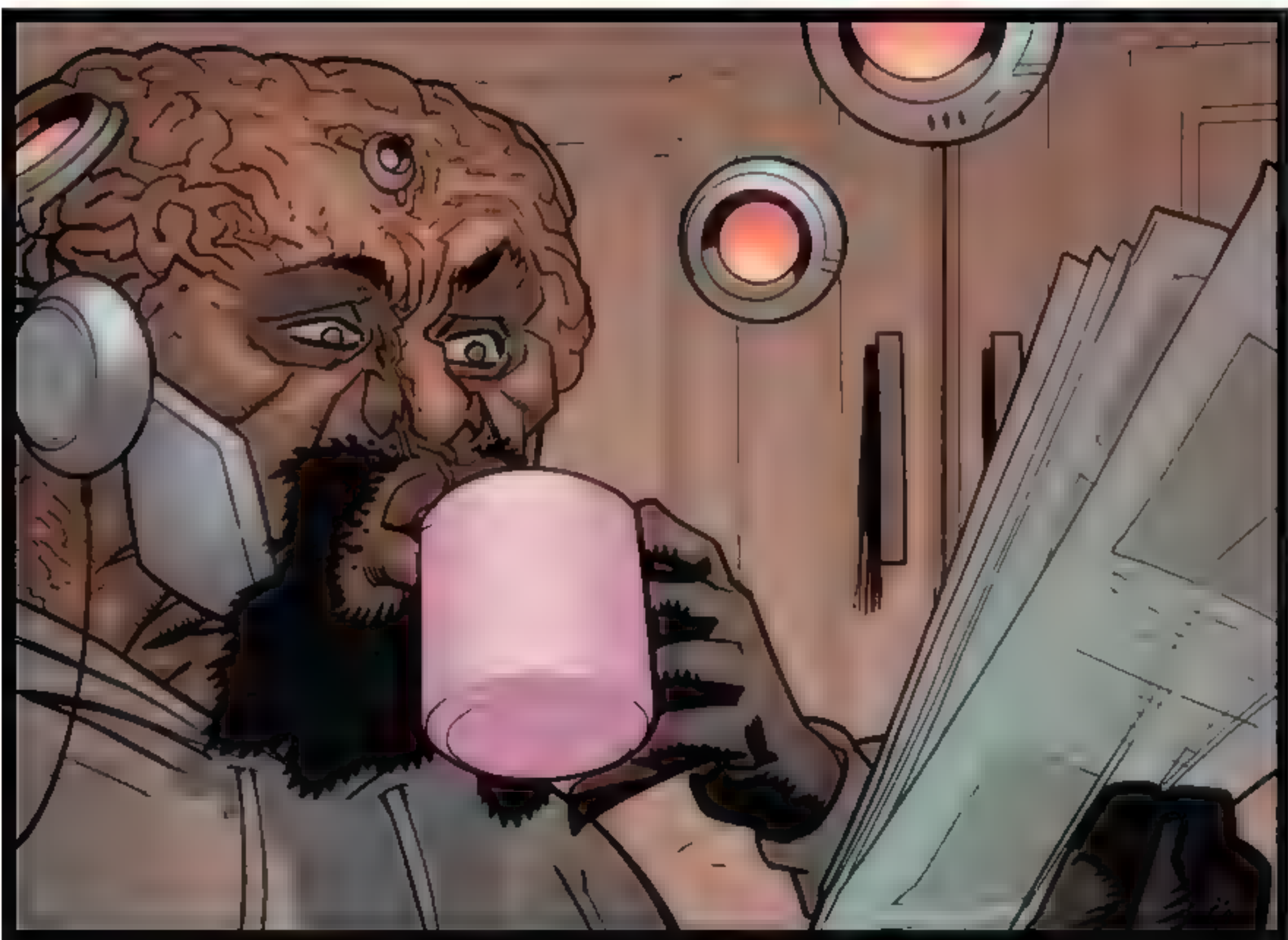
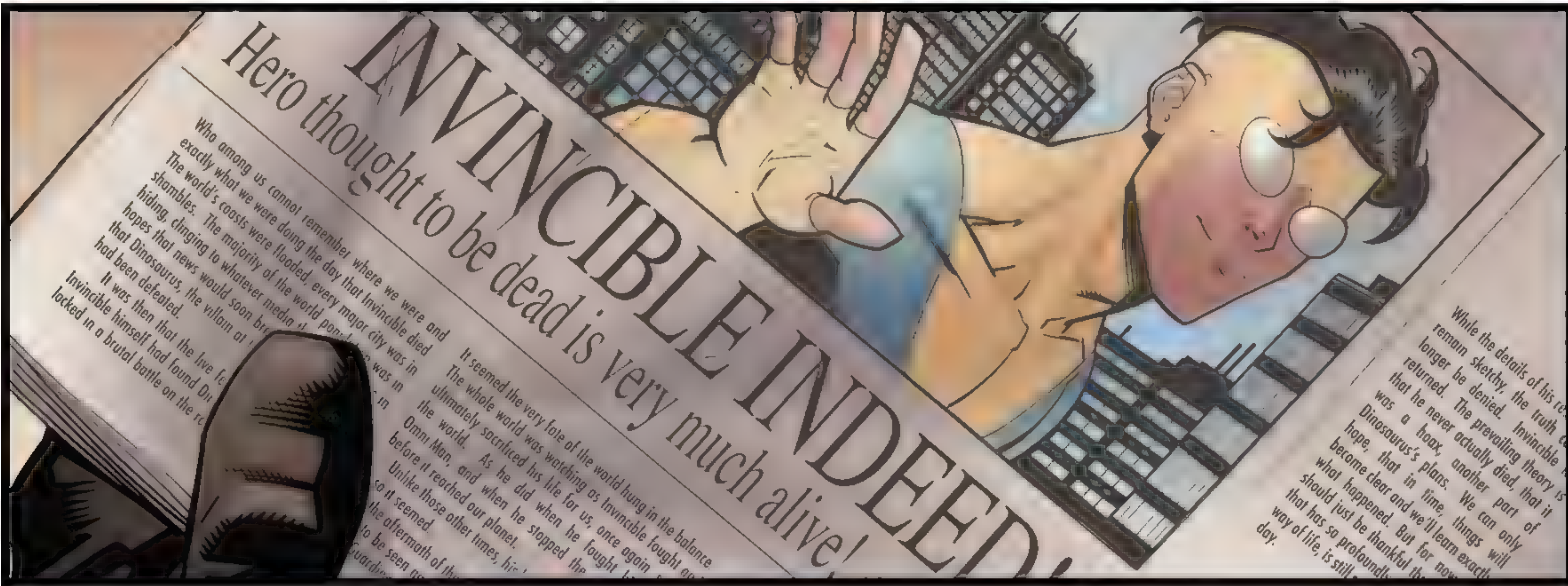
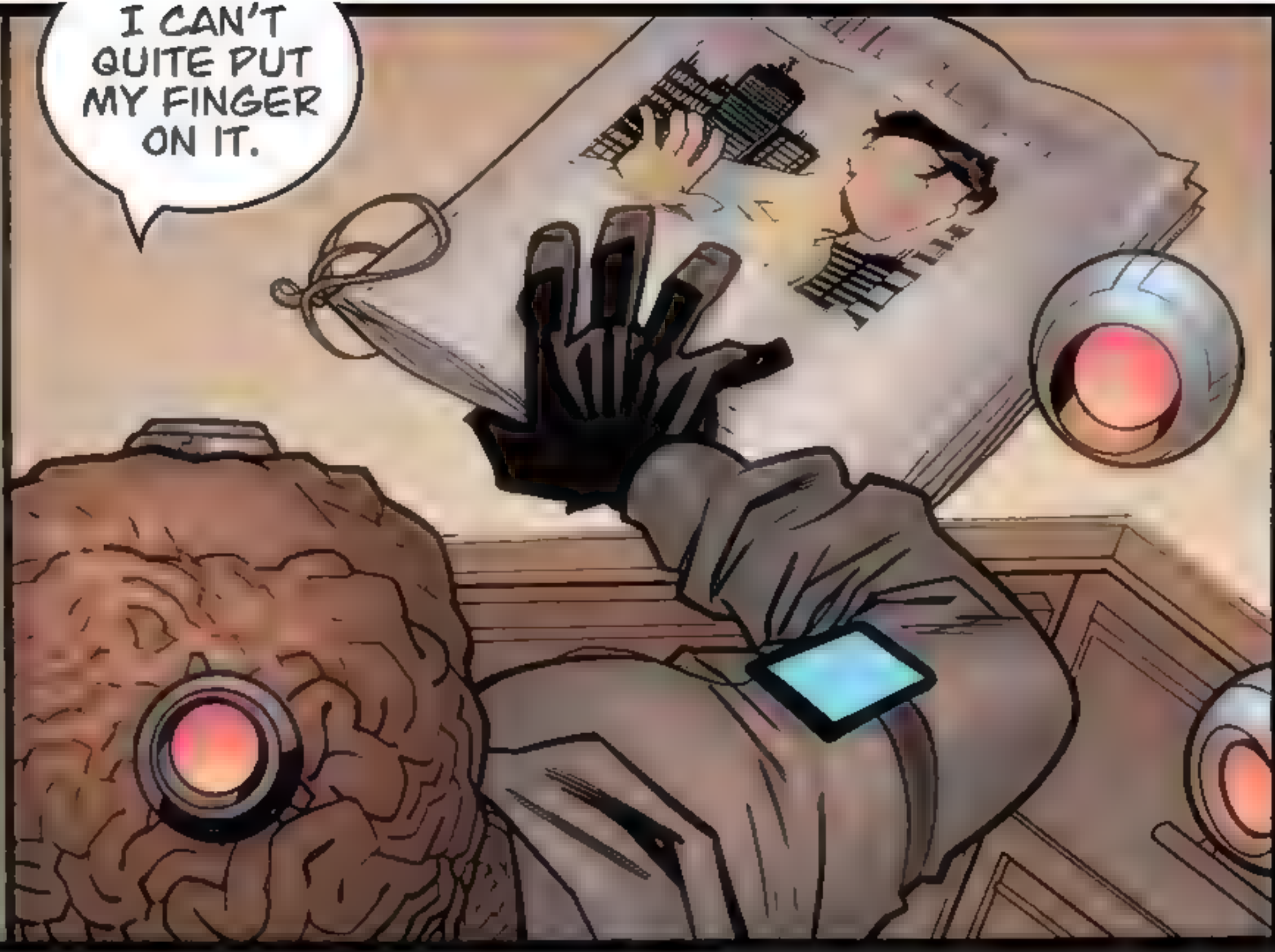


CHAPTER 103









THE GUARDIANS OF THE GLOBE'S
NEW ORBITING SPACE BASE.

WHICH ALSO MAINTAINS
TRADITIONAL TIDE LEVELS IN
THE WAKE OF DINOSAURUS'S
DISASTROUS GREENLAND
INCIDENT.*

*SEE ISSUES 98-100.

WHILE WE'VE
YET TO CATCH A
GLIMPSE OF HIM,
OUR REPORTS OF
MULTIPLE SIGHTINGS
HAVE NOW BEEN
SUBSTANTIATED.

GOVERNMENT
OFFICIALS
CONFIRM, THE
SUPERHERO KNOWN
AS INVINCIBLE, WHO
HAS SAVED THIS
PLANET MANY
TIMES, IS IN
FACT ALIVE.

THE
GRUESOME
DEATH WE
UNFORTUNATELY
WITNESSED WAS FAKED
SOMEHOW... WE'LL
BRING YOU MORE
DETAILS AS THEY
COME IN.

ALL WE
KNOW FOR NOW
IS THAT THE
THREAT OF
DINOSAURUS HAS
BEEN ELIMINATED
AND WE HAVE
INVINCIBLE TO
THANK FOR
THAT.

AS A
PERSONAL
NOTE FROM THIS
REPORTER...
SINCERELY,
THANK YOU.



REX?
EVERYTHING
OKAY?



ARE YOU
SERIOUS?

YEAH.
YOU SEEM
AGITATED.



HOW
COULD YOU
NOT BE?!

NOT ONLY
HAS CECIL LET
INVINCIBLE GET
AWAY WITH THE
DEATHS HE CAUSED
BY RELEASING
DINOSAURUS AND
WORKING WITH HIM--
HE'S ALSO GIVING
HIM THE CREDIT
FOR HIS
DEFEAT!



I'M NOT
HAPPY ABOUT
IT EITHER...
BUT...

WAIT--
IS THIS ABOUT
CREDIT? YOU
WANT PEOPLE
TO KNOW
YOU SAVED
THEM?



NO!

NO.

THAT'S NOT
IT AT ALL!
JUST... IT'S
JUST... IT'S NOT
RIGHT!



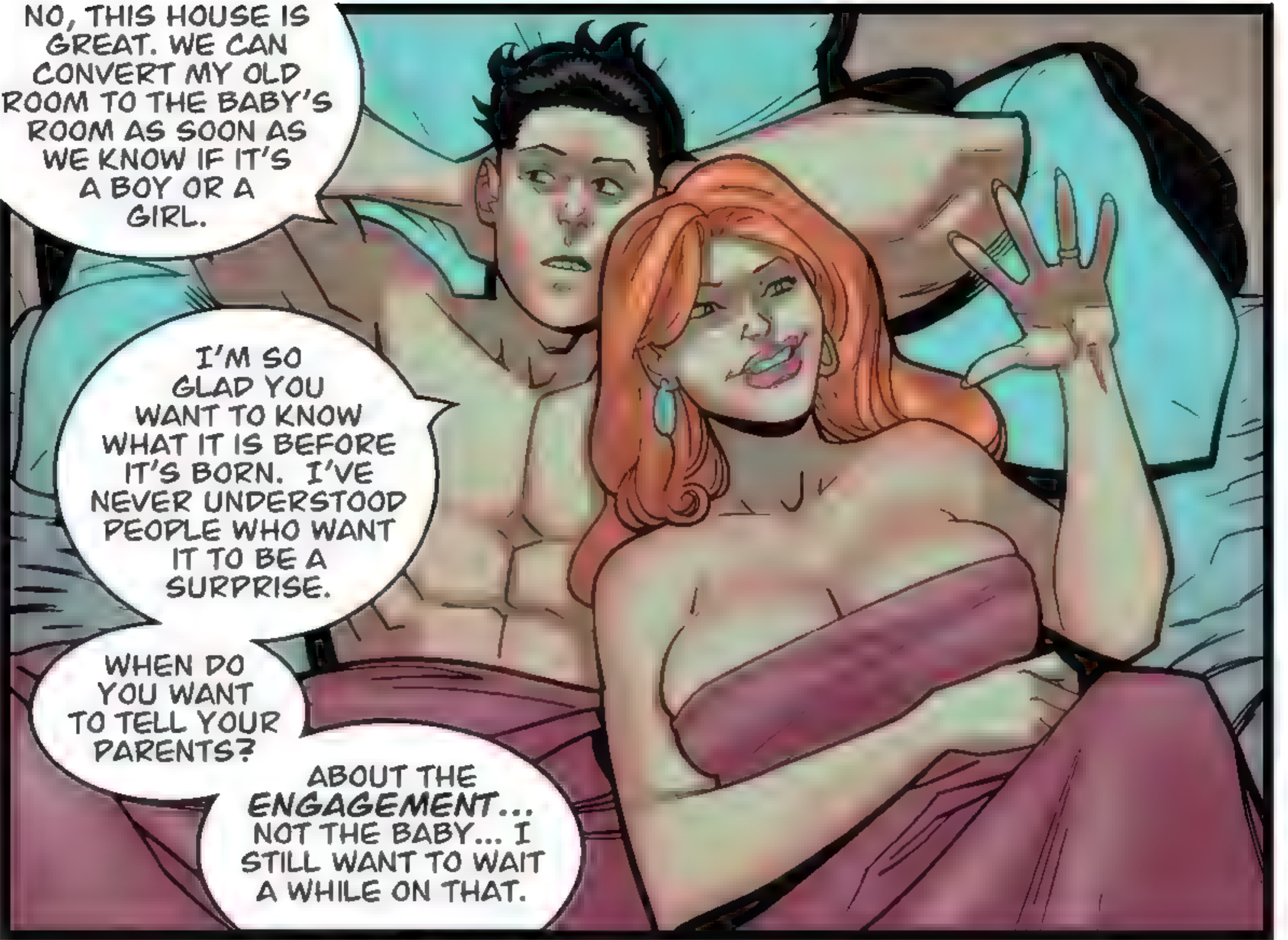
THE GRAYSON HOME.

NO, THIS HOUSE IS GREAT. WE CAN CONVERT MY OLD ROOM TO THE BABY'S ROOM AS SOON AS WE KNOW IF IT'S A BOY OR A GIRL.

I'M SO GLAD YOU WANT TO KNOW WHAT IT IS BEFORE IT'S BORN. I'VE NEVER UNDERSTOOD PEOPLE WHO WANT IT TO BE A SURPRISE.

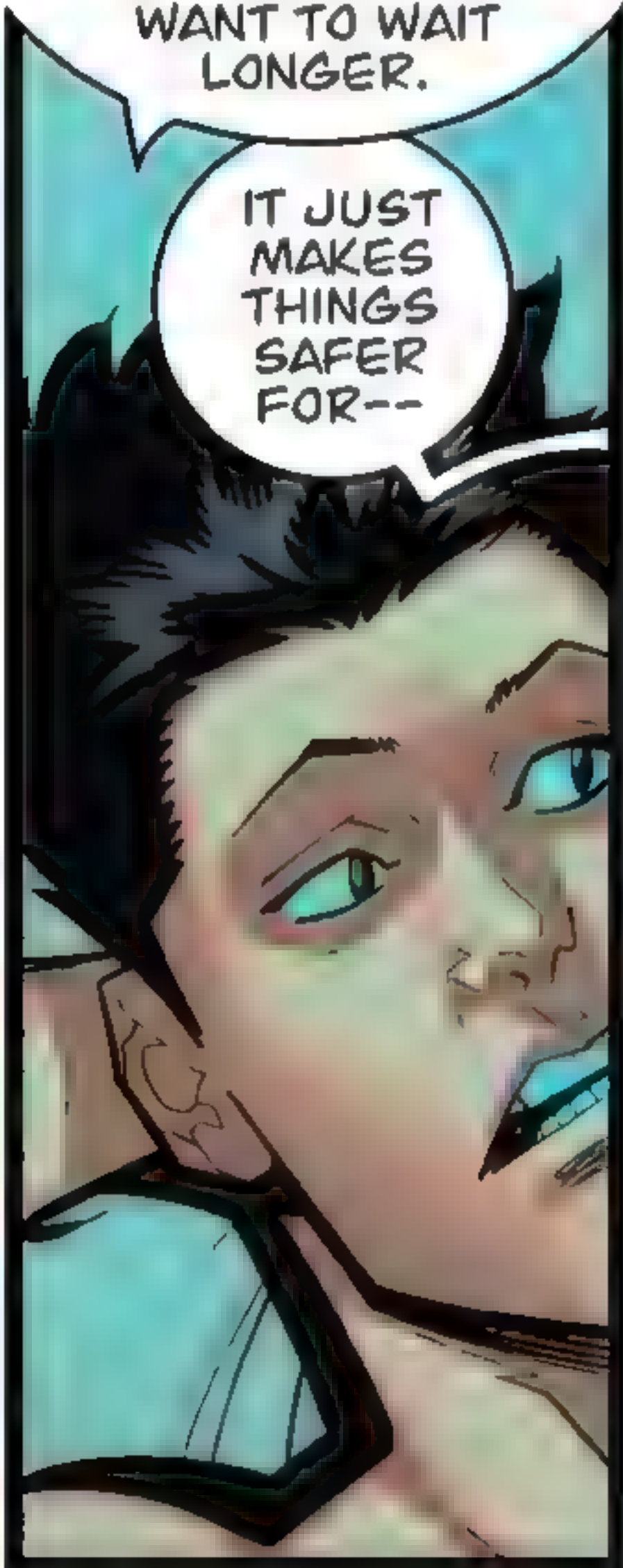
WHEN DO YOU WANT TO TELL YOUR PARENTS?

ABOUT THE ENGAGEMENT... NOT THE BABY... I STILL WANT TO WAIT A WHILE ON THAT.

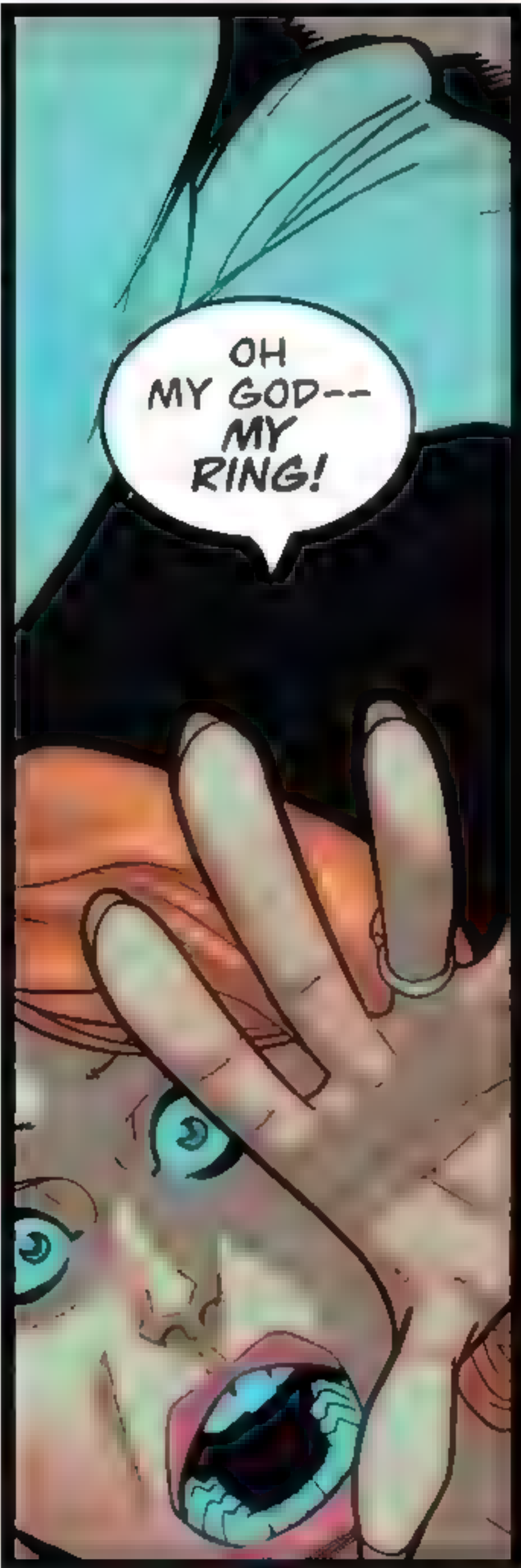


MY DAD'S NOT GOING TO INDUCT IT INTO THE VILTRUM EMPIRE AT BIRTH... I DON'T GET WHY KNOWING HE TOOK OVER AS EMPEROR IS MAKING YOU WANT TO WAIT LONGER.

IT JUST MAKES THINGS SAFER FOR--



OH MY GOD-- MY RING!



WHAT'S WRONG WITH IT?



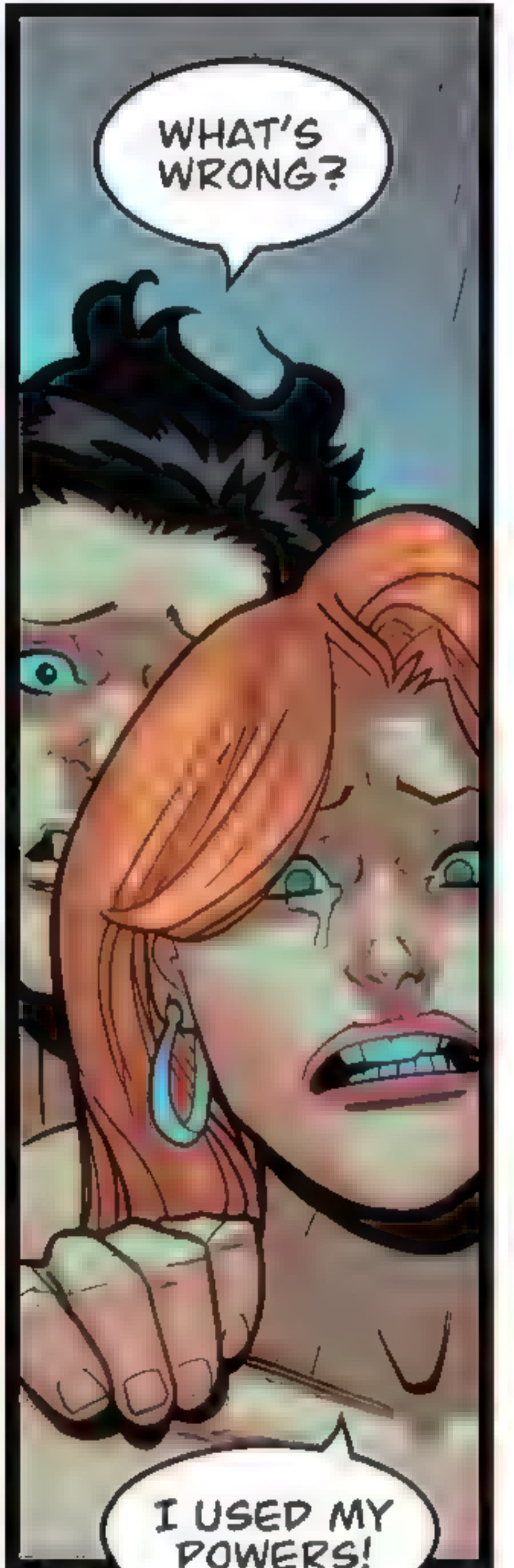
OH, GOD-- I CAN'T BREATHE.

OH, GOD!



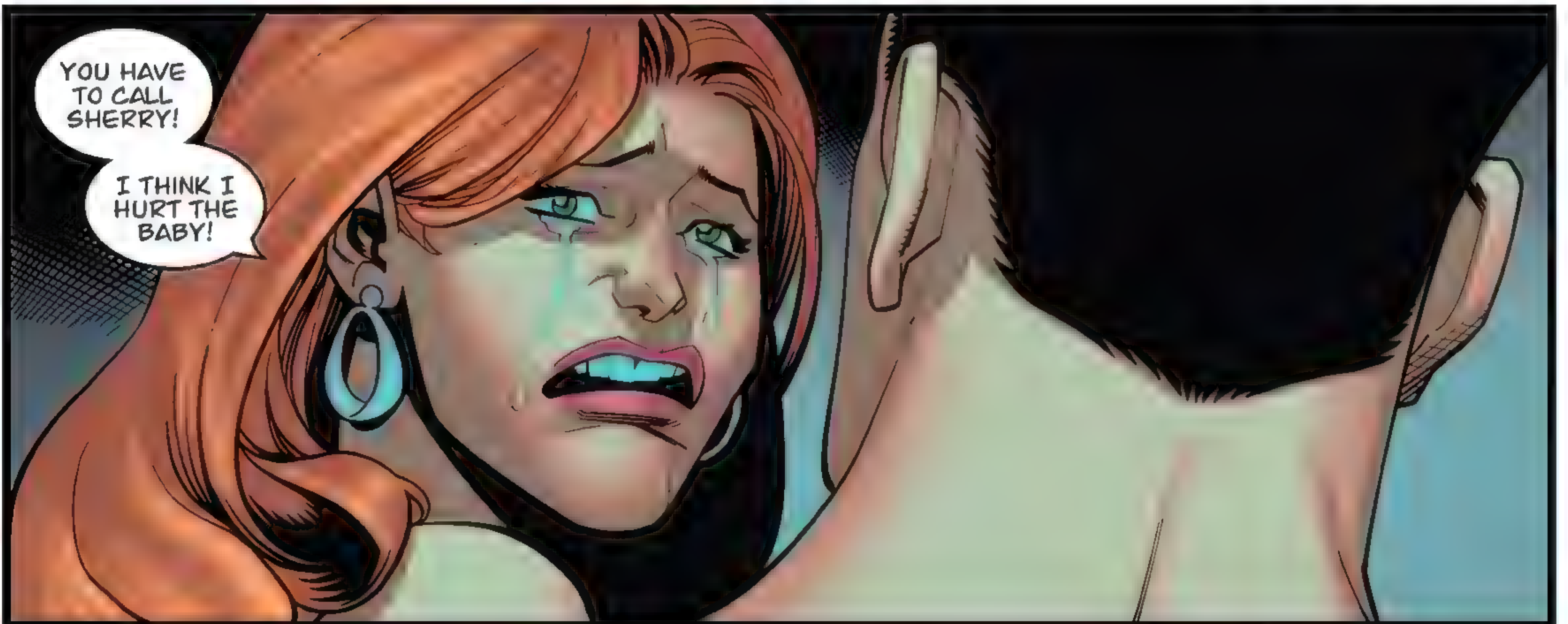
WHAT'S WRONG?

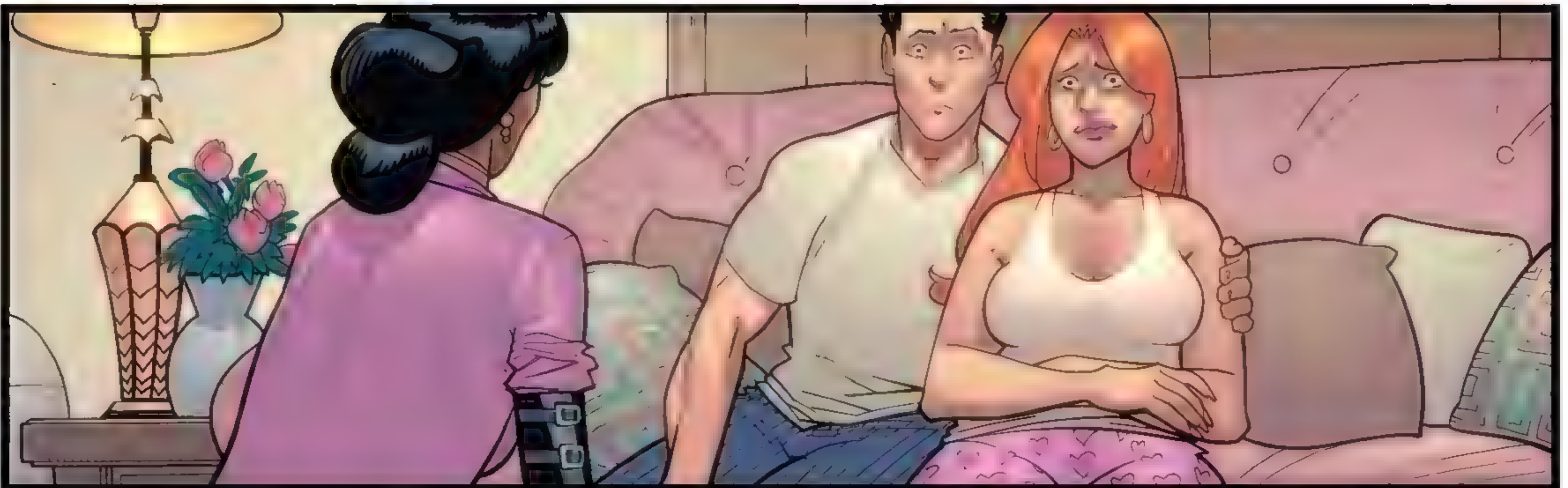
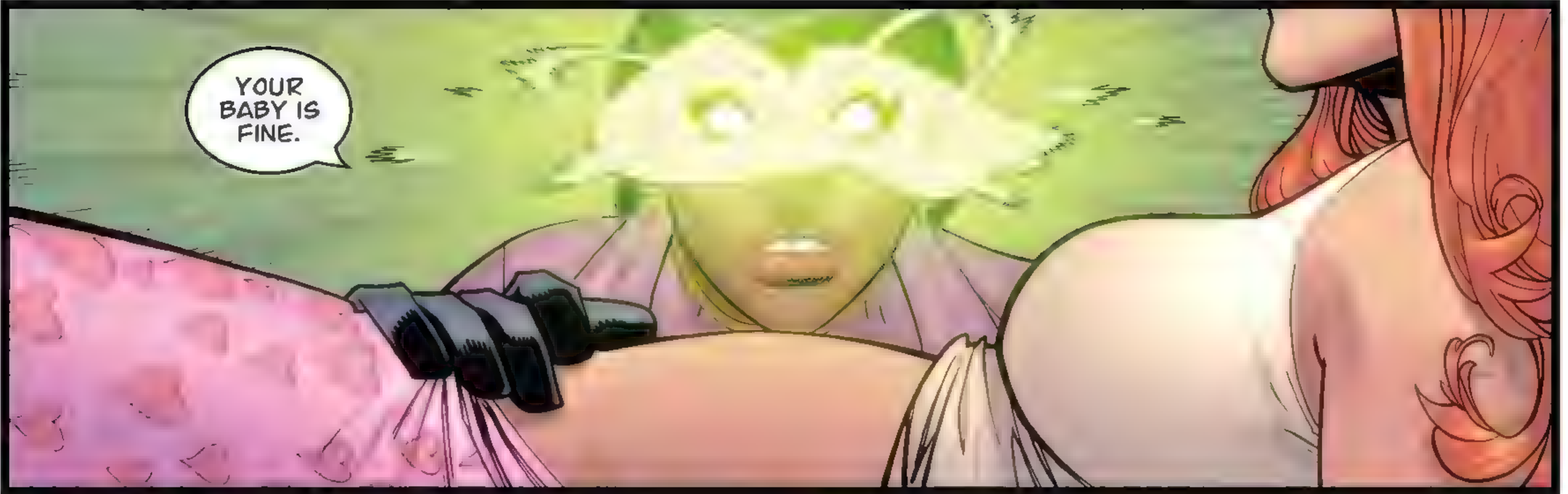
I USED MY POWERS!



YOU HAVE TO CALL SHERRY!

I THINK I HURT THE BABY!





THE LAST REMAINING
VILTRUMITE WARSHIP,
STATIONED ON THE MOON.

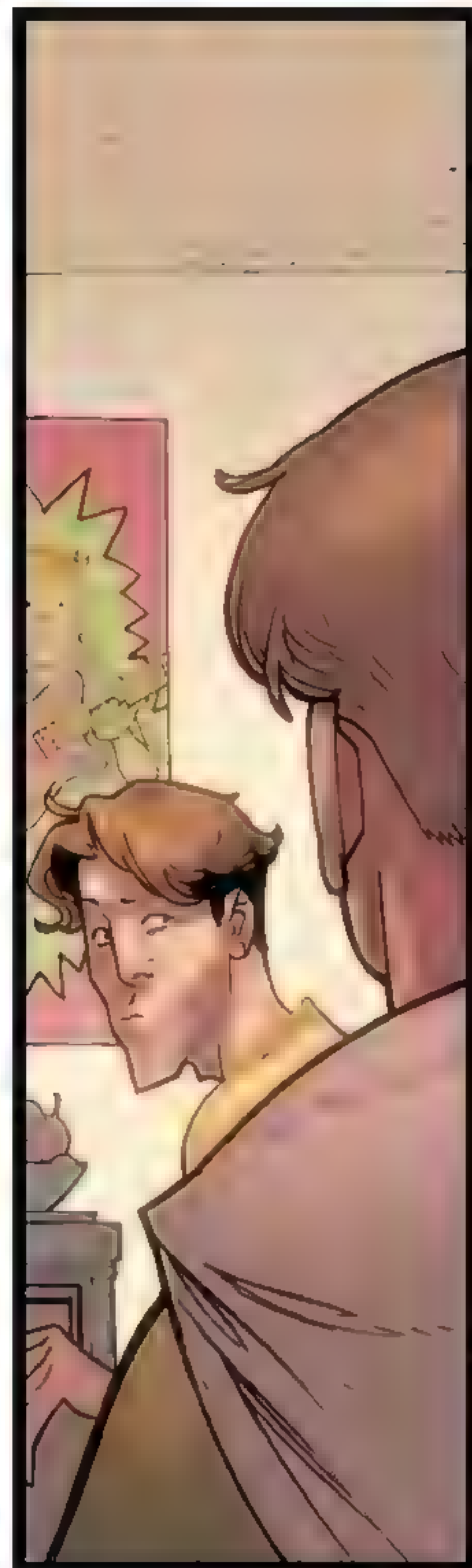
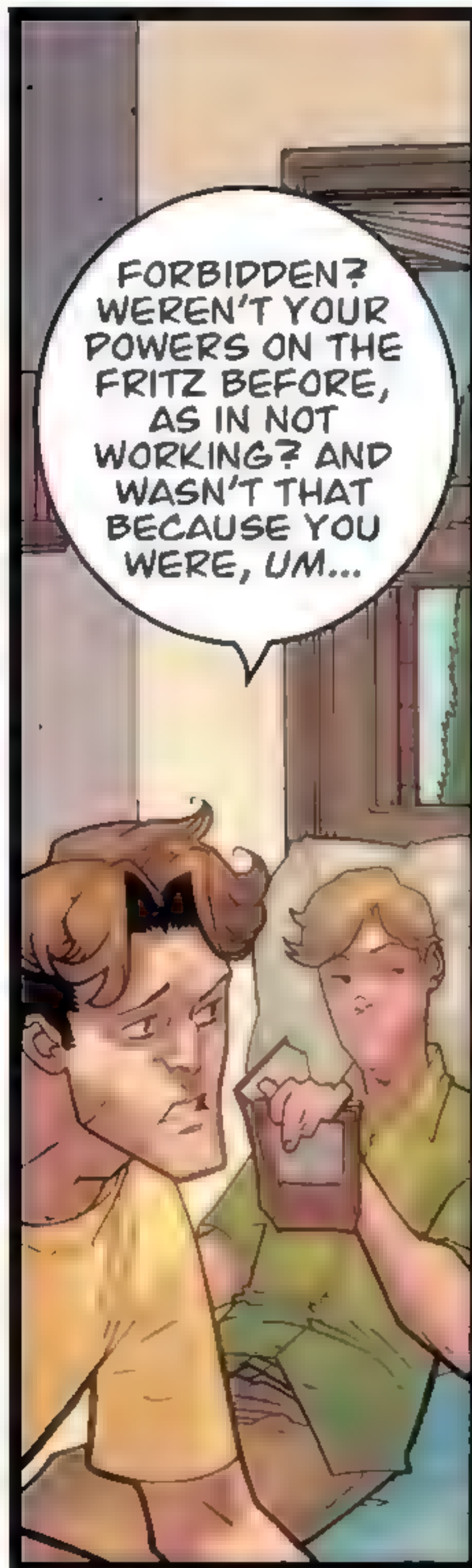
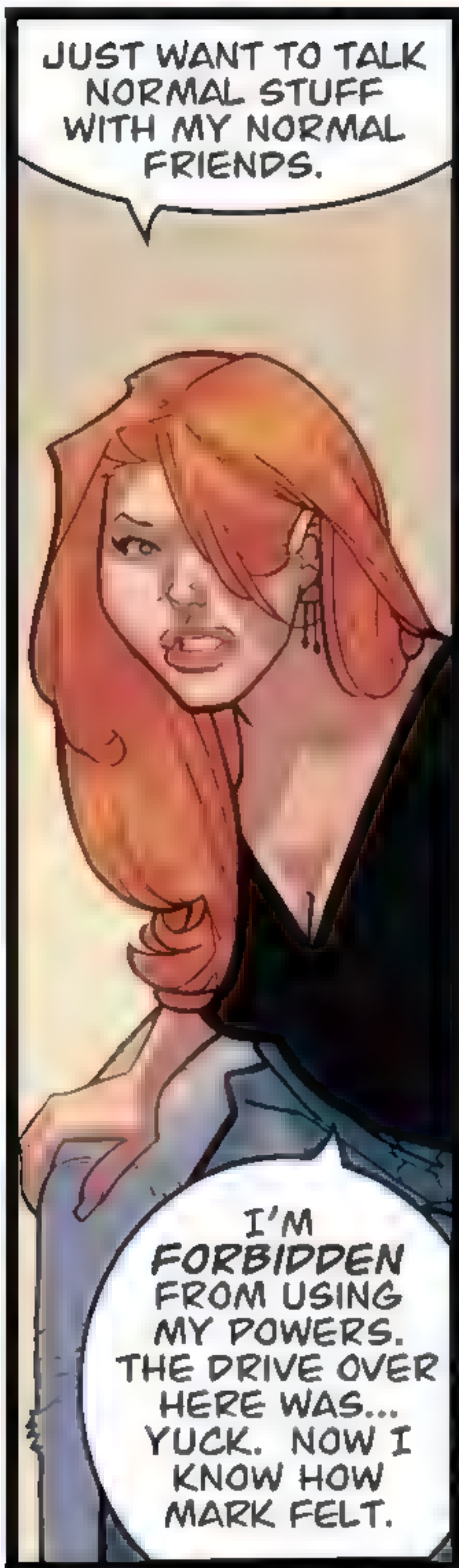
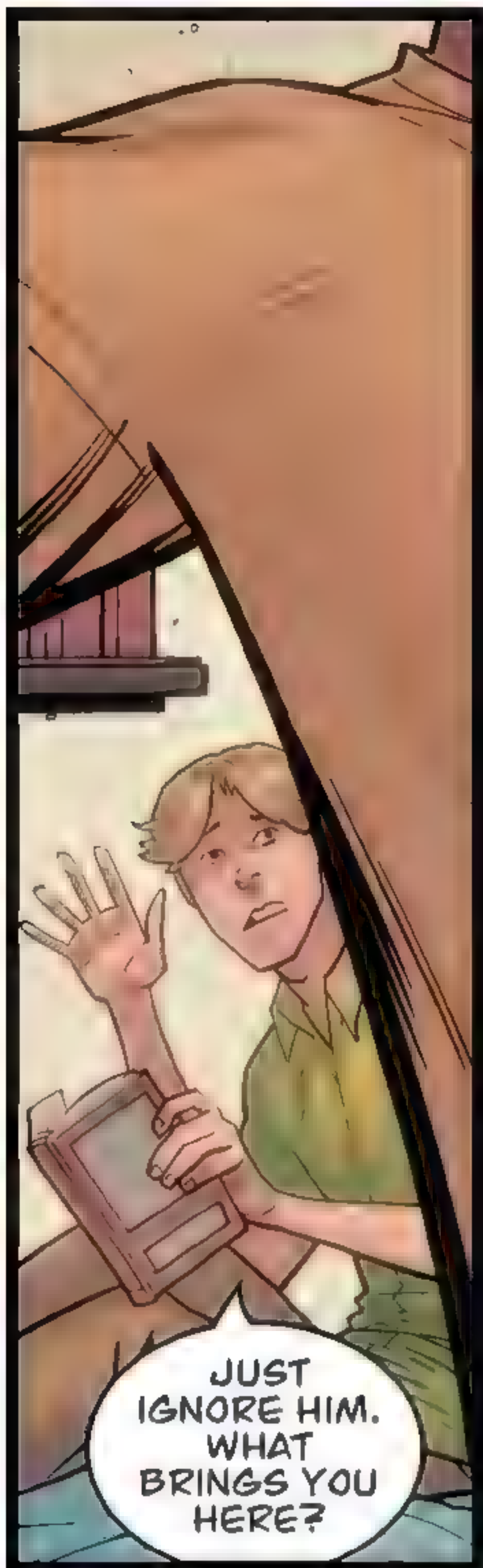


YOU
DISGUST
ME.

THEY'LL
NEVER
FOLLOW
YOU.









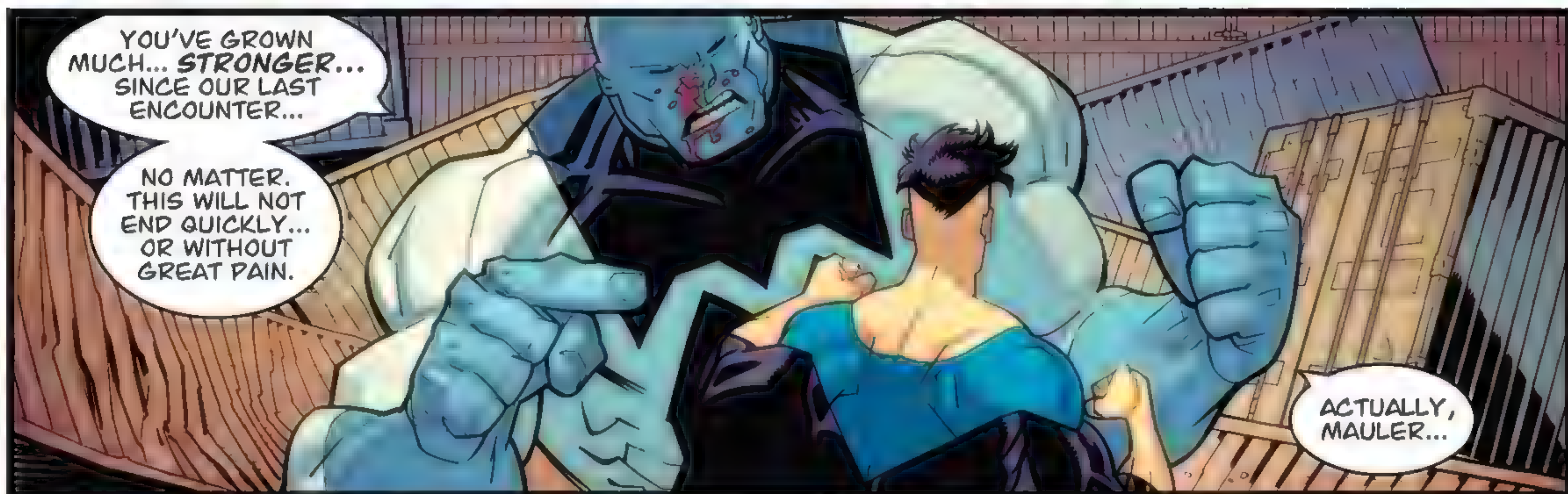


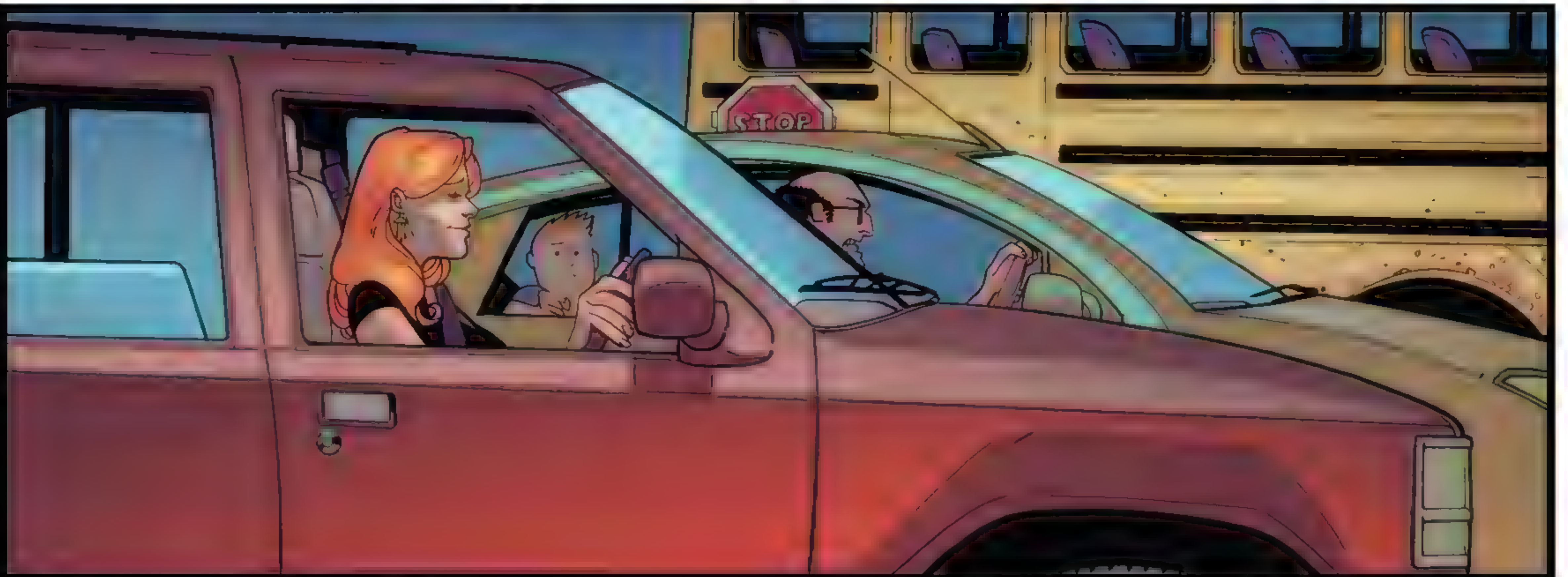
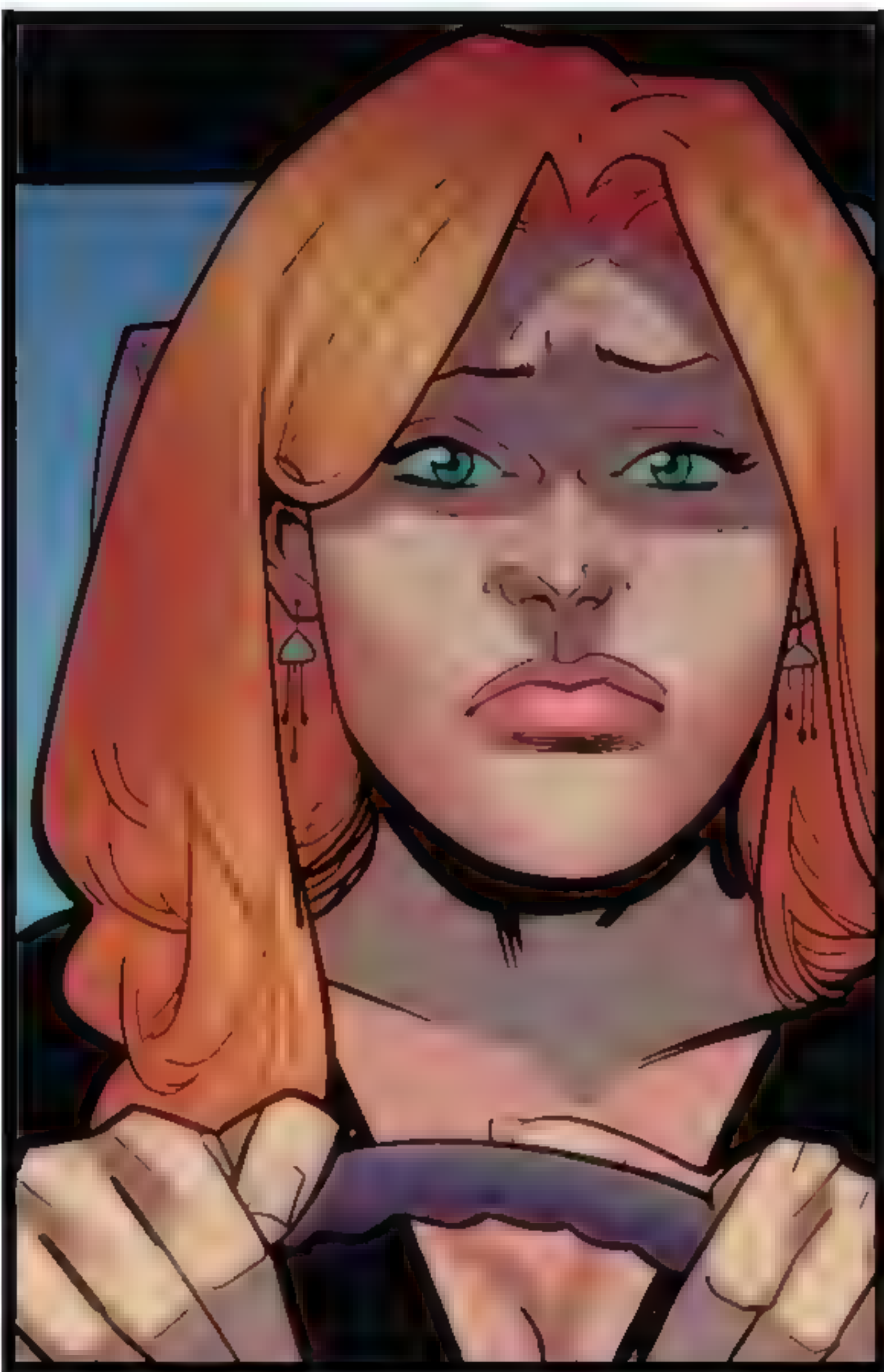
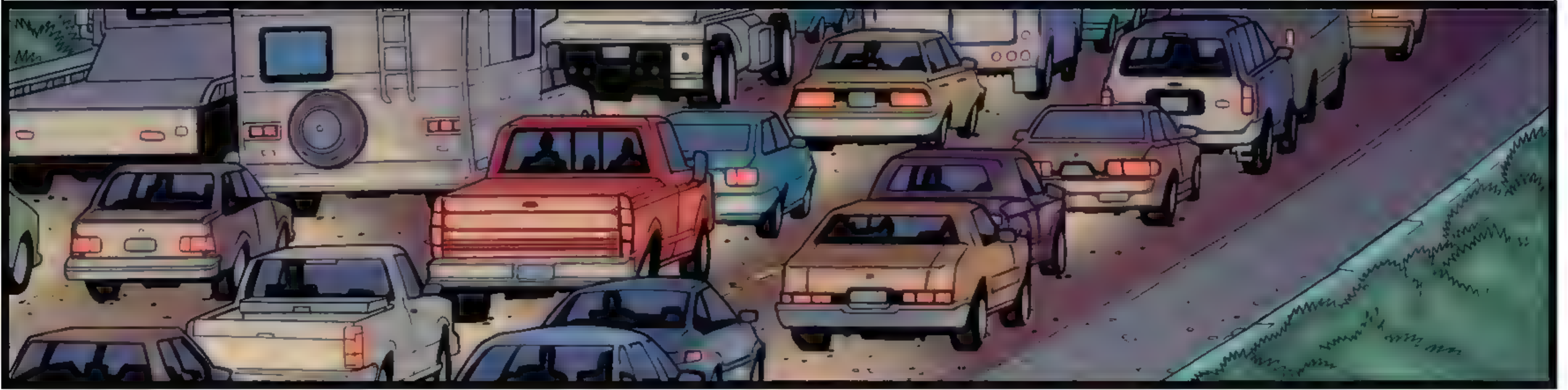
KRAKK!

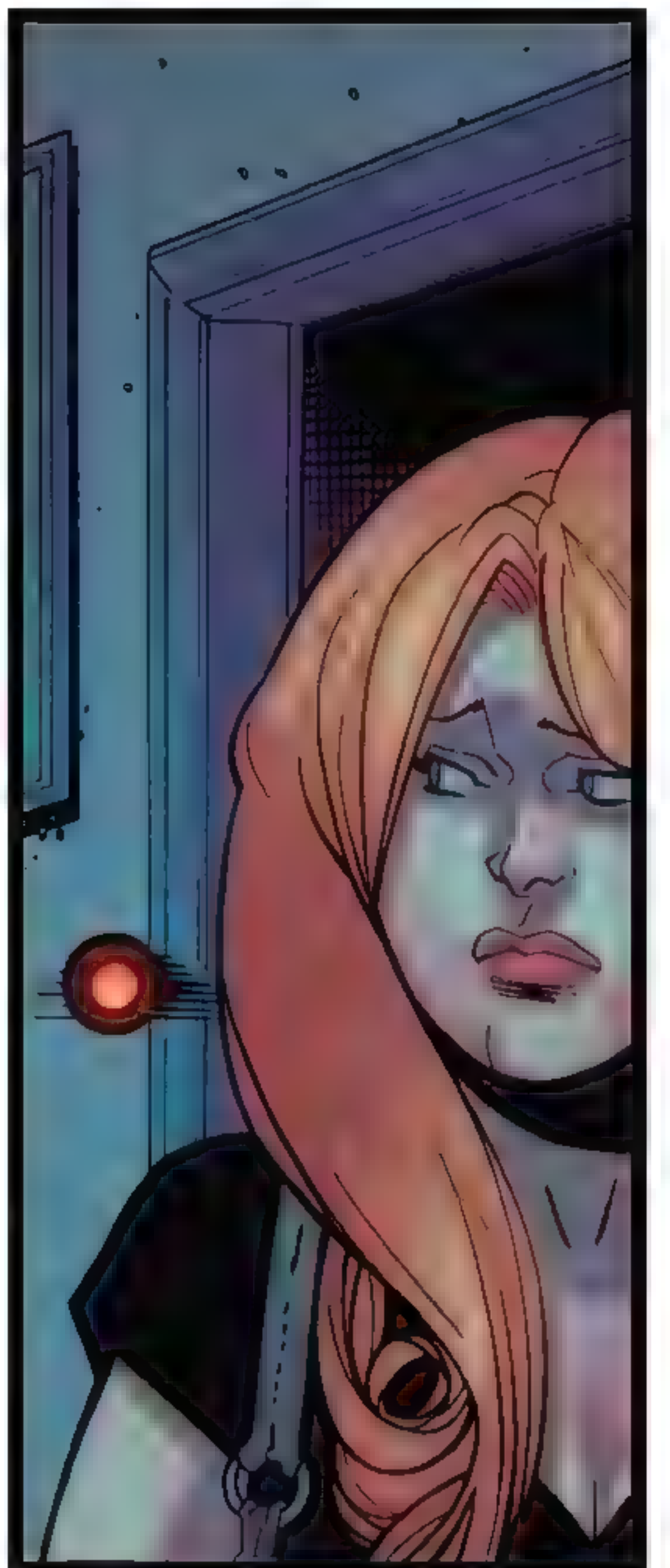
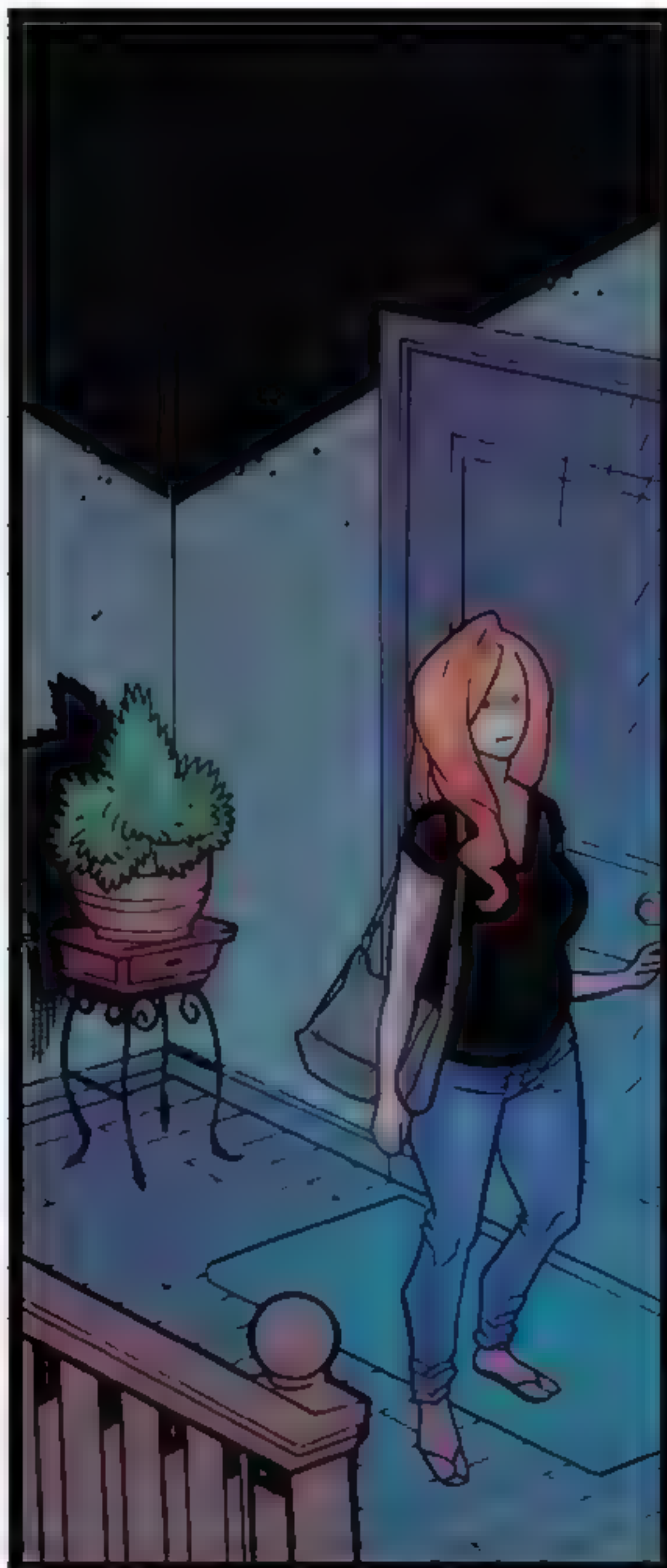
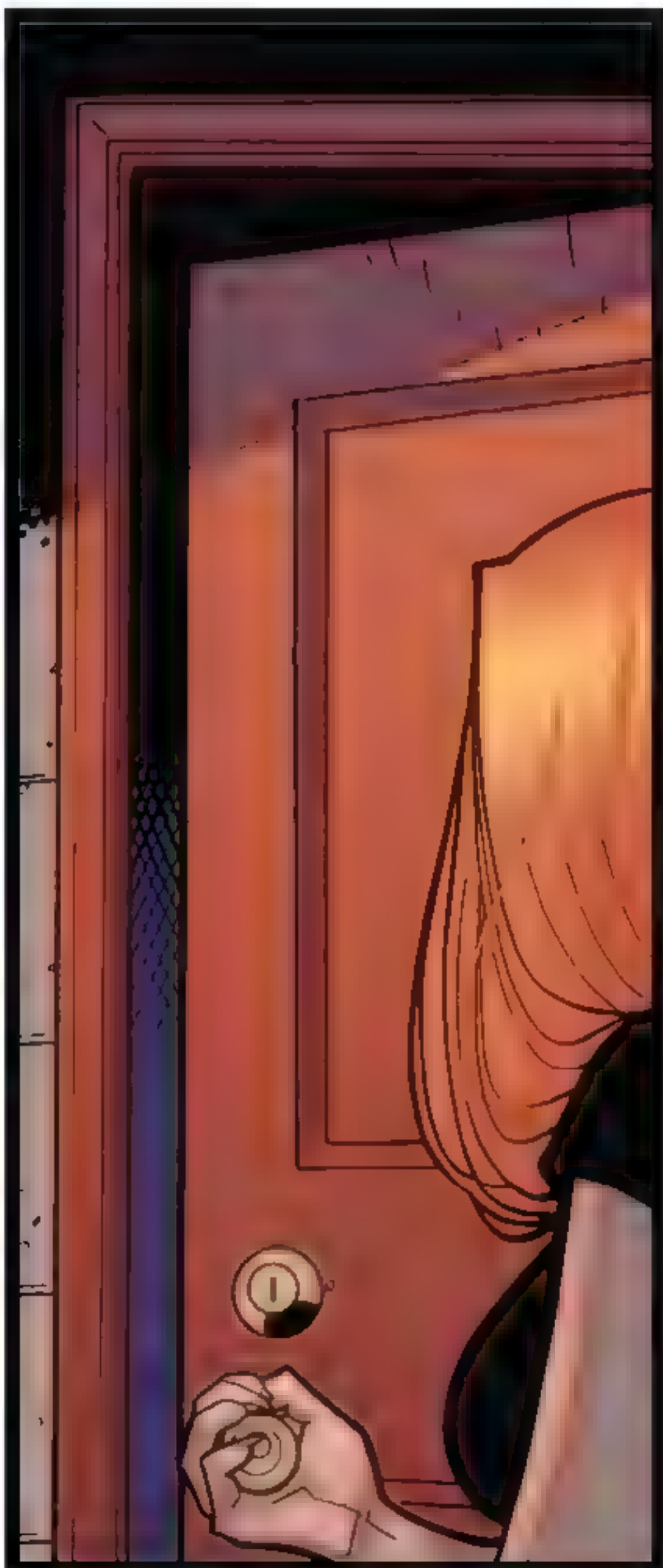
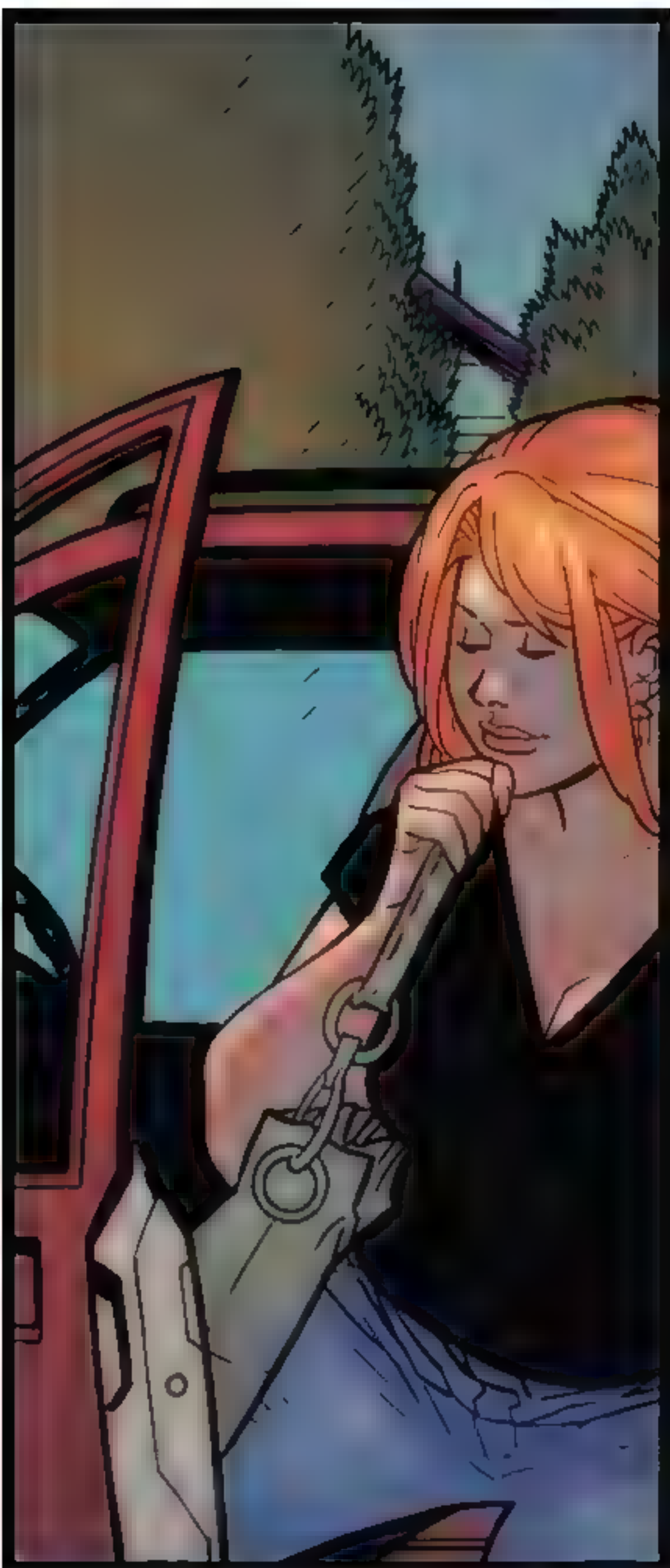
WHAT
THE
HECK?!

I THOUGHT
YOU WERE
DEAD!*

*LOOKS LIKE SOMEONE DIDN'T READ
GUARDING THE GLOBE VOLUME 2:
HARD TO KILL... AVAILABLE NOW!









NOW!

FWOOMP!

I HONESTLY
EXPECTED HIS
MOTHER. THIS IS
MUCH MORE
INTERESTING...



I NOTICED THINGS WERE A BIT DIFFERENT... FURNITURE, DECORATIONS. DID DEBBIE GRAYSON MOVE OUT AND LET YOU MOVE IN HERE WITH HER SON?

THAT'S A LITTLE STRANGE.

THAT PURPLE BABY STILL LIVE HERE? WHERE'S THAT AT?



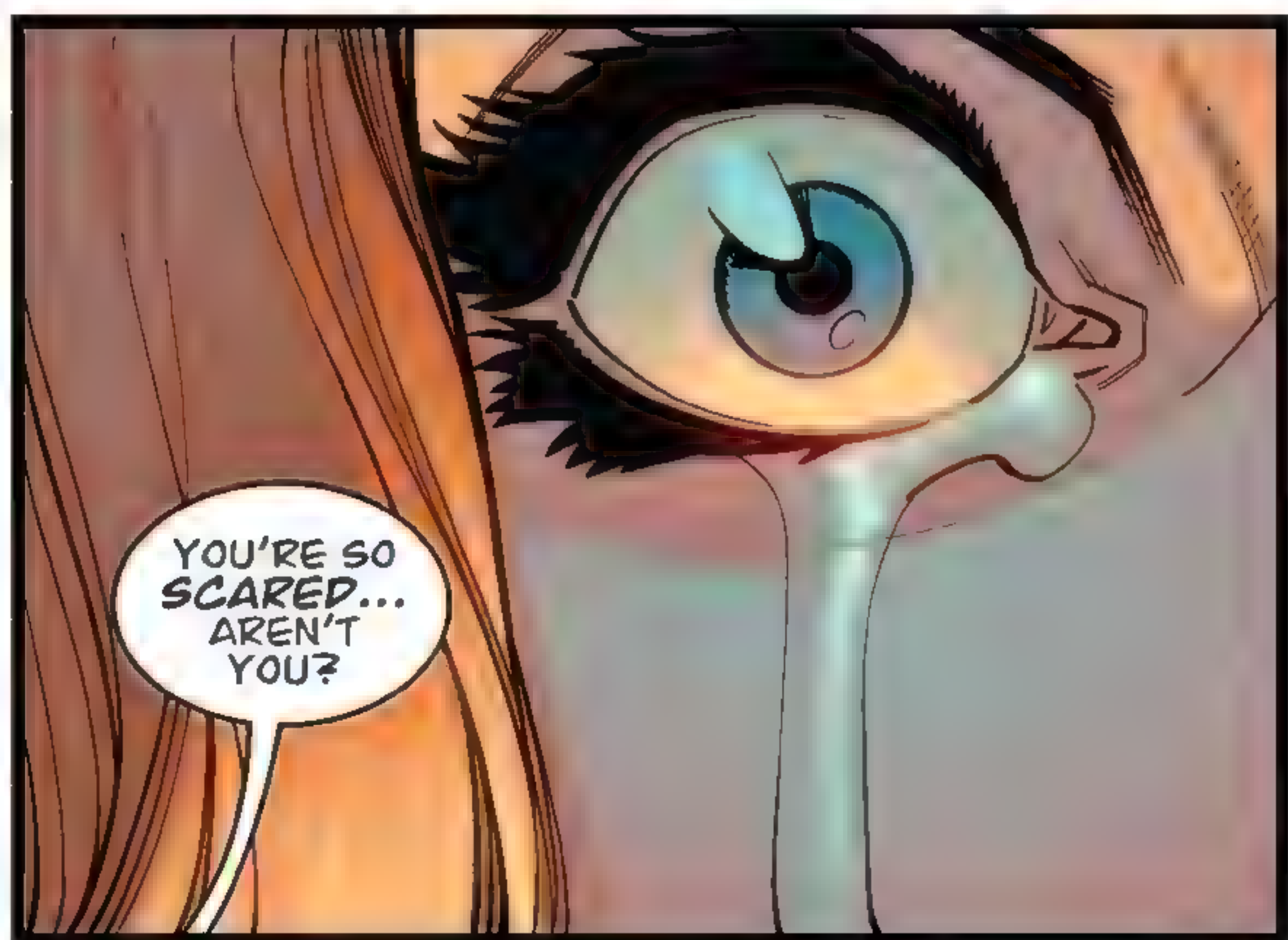
...PLEASE--



BEGGING?
ALREADY?!
JUST THE KIND OF COWARD I WOULD EXPECT MARK GRAYSON TO BE WITH.

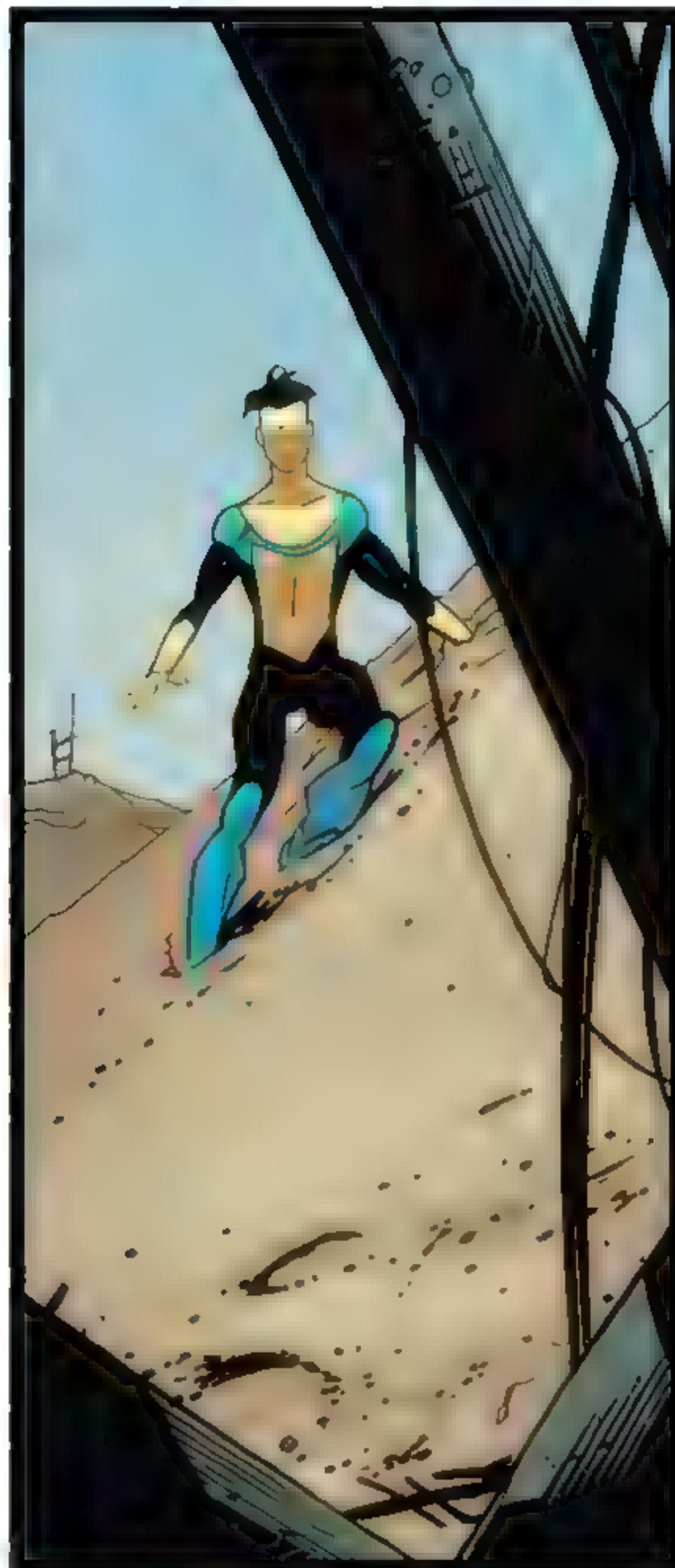
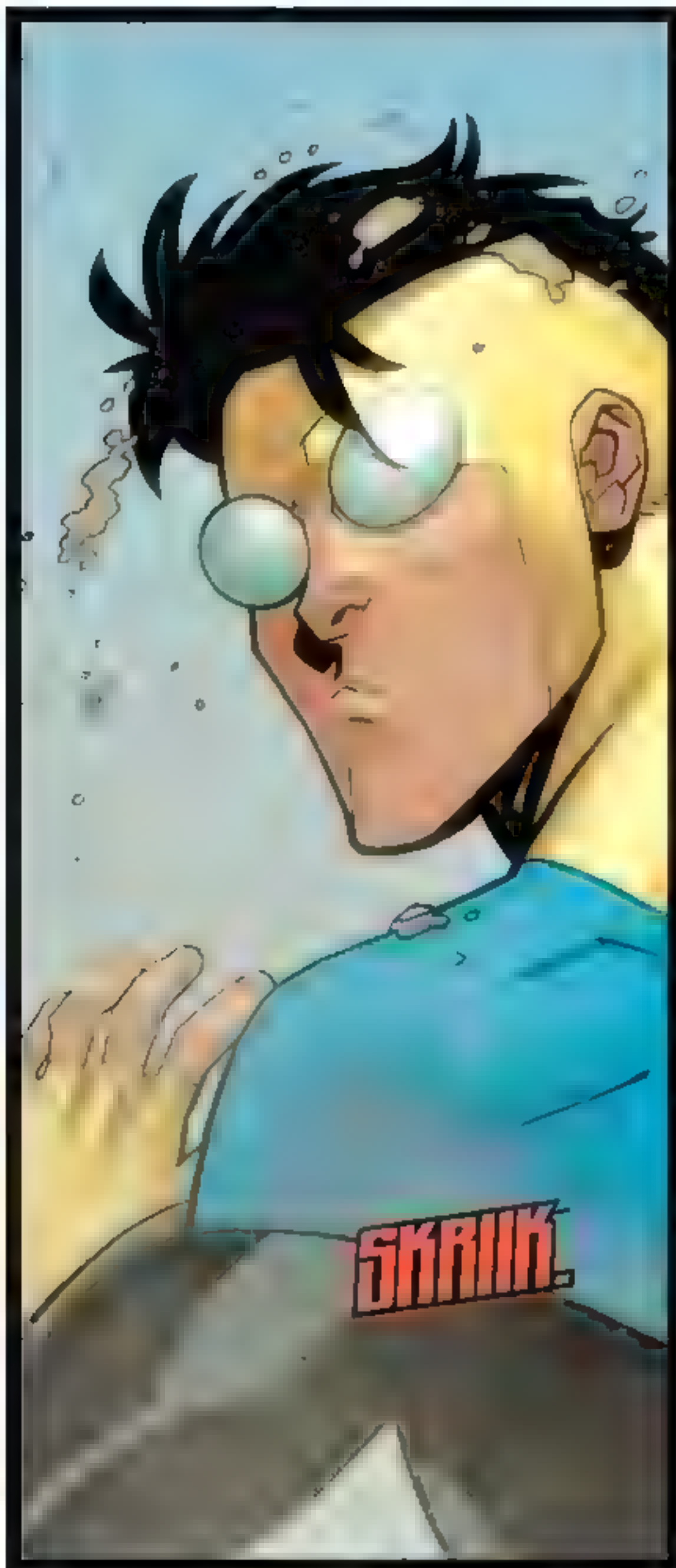


DO YOU EVEN KNOW HE'S A SUPERHERO?
I'M ASSUMING YOU HAVE NO POWERS OR YOU WOULD HAVE TRIED TO USE THEM ON ME BY NOW.



YOU'RE SO SCARED... AREN'T YOU?







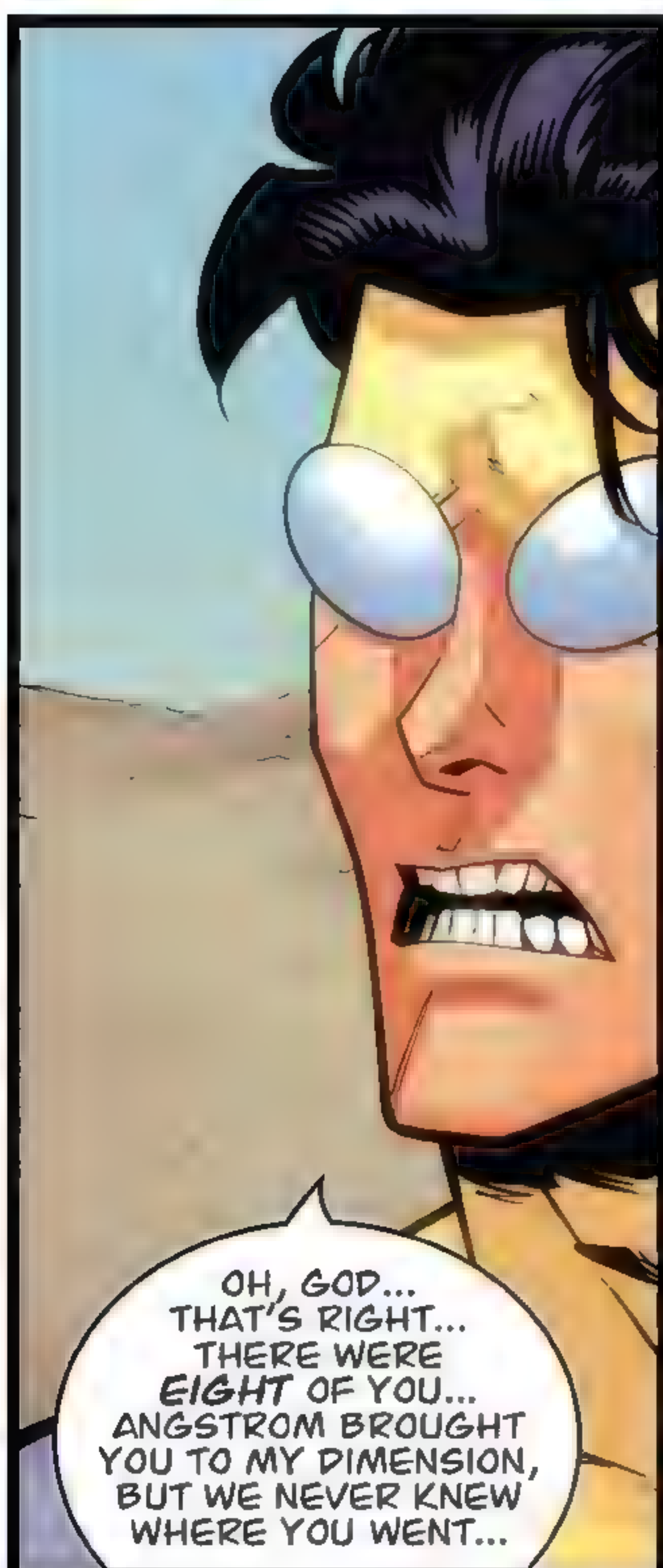
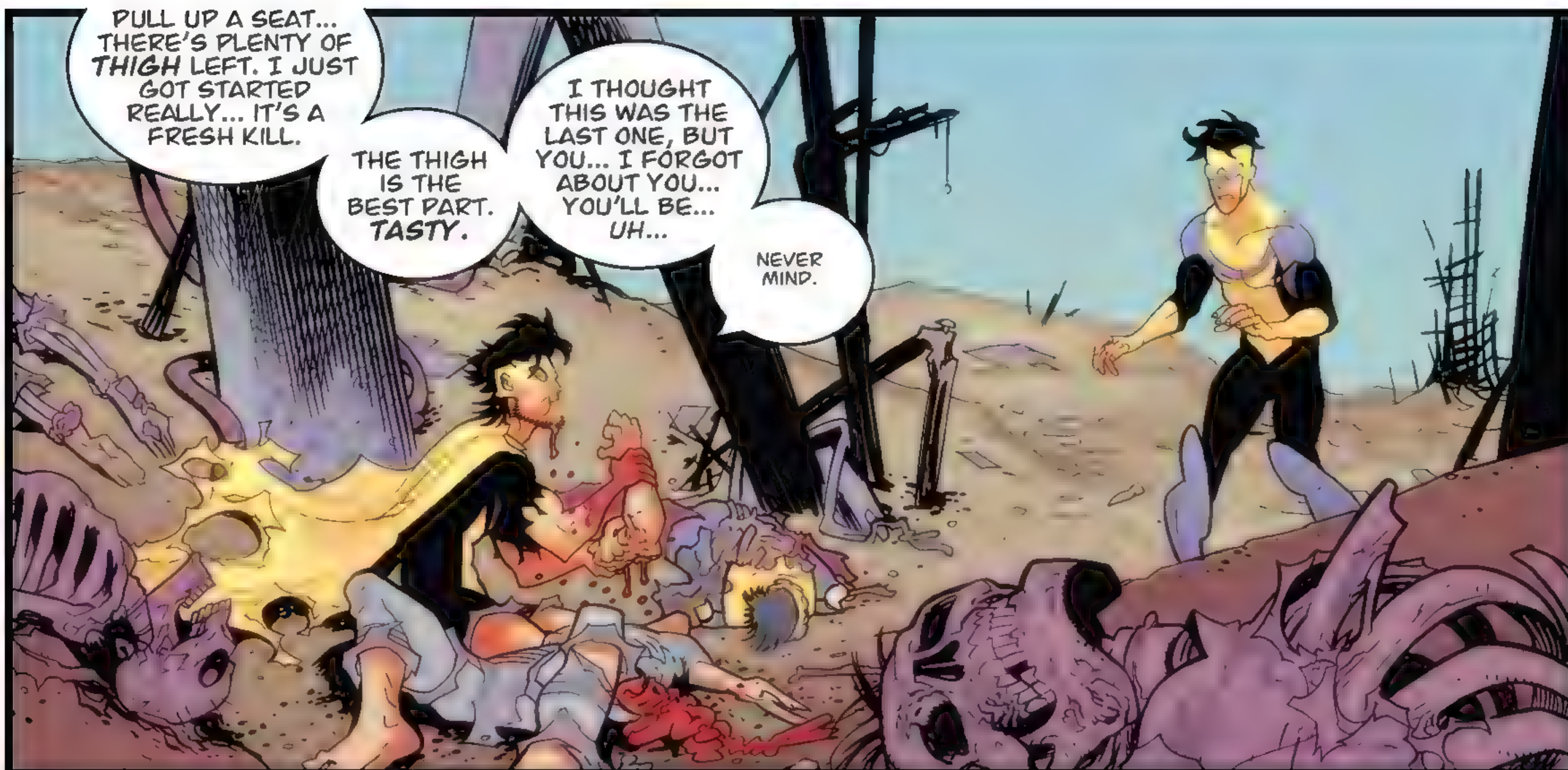
OH,
GOOD.

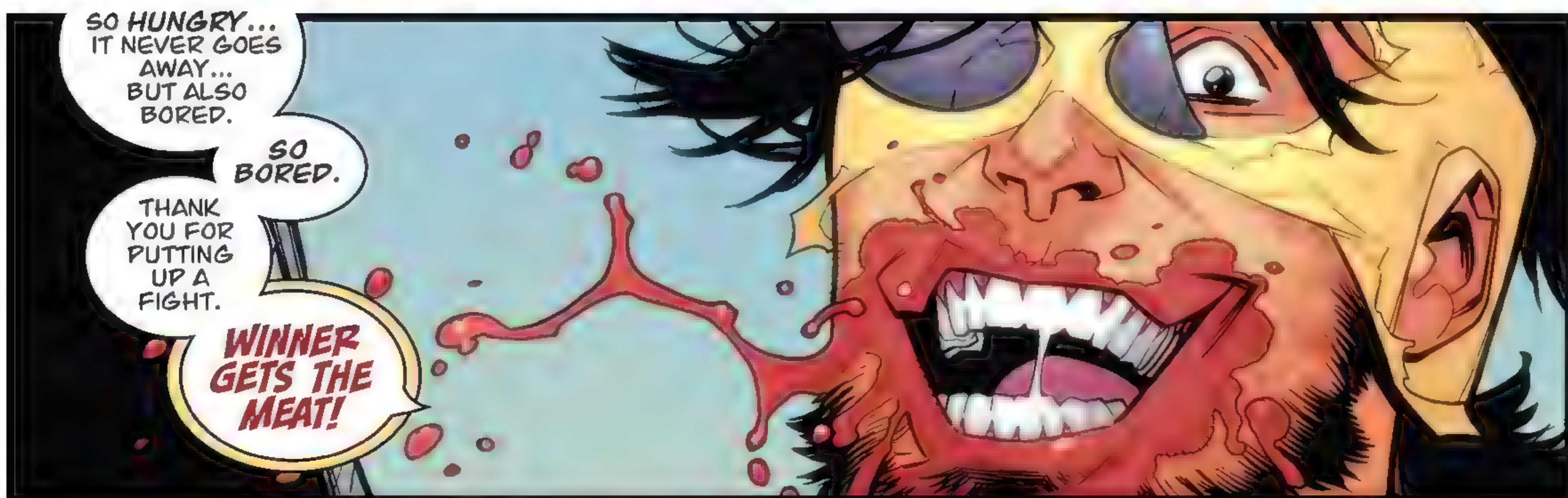
YOU
ARRIVED
JUST IN
TIME FOR
DINNER.



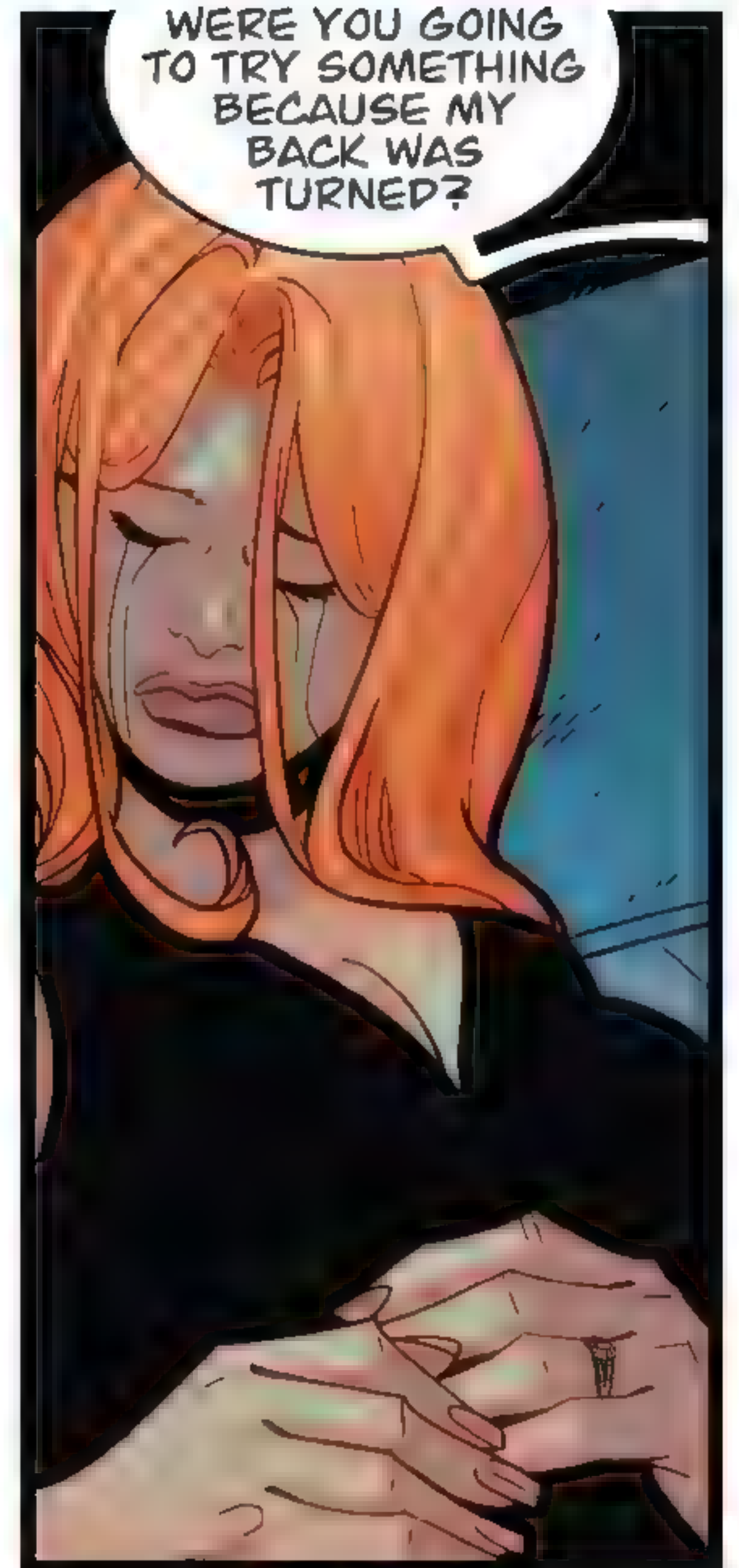
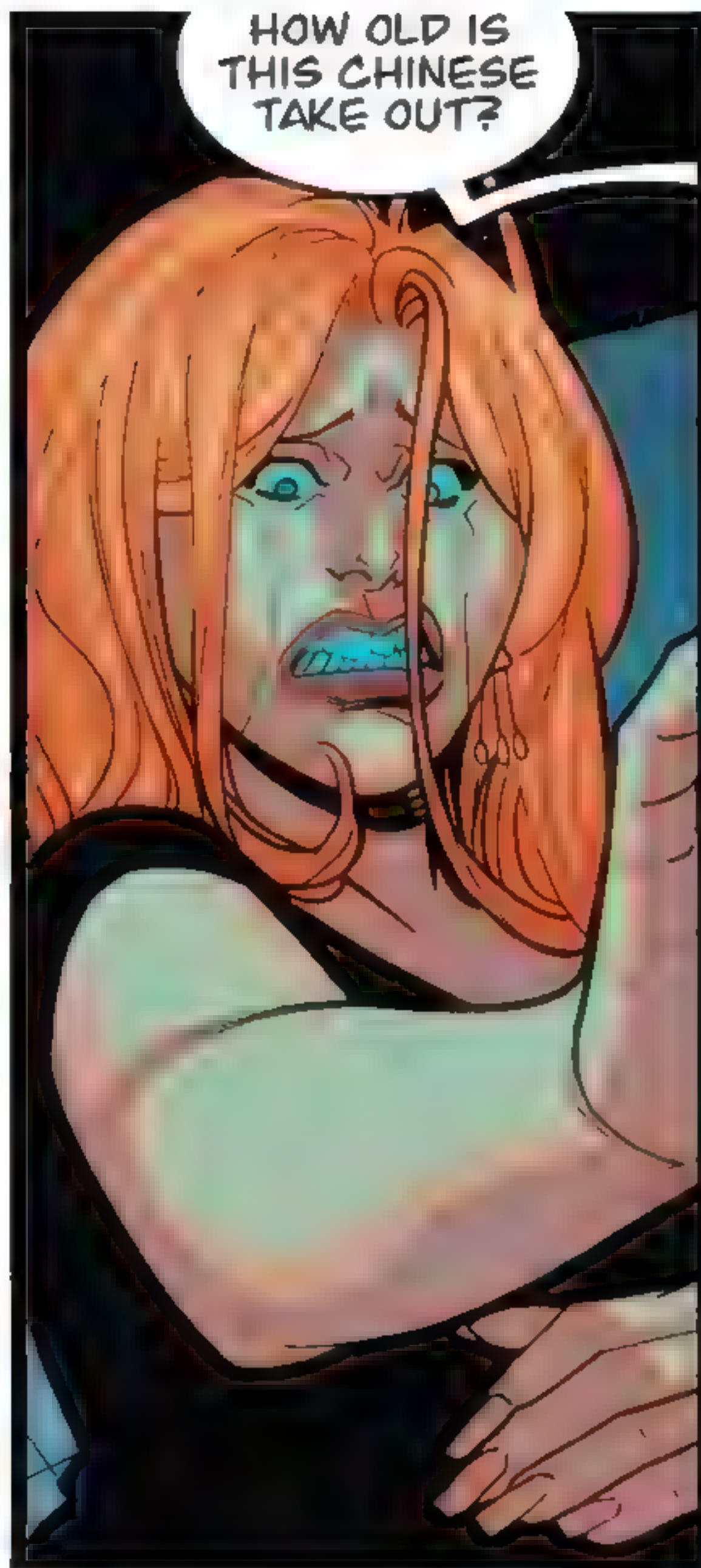
CHAPTER 104











WAIT A
MINUTE...
YOU ARE
HER!

HE WAS
WITH SOME
NORMAL GIRL
WHEN WE FIRST
STARTED OUR
SPARRING. I
THOUGHT THIS WAS
A DIMENSION WHERE
HE SOMEHOW
DIDN'T END UP
WITH YOU.

THE
MIGHTY
ATOM
EVE.

AND IN THIS
DIMENSION
YOU HAVE
A MIGHTY
WAISTLINE,
TOO!

WHICH IS STRANGE...
YOU'RE SO VERY
ACTIVE IN ALL THE
OTHER DIMENSIONS
WHERE I'VE
OBSERVED
YOU.

AND THEN
THERE'S THE
STRANGE FACT THAT
YOU HAVEN'T BOTHERED
TO ATTACK ME THE
ENTIRE TIME I'VE BEEN
HERE... EVEN WHEN MY
ORBS NEARLY **CHOKED**
THE LIFE OUT OF
YOU...

HMMMM...

YOU'RE
PREGNANT...
AREN'T
YOU?

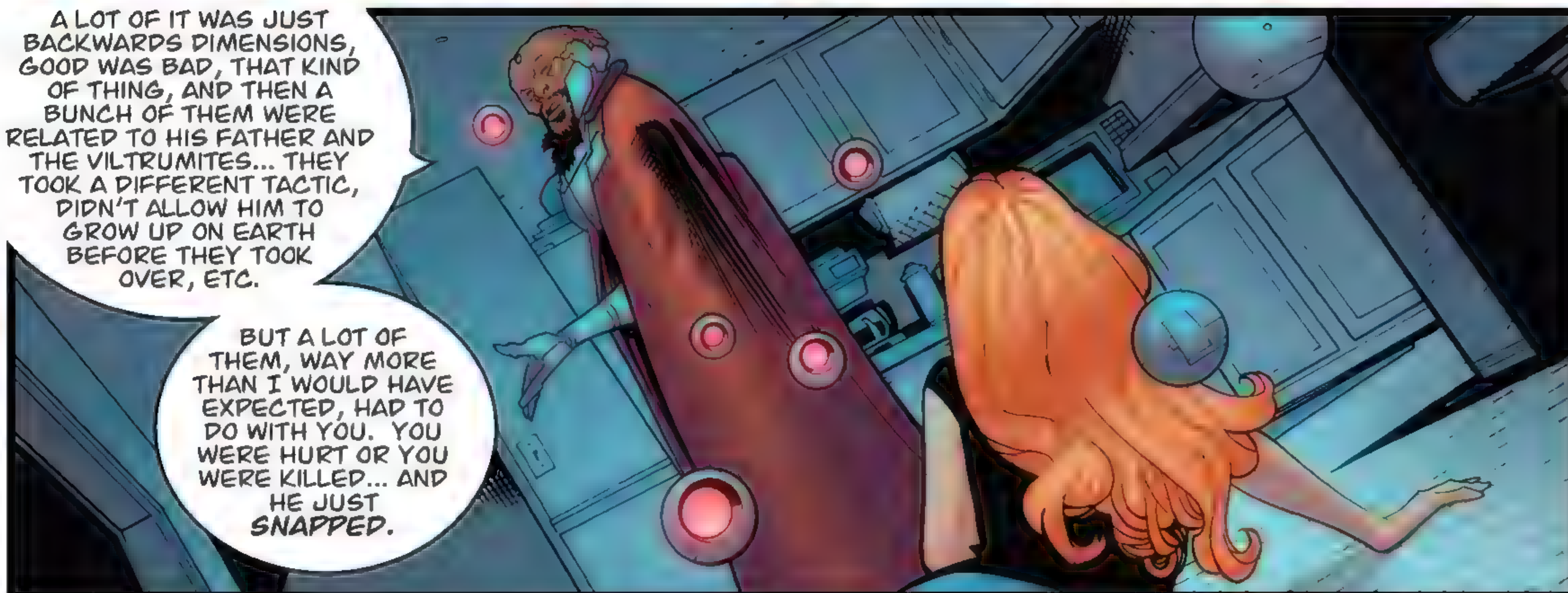


DON'T EVEN TRY TO DENY IT. I KNOW THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT IT IS.

YOU AND MARK... YOU'RE QUITE **INTERTWINED** IN THE MULTIVERSE. I SET OUT TO FIND VERSIONS OF HIM THAT HAD TURNED BAD... HOW DO YOU THINK THAT HAPPENS--MARK TURNING TO THE DARK SIDE?

A LOT OF IT WAS JUST BACKWARDS DIMENSIONS, GOOD WAS BAD, THAT KIND OF THING, AND THEN A BUNCH OF THEM WERE RELATED TO HIS FATHER AND THE VILTRUMITES... THEY TOOK A DIFFERENT TACTIC, DIDN'T ALLOW HIM TO GROW UP ON EARTH BEFORE THEY TOOK OVER, ETC.

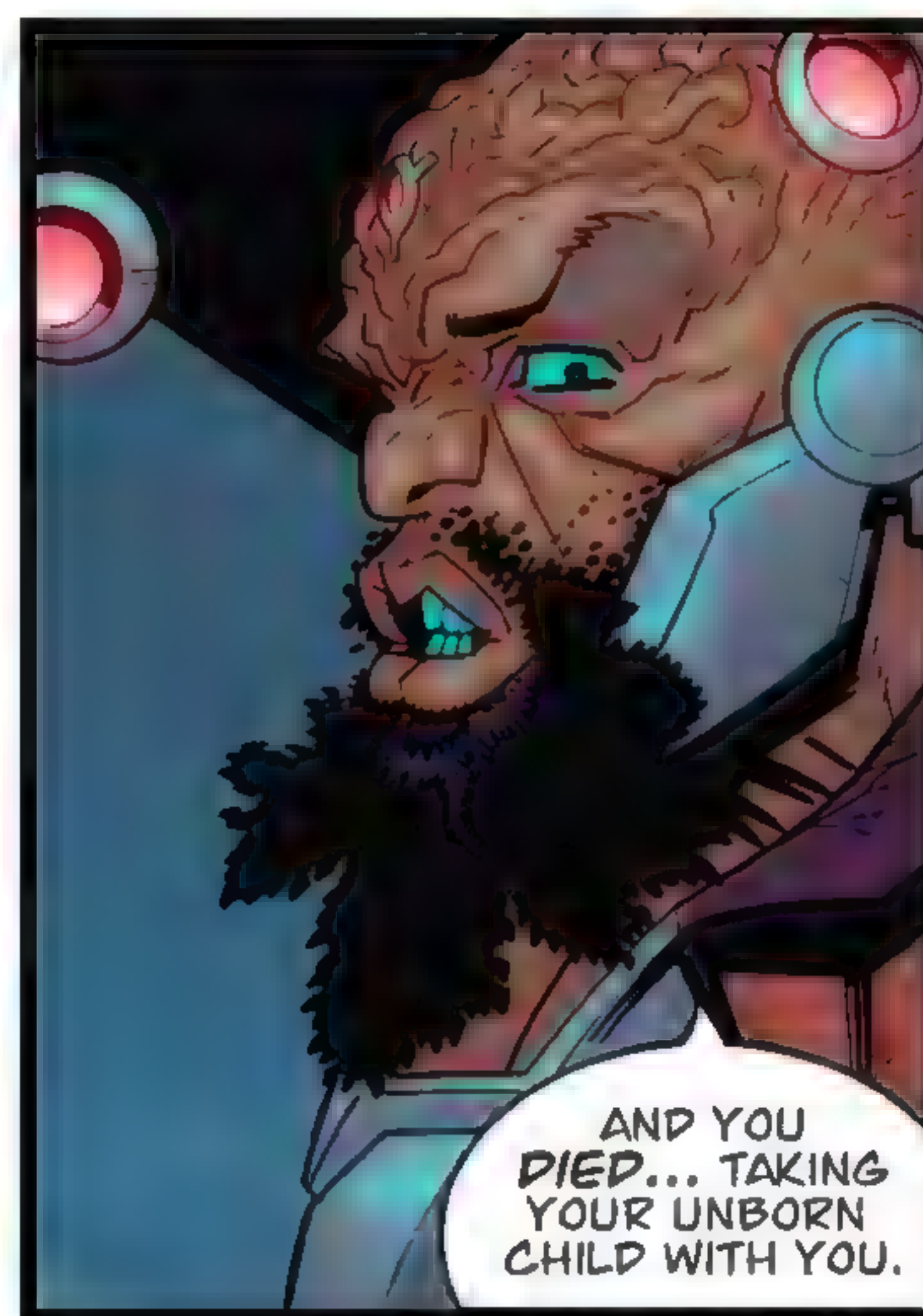
BUT A LOT OF THEM, WAY MORE THAN I WOULD HAVE EXPECTED, HAD TO DO WITH YOU. YOU WERE HURT OR YOU WERE KILLED... AND HE JUST **SNAPPED**.



USING YOUR POWERS WOULD KILL THE CHILD... BUT IF YOU DIDN'T USE YOUR POWERS... THEY WOULD KILL YOU BOTH. YOU WERE SO **CONFIDENT** THAT YOU ACTUALLY BELIEVED YOU COULD GET OUT OF IT WITHOUT YOUR POWERS.



THERE WAS ONE IN PARTICULAR, WHERE THE LIZARD LEAGUE WAS FAR MORE DANGEROUS THAN THEY ARE HERE--THEY CAME AFTER YOU, AND YOU WERE PREGNANT.



AND YOU **DIED**... TAKING YOUR UNBORN CHILD WITH YOU.

YOU THINK I'D STILL MAKE THE SAME MISTAKE KNOWING THAT?

I DO, SO SLOW DOWN WITH THE POSTURING. BESIDES, I WANT TO KILL YOU IN FRONT OF HIM.

YOU'RE SAFE UNTIL HE COMES BACK.







COME ON.
THAT WON'T SLOW HIM DOWN LONG.



I DON'T CARE WHO YOU ARE, HE'S GOING TO KILL YOU, HE TRIED TO KILL ME. IF WE WORK TOGETHER WE CAN STOP HIM FROM KILLING BOTH OF US.

I THINK.

SURE, UH... SOUNDS LIKE A PLAN.

I'M NOT GOING TO LIE. I HELPED HIM EAT THE FIRST ONE. WE ALL DID... GUY WAS A JERK, WE WERE STARVING TO DEATH. IT WAS HIM OR US.

I HATED THAT GUY SO MUCH I ALMOST DIDN'T WANT TO EAT HIM BECAUSE I HATED HIM SO MUCH. YOU GET IT?

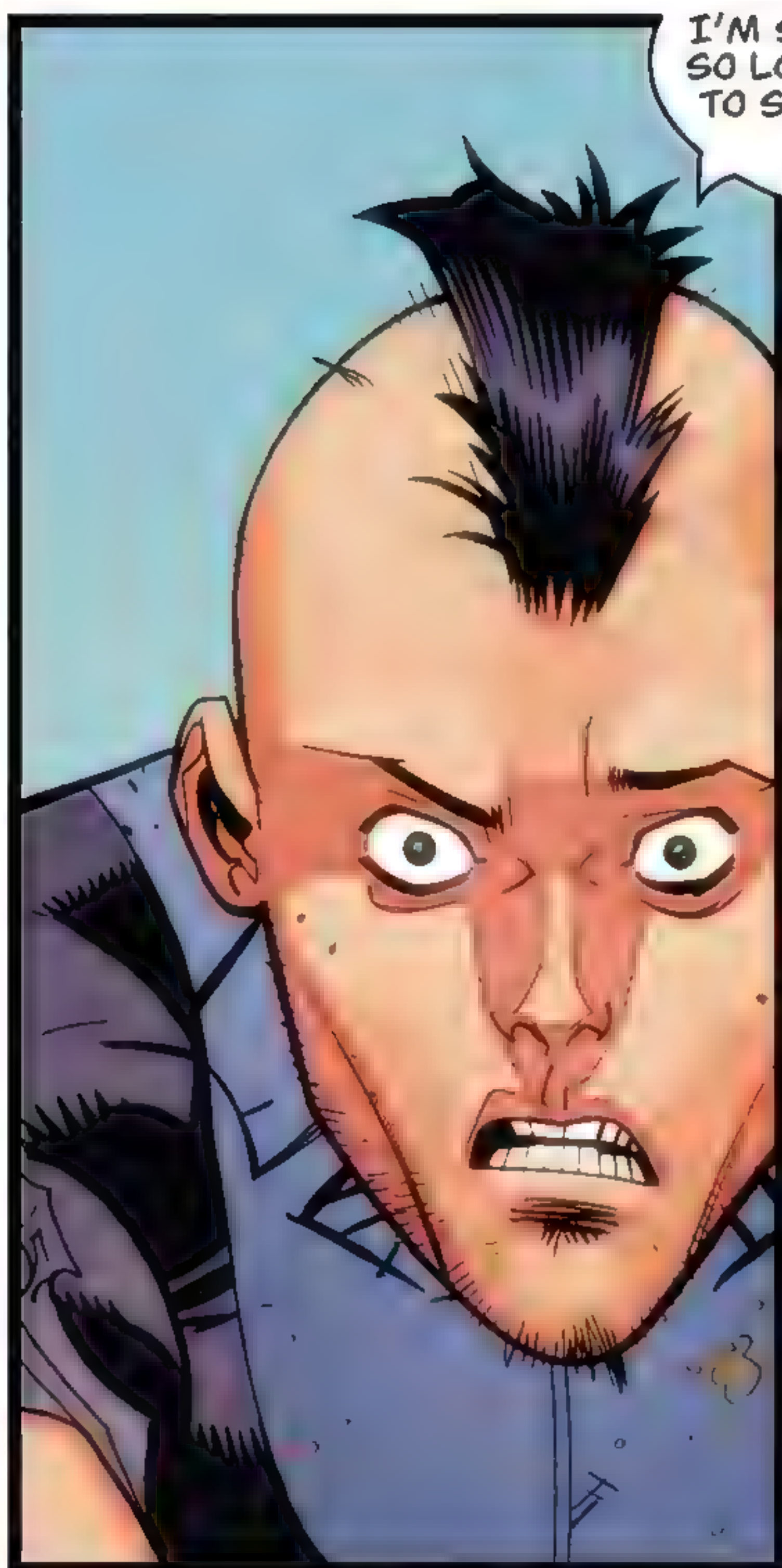
UH, YEAH...



I'M SORRY, IT'S JUST BEEN SO LONG SINCE I'VE TALKED TO SOMEONE... IT'S REALLY NICE TO BE ABLE TO TALK.

I'M SO THIRSTY.

YEAH, I GET THAT... THIS PLACE IS DRY... NOT A LOT OF WATER, HUH?



RIGHT. BEEN DRINKING MY SWEAT... OTHER STUFF...

CRAP. HE FOUND US.



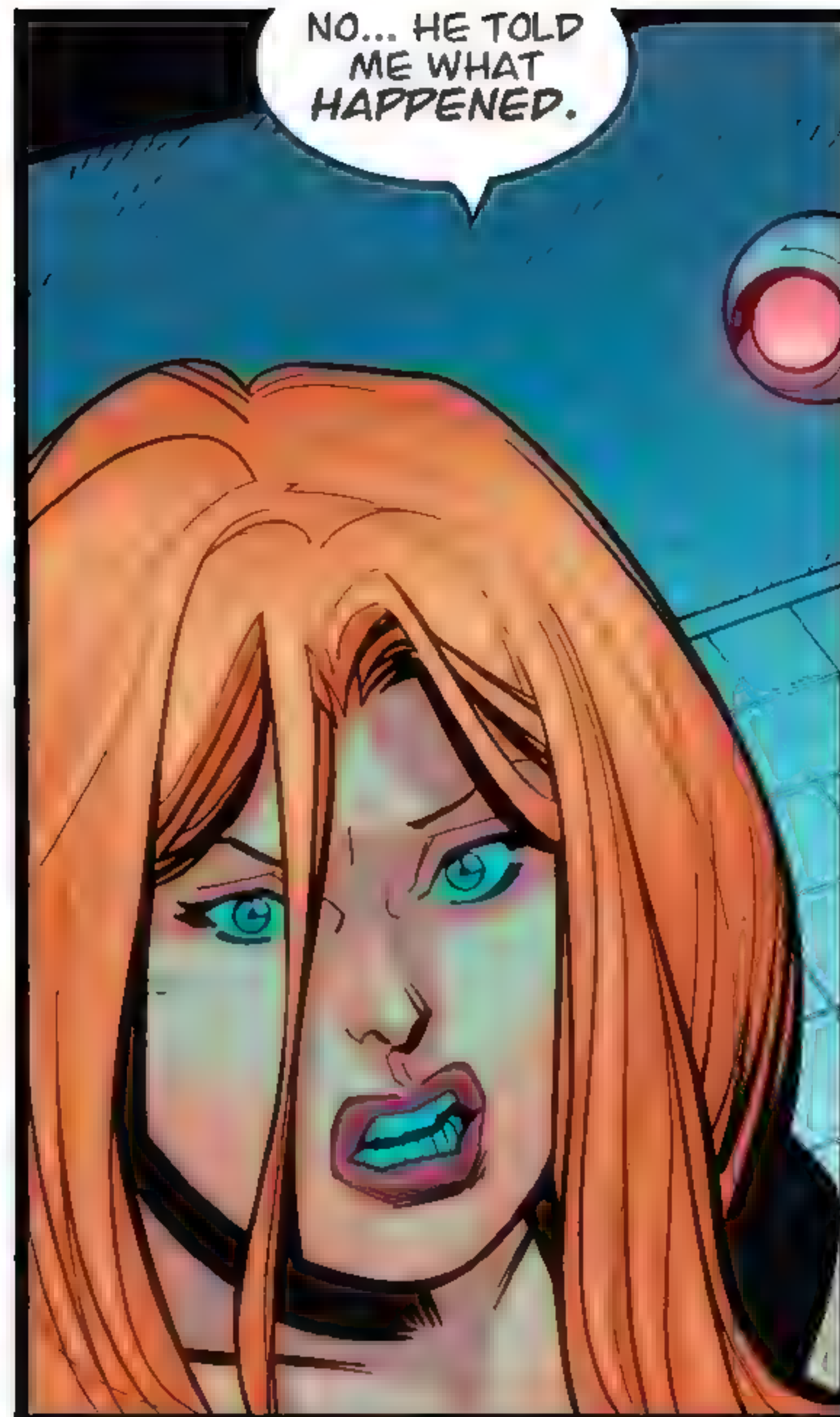


MARK TOLD
ME HOW
YOU GOT LIKE
THIS.



HE TOLD
YOU WHAT
HE DID?

HOW HE
TURNED
ME INTO A
FREAK?!



NO... HE TOLD
ME WHAT
HAPPENED.



YOU MEAN HOW HE
INTERRUPTED MY
EXPERIMENT--KILLING
MY COUNTERPARTS
FROM OTHER DIMENSIONS...
EFFECTIVELY ERASING
ME FROM THE
MULTIVERSE!

NO...
PLEASE... I
WANT TO
HEAR **HIS**
VERSION.

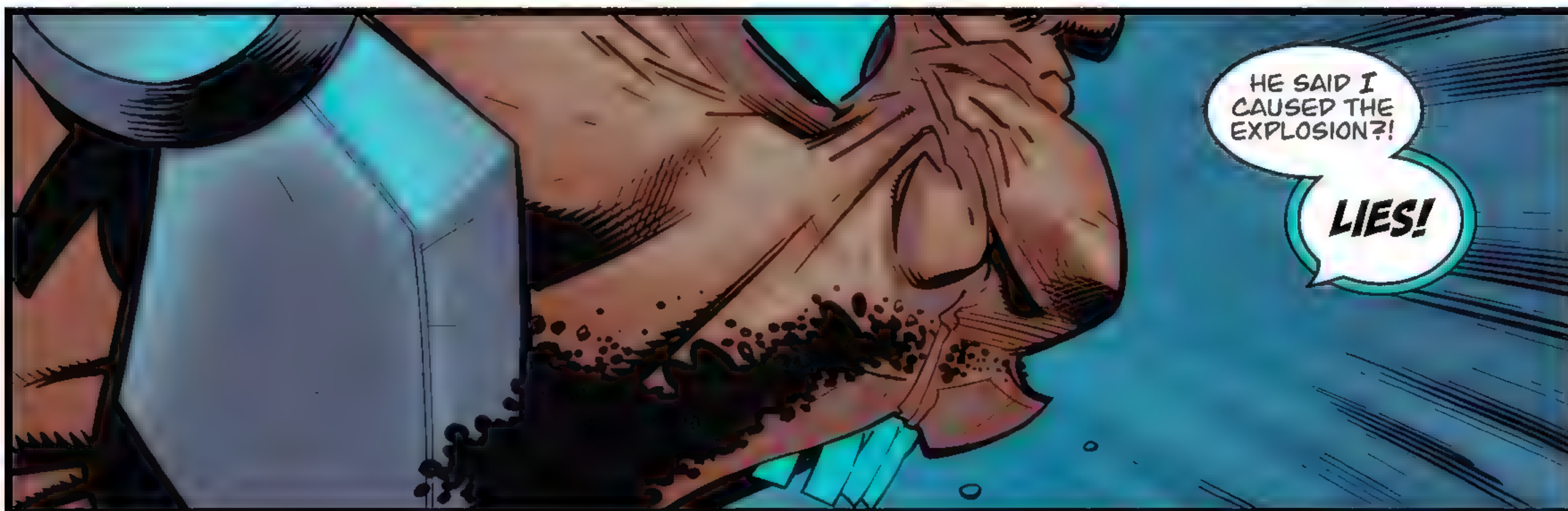


YOU'D GOTTEN THE MAULER TWINS TO
HELP YOU TRANSFER THE MEMORIES
OF ALL YOUR COUNTERPARTS INTO
YOUR HEAD--SO YOU'D KNOW ALL
ABOUT ALL THE OTHER
DIMENSIONS.

AND WHEN HE
SHOWED UP TO STOP
THINGS, YOU
BROUGHT IN A BUNCH
OF OTHER ALTERNATE
REALITY MAULERS...
AND THEY WERE
BEATING MARK TO
DEATH.

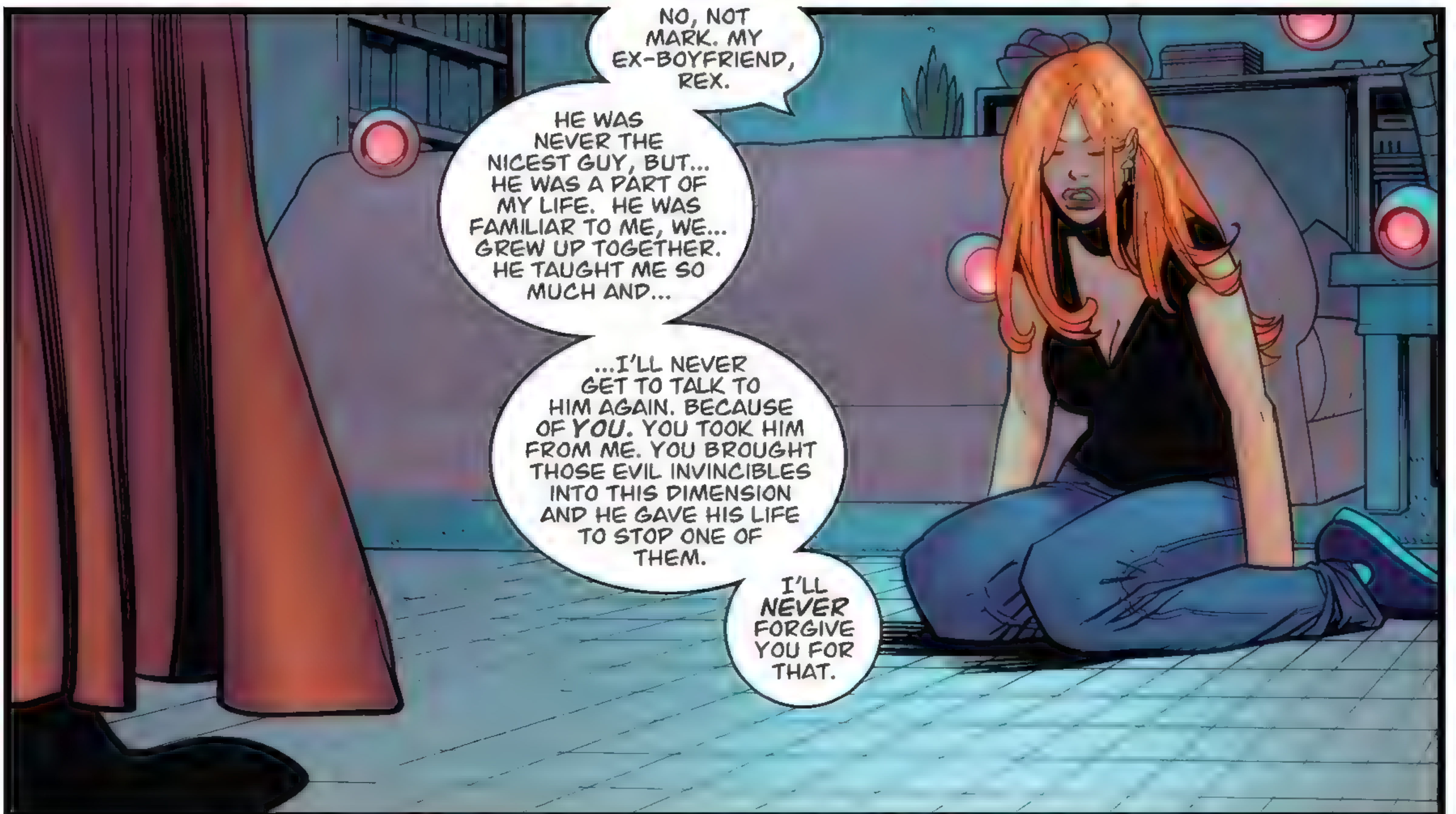
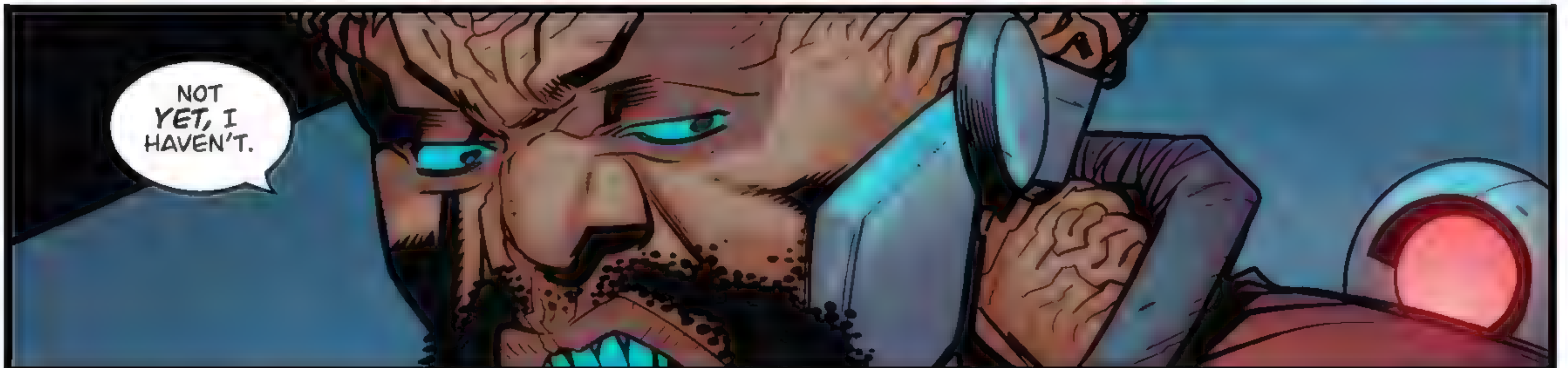
HE TOLD ME... YOU
SAVED HIM--YOU
PULLED YOURSELF OUT
OF THE MACHINE
MID-PROCESS... AND THAT
CAUSED AN EXPLOSION...
THAT RESULTED IN YOUR
DISFIGUREMENT... AND
THE DEATHS OF YOUR
COUNTERPARTS.*

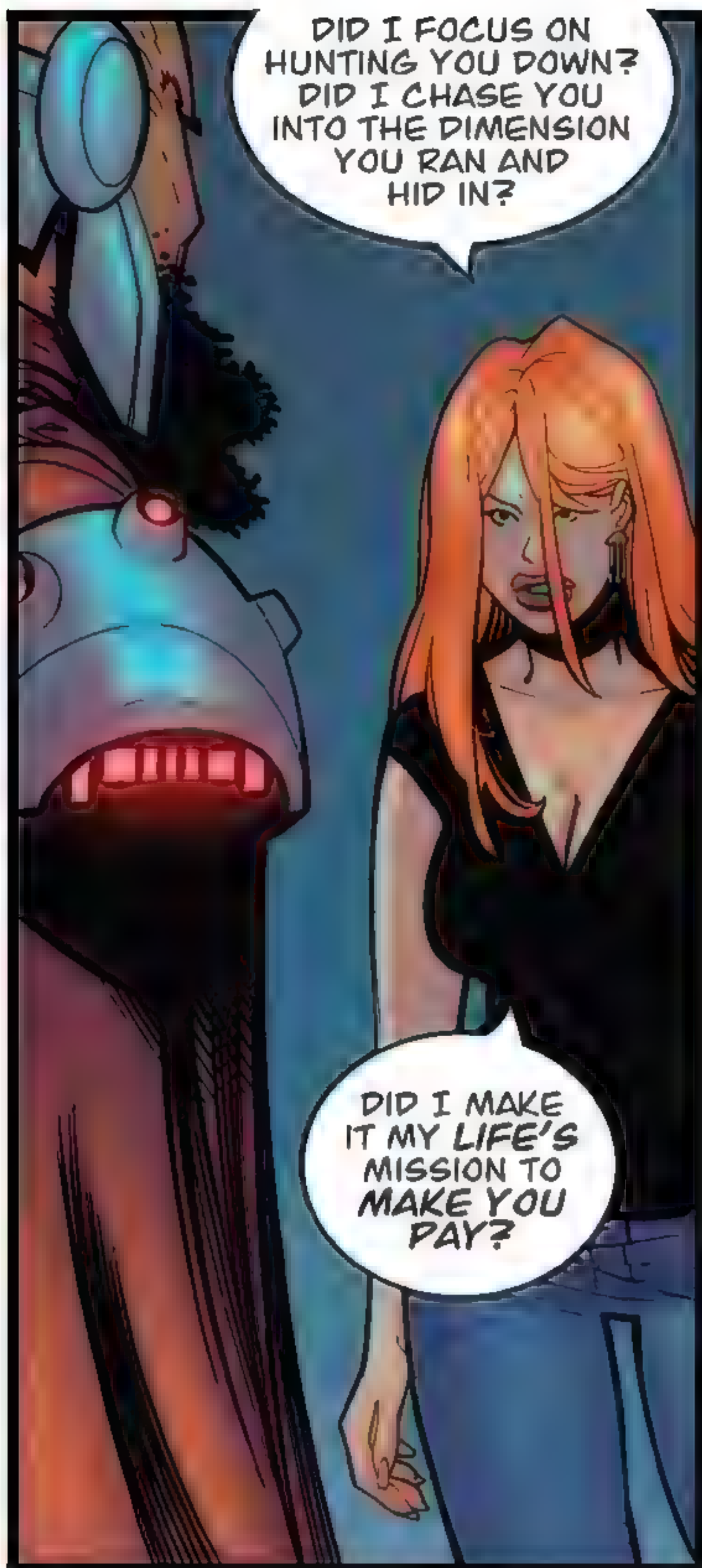
*IT ALL HAPPENED IN ISSUE 33.



HE SAID I
CAUSED THE
EXPLOSION?!

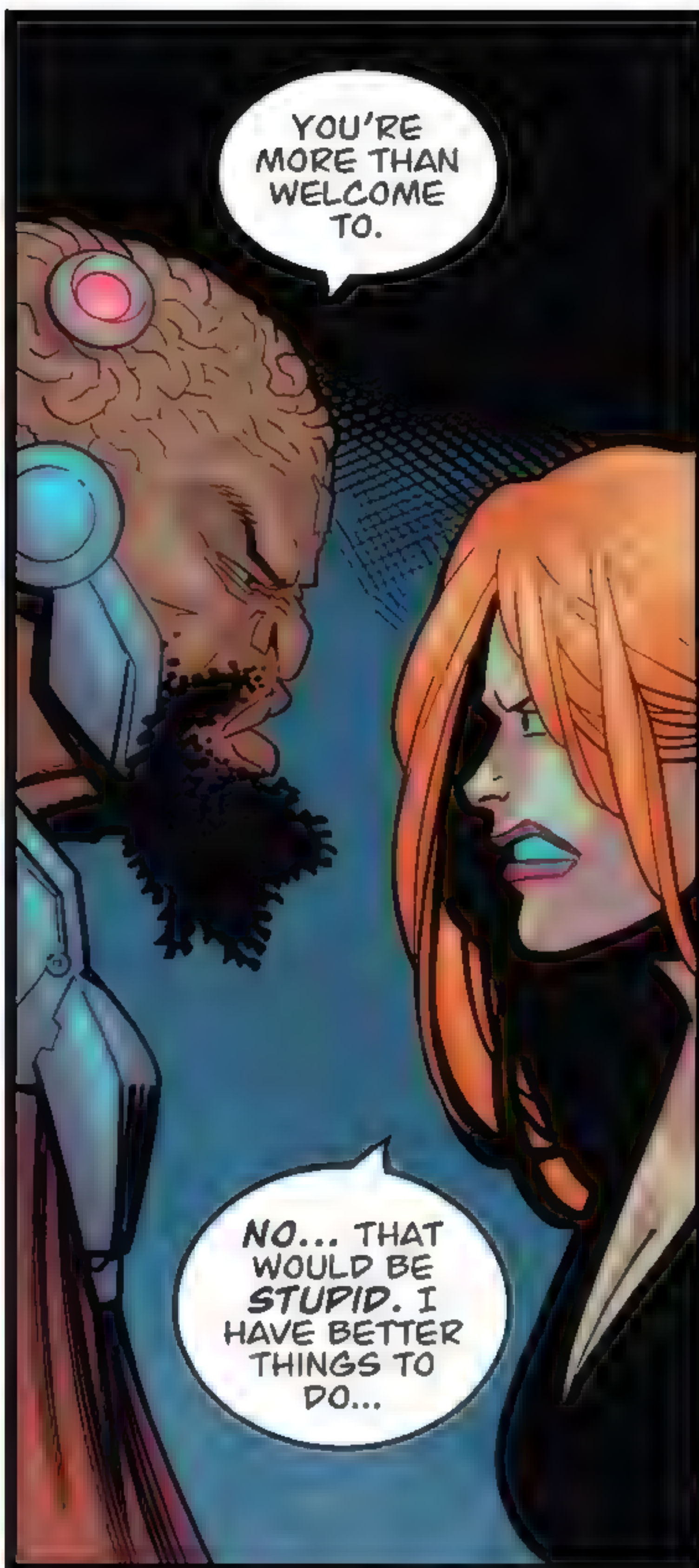
LIES!





DID I FOCUS ON
HUNTING YOU DOWN?
DID I CHASE YOU
INTO THE DIMENSION
YOU RAN AND
HID IN?

DID I MAKE
IT MY LIFE'S
MISSION TO
MAKE YOU
PAY?



YOU'RE
MORE THAN
WELCOME
TO.

NO... THAT
WOULD BE
STUPID. I
HAVE BETTER
THINGS TO
DO...

I KNEW YOU'D
PAY FOR WHAT
YOU DID... YOU'D
BE BROUGHT
TO JUSTICE
EVENTUALLY.

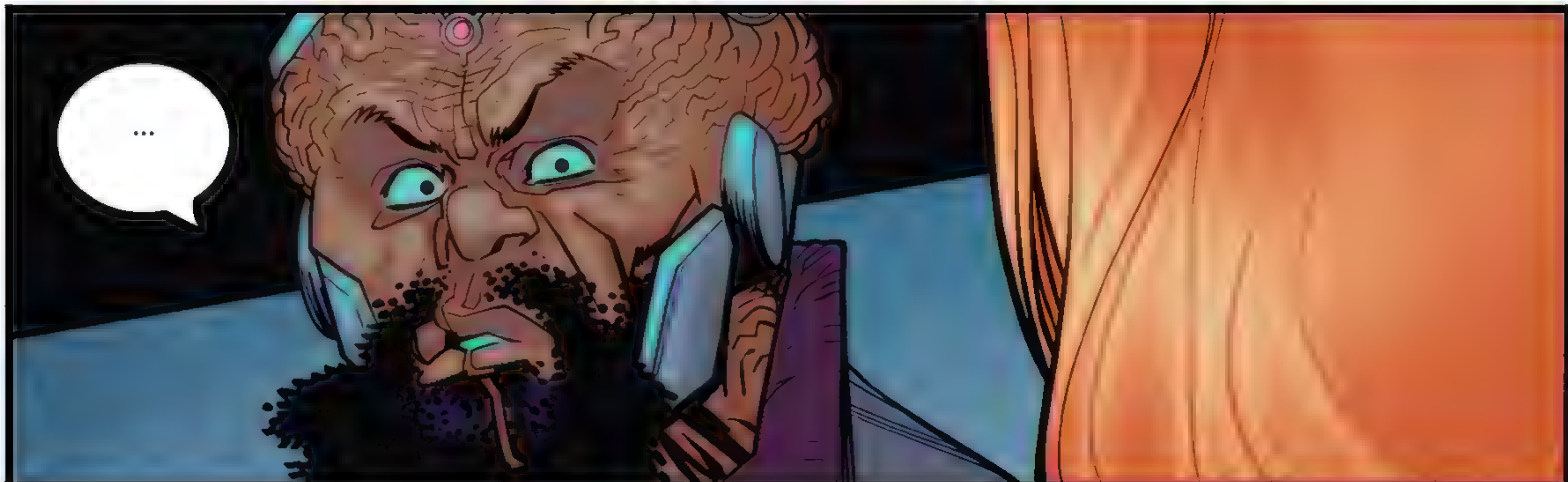


I REBUILT
MY LIFE, I
GREW AS A
PERSON, I USED
THE LOSS OF REX
AS A LESSON, TO DO
WHAT I WANTED, TO
LIVE EACH DAY TO
ITS FULLEST... ALL
THAT CRAP.

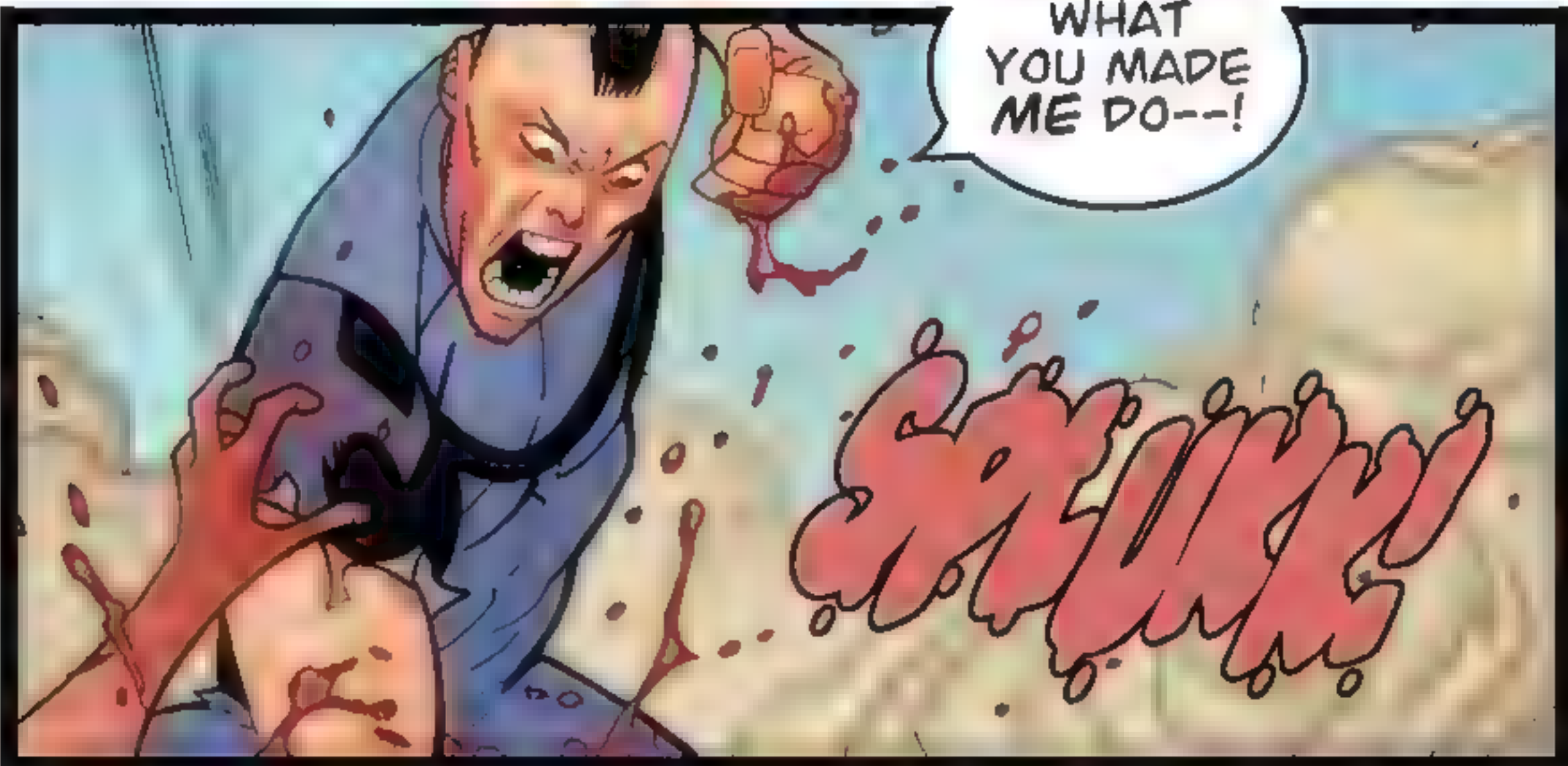
WHEN MARK GETS BACK
HERE AND DEFEATS YOU...
I'LL GET BACK TO MY
LIFE, I'LL HAVE HIS
BABY, AND WE'LL LIVE
HAPPILY EVER
AFTER.

MY REWARD
FOR NOT
FOCUSING ON
REVENGE.

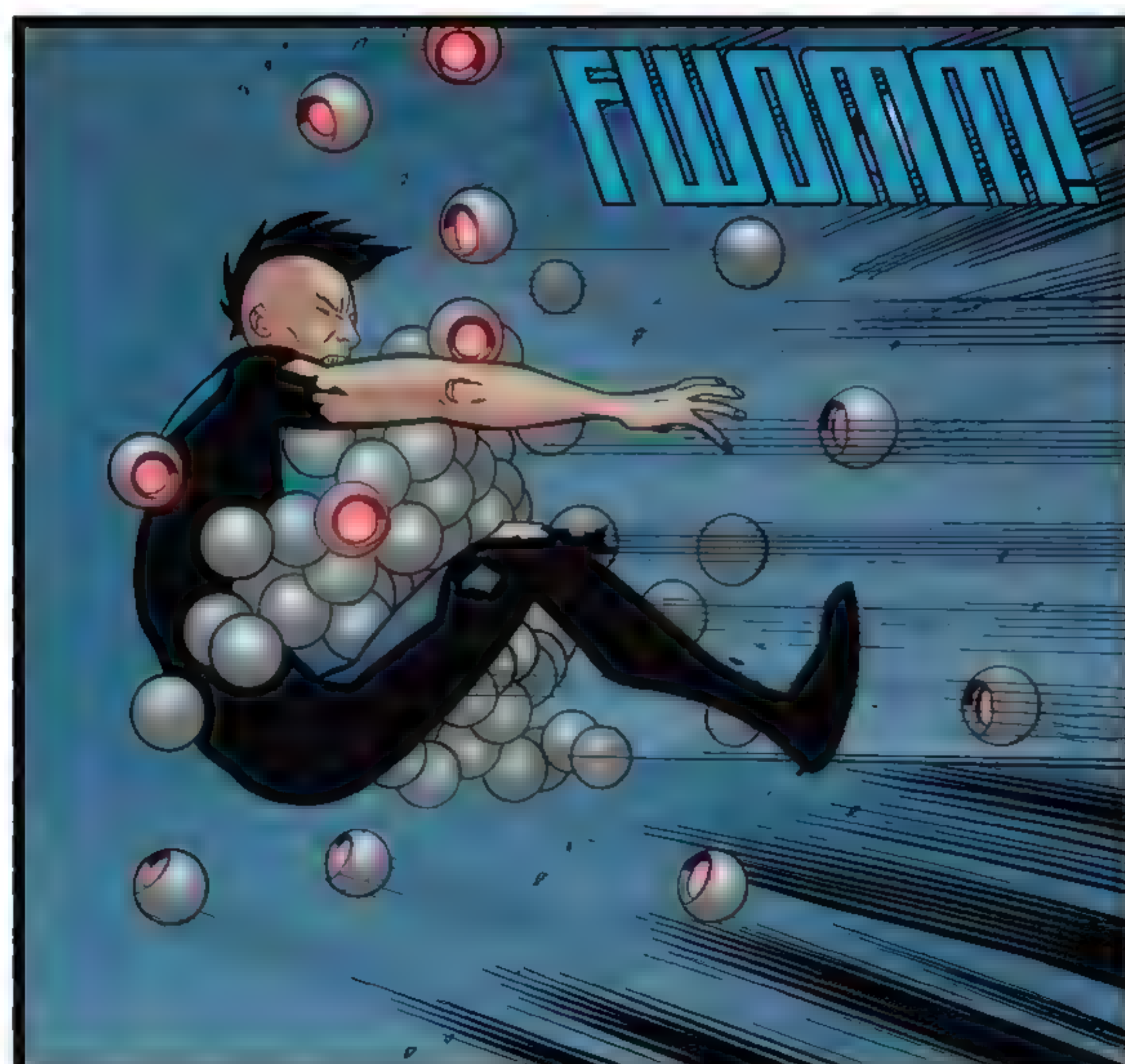
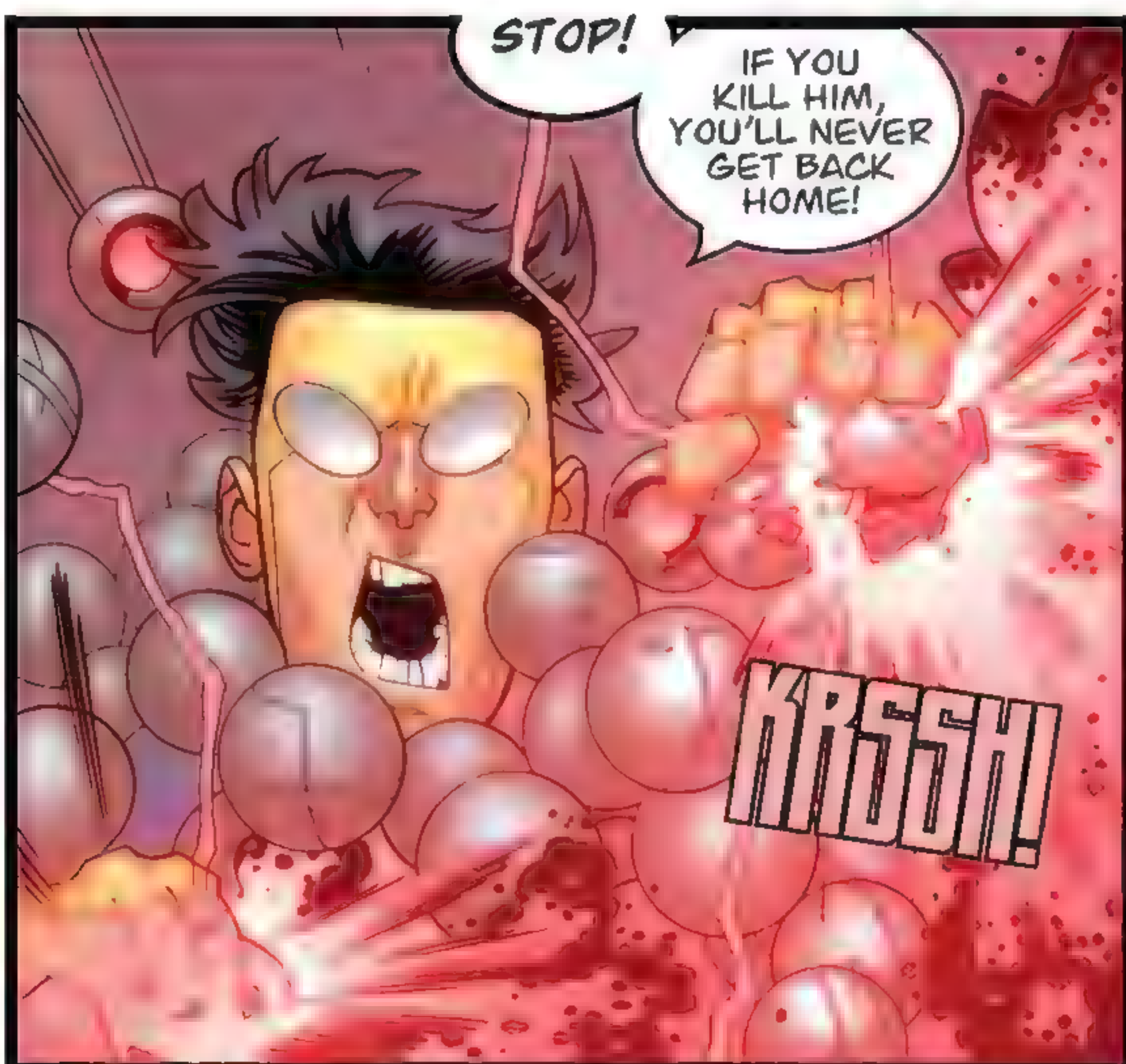
DO YOU EVER
STOP TO CONSIDER
WHAT YOU COULD BE
ACCOMPLISHING IF YOU
STOPPED BLAMING MARK
FOR SOMETHING THAT
WASN'T HIS FAULT, AND
INSTEAD DECIDED TO
CARRY ON WITH
WHATEVER MISSION
YOU WERE TRYING TO
DO IN THE FIRST
PLACE?

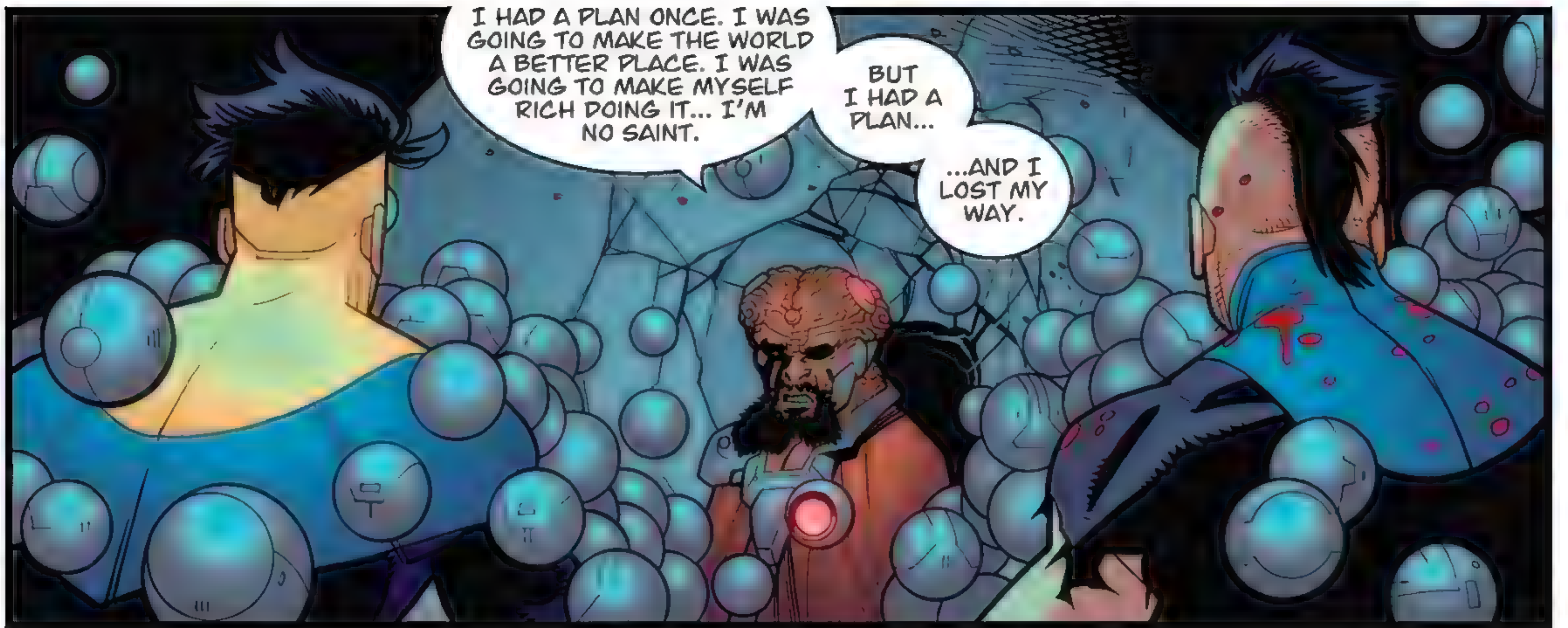


...









I HAD A PLAN ONCE. I WAS GOING TO MAKE THE WORLD A BETTER PLACE. I WAS GOING TO MAKE MYSELF RICH DOING IT... I'M NO SAINT.

BUT I HAD A PLAN...

...AND I LOST MY WAY.



OH, COME ON!

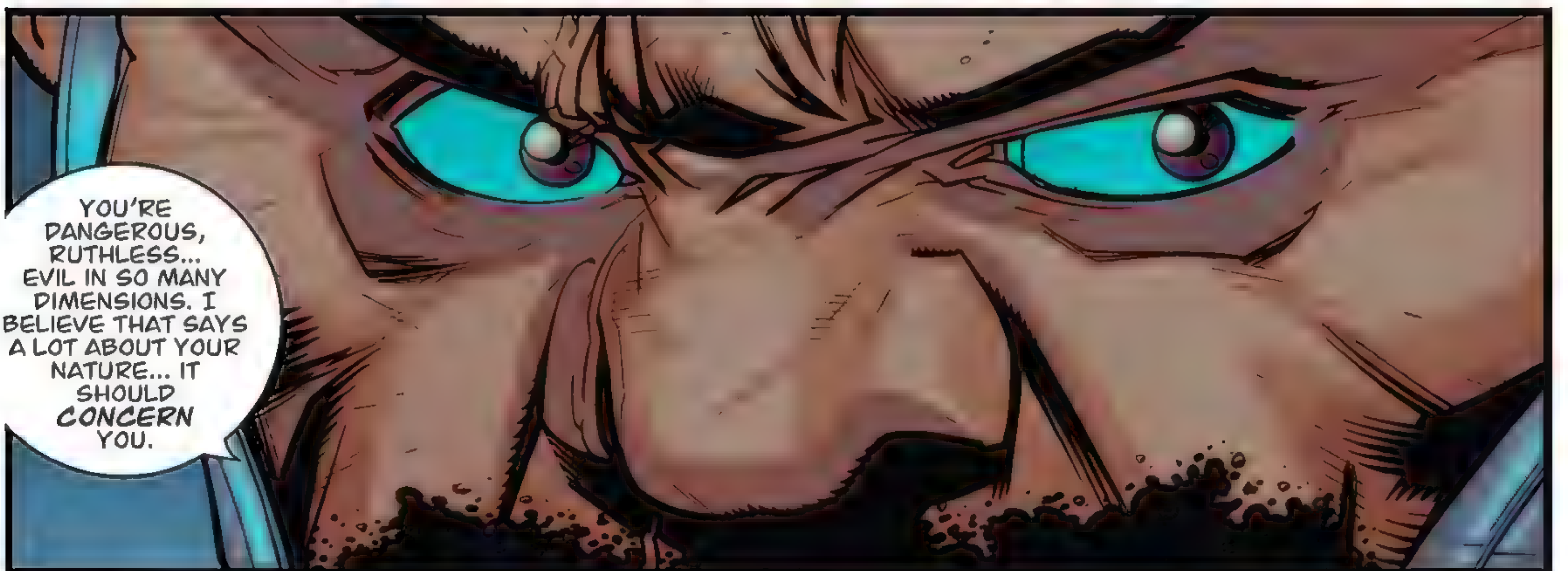
WAIT...



ALL THE INFORMATION, FROM ALL THE OTHER DIMENSIONS... I WAS BOMBARDED AND SOME WIRES... THEY GOT CROSSED.

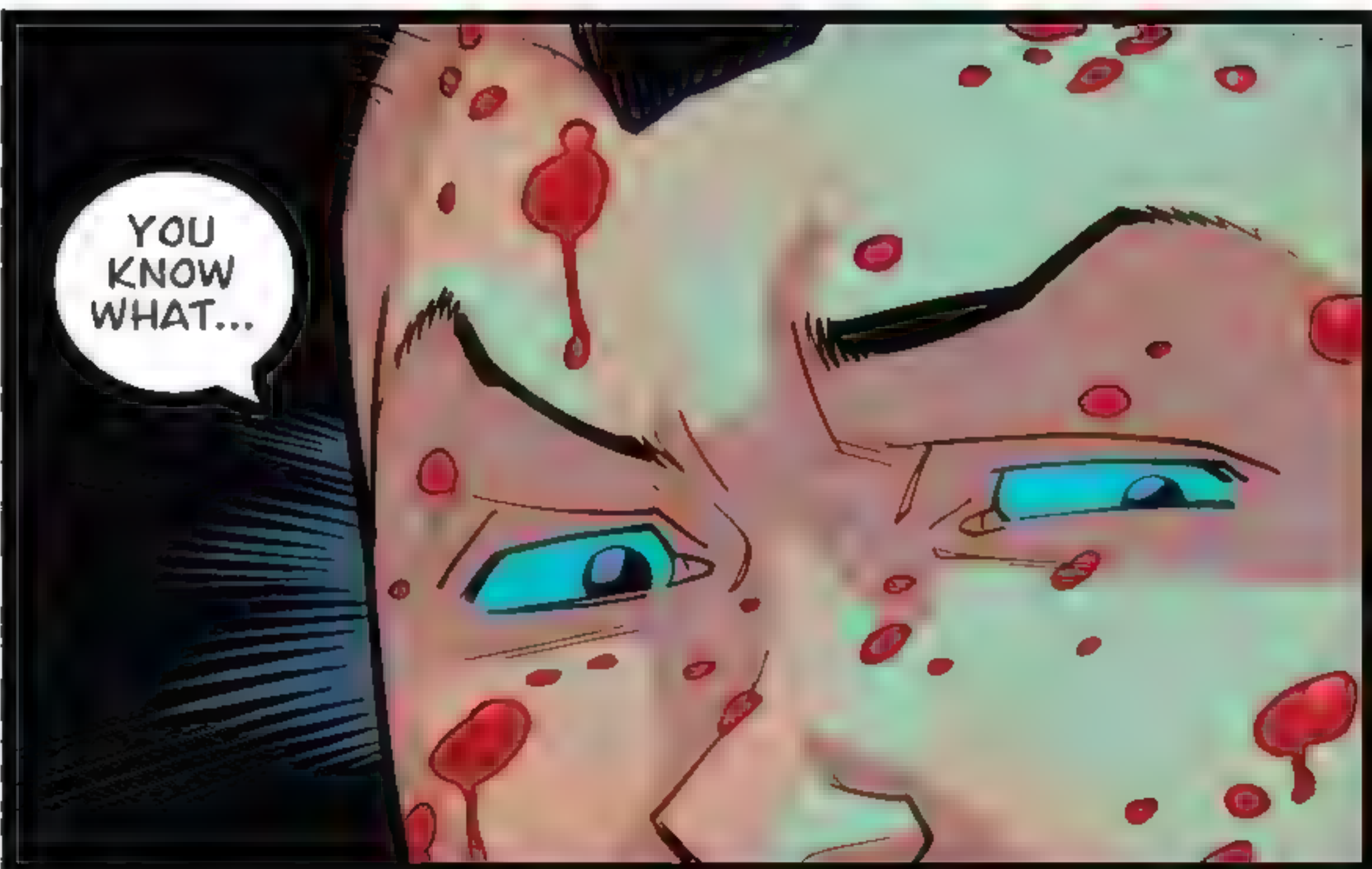
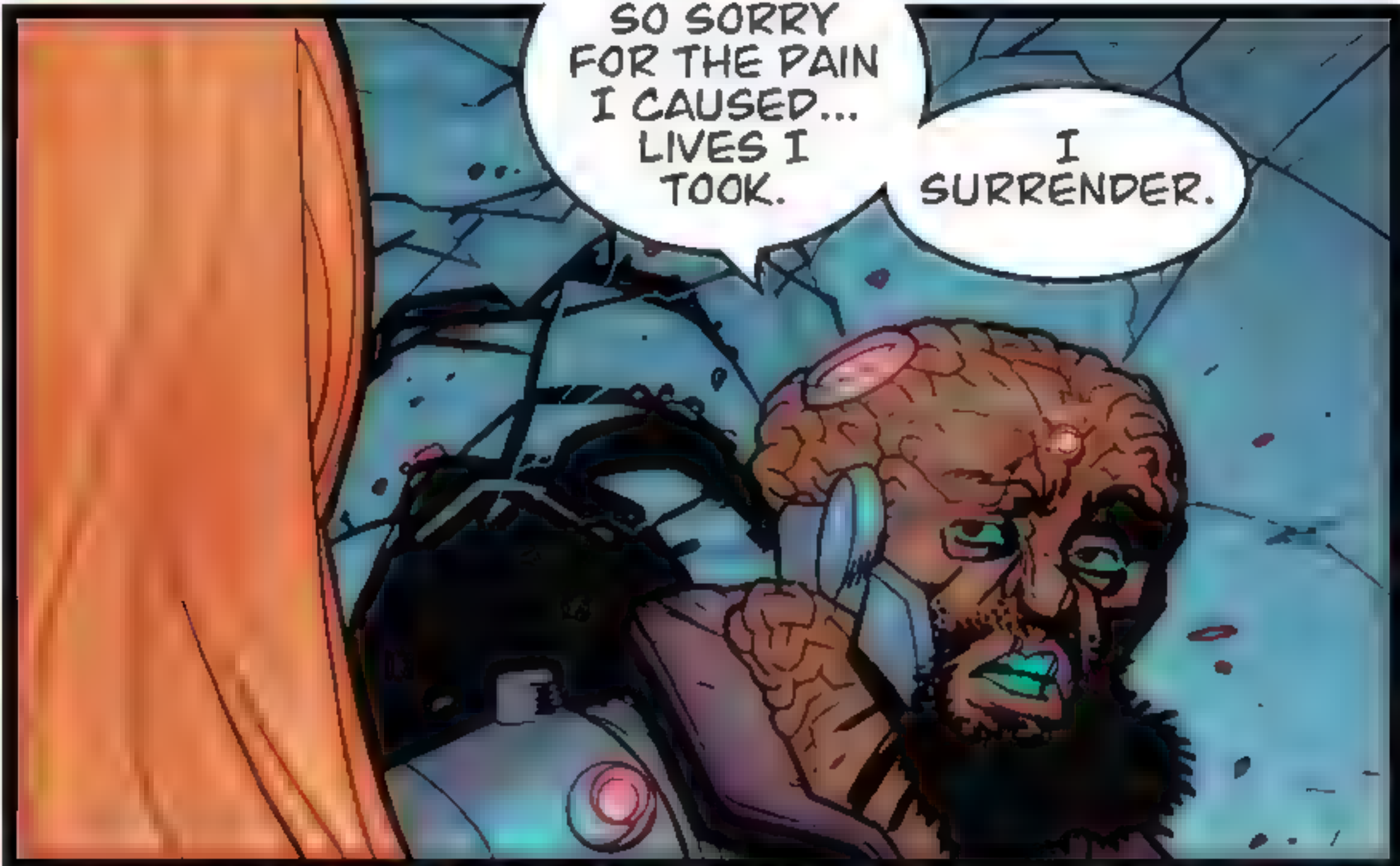


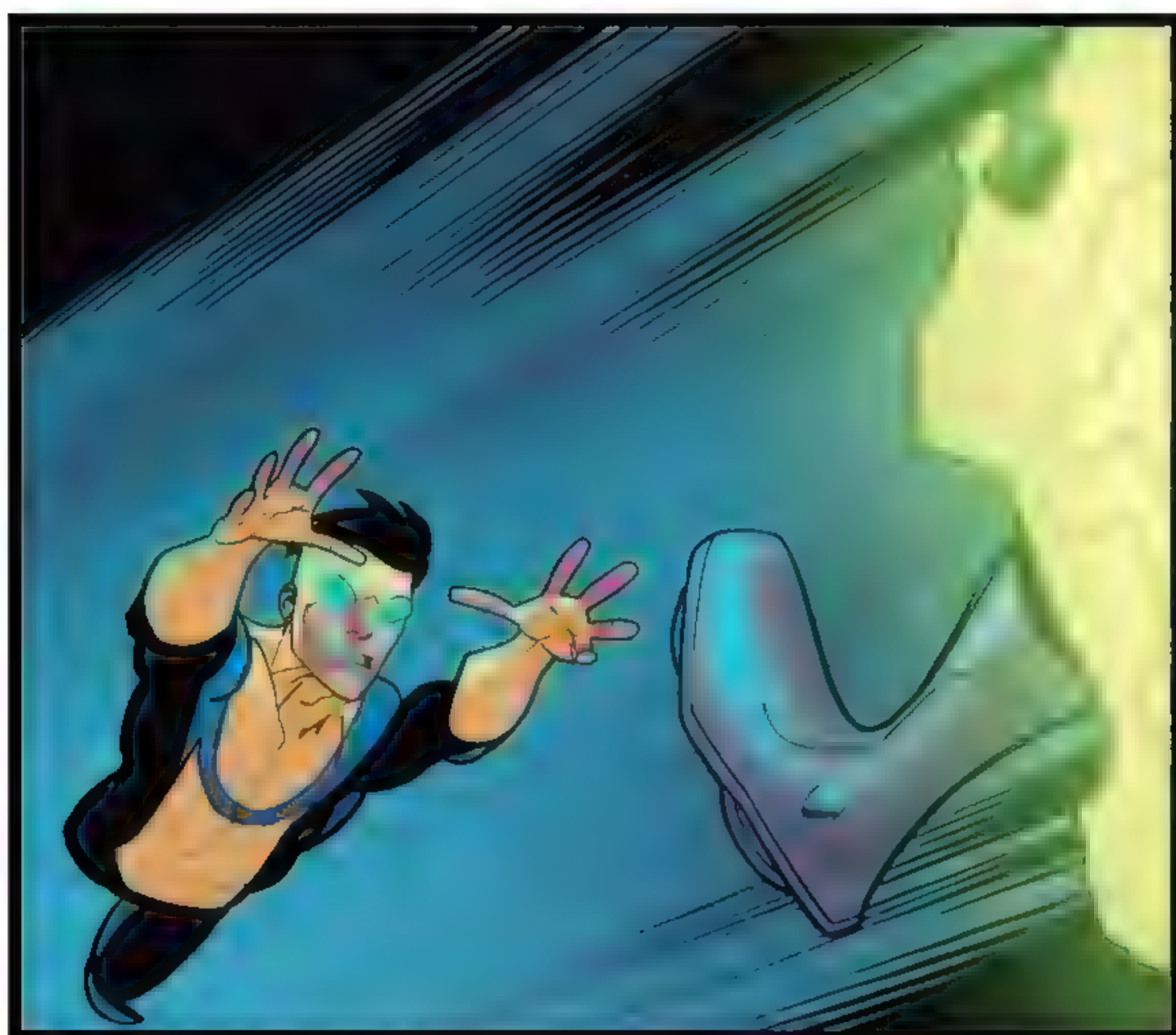
SOME... WIRES WERE CROSSED?!

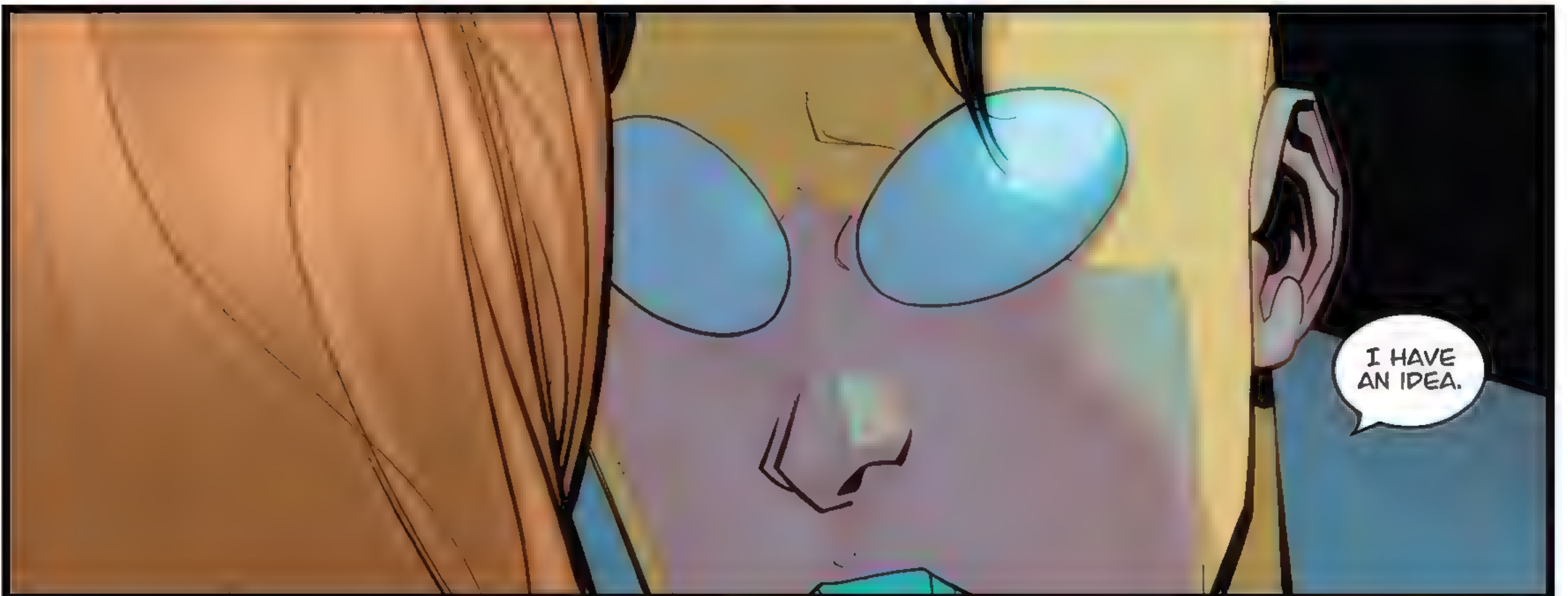
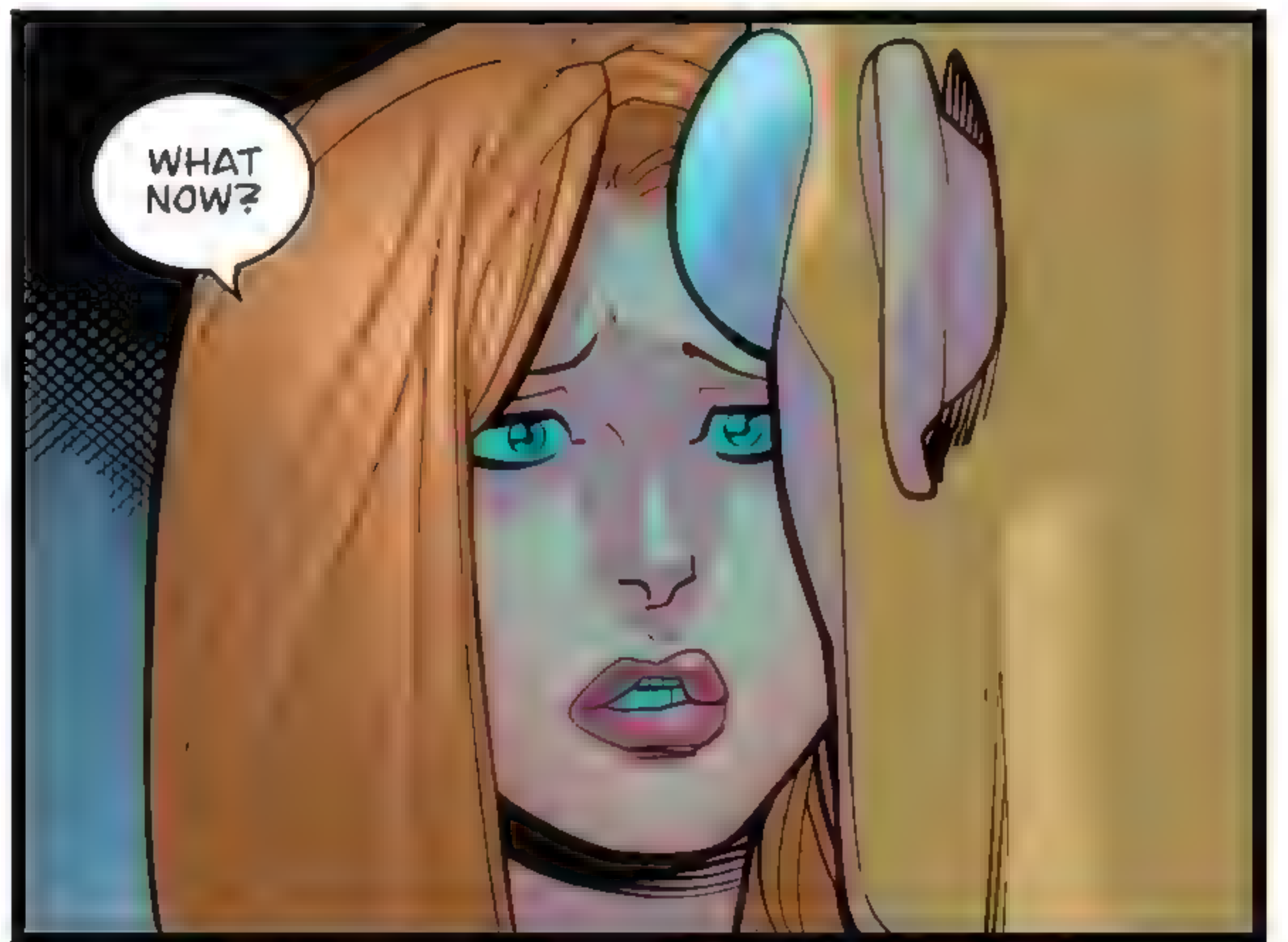
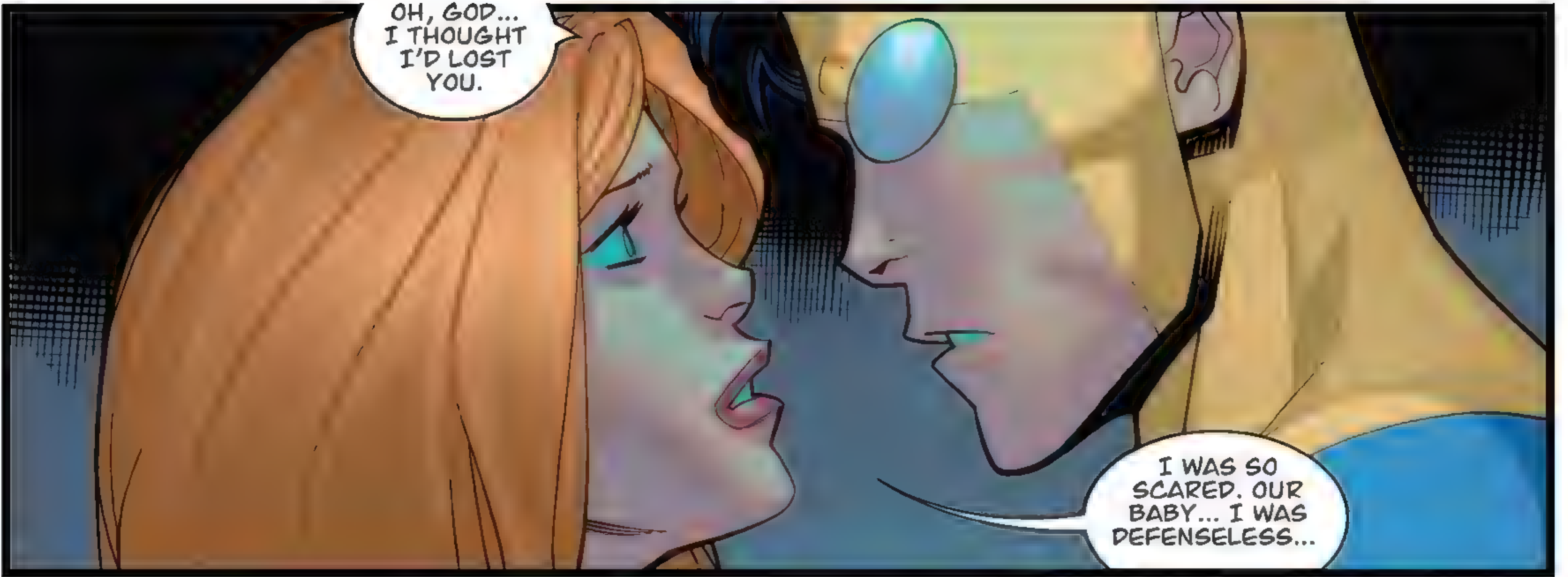


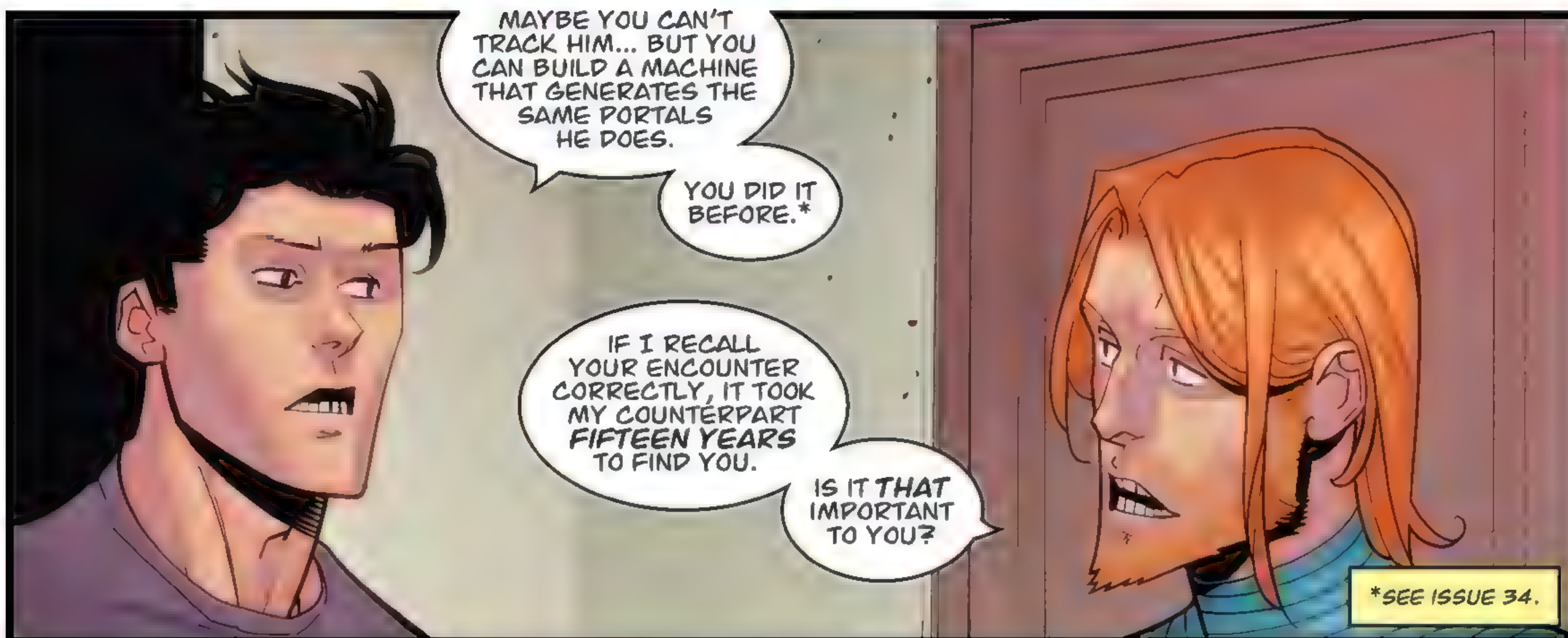
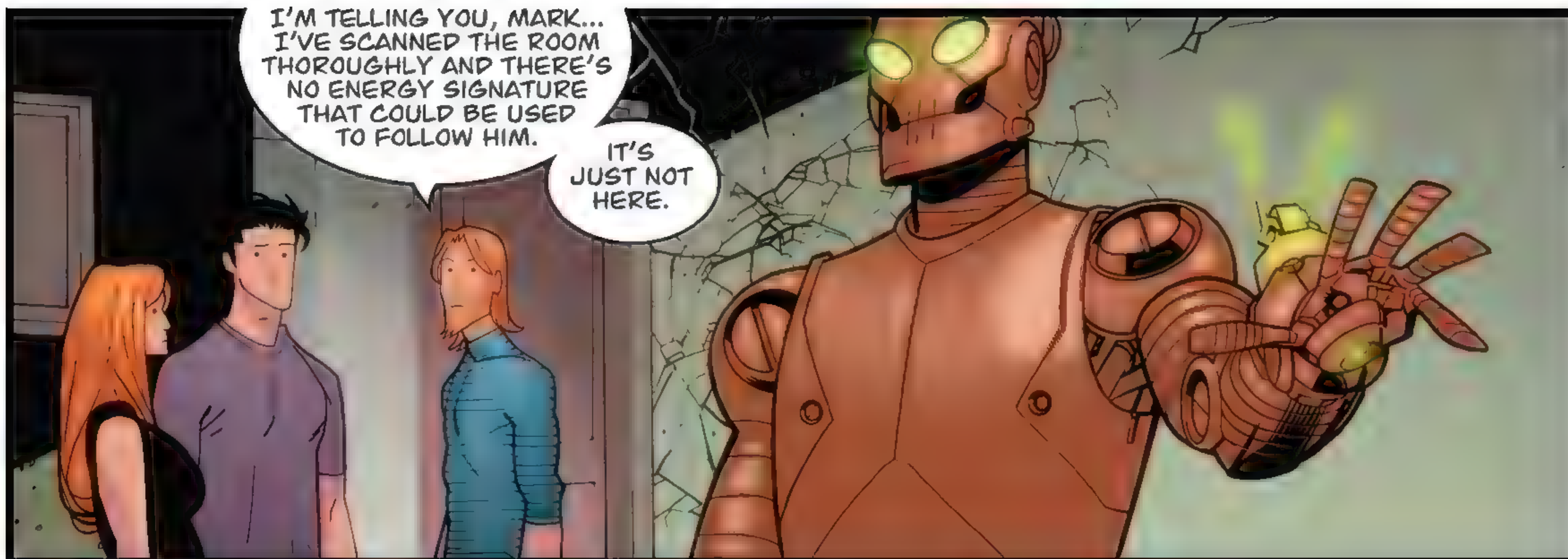
YOU'RE DANGEROUS, RUTHLESS... EVIL IN SO MANY DIMENSIONS. I BELIEVE THAT SAYS A LOT ABOUT YOUR NATURE... IT SHOULD CONCERN YOU.







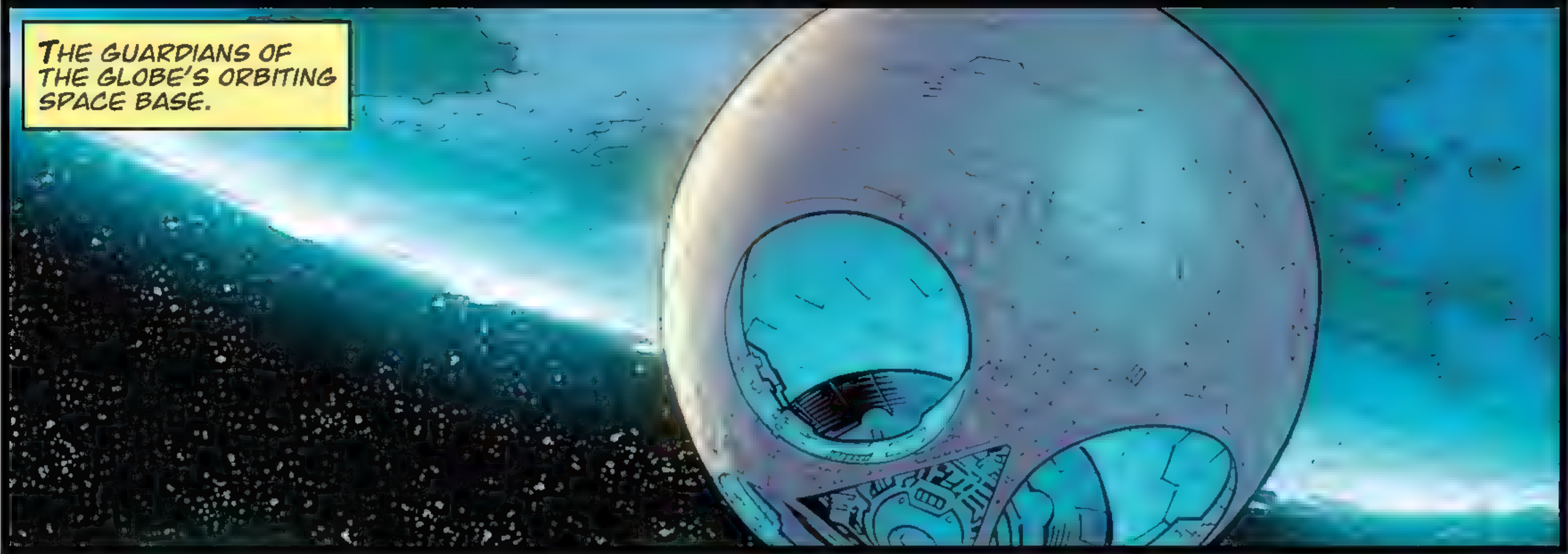






CHAPTER 105





THE GUARDIANS OF THE GLOBE'S ORBITING SPACE BASE.



ACTIONEERS--THAT SHIP WILL BE OVER CHICAGO IN SEVEN MINUTES. SHUT IT DOWN! POWERPLEX, YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO OVERLOAD ITS POWER SYSTEMS. GO!

BEST TIGER, CONSTRUCT'S ARMOR HAS WEAK SPOTS AT HER ELBOWS, KNEES AND SHOULDERS. PUT BULLETS THERE!

SAMSON, THROW THE BOMB TO ME--I CAN GET FAR ENOUGH AWAY THAT THE EXPLOSION WON'T DAMAGE THE POWER STATION.

I'LL BE READY TO LEAVE IN TWENTY MINUTES, AMANDA!

SORRY, DIDN'T MEAN TO YELL.

YETI--DUCK!



ALL I CAN SAY, MARK, IS THAT I'M DOING MY BEST. I'M USING THE FLAXAN PORTAL AS A STARTING POINT, BUT THERE'S A DIFFERENCE BETWEEN AN ALTERNATE DIMENSION AND A PARALLEL REALITY.

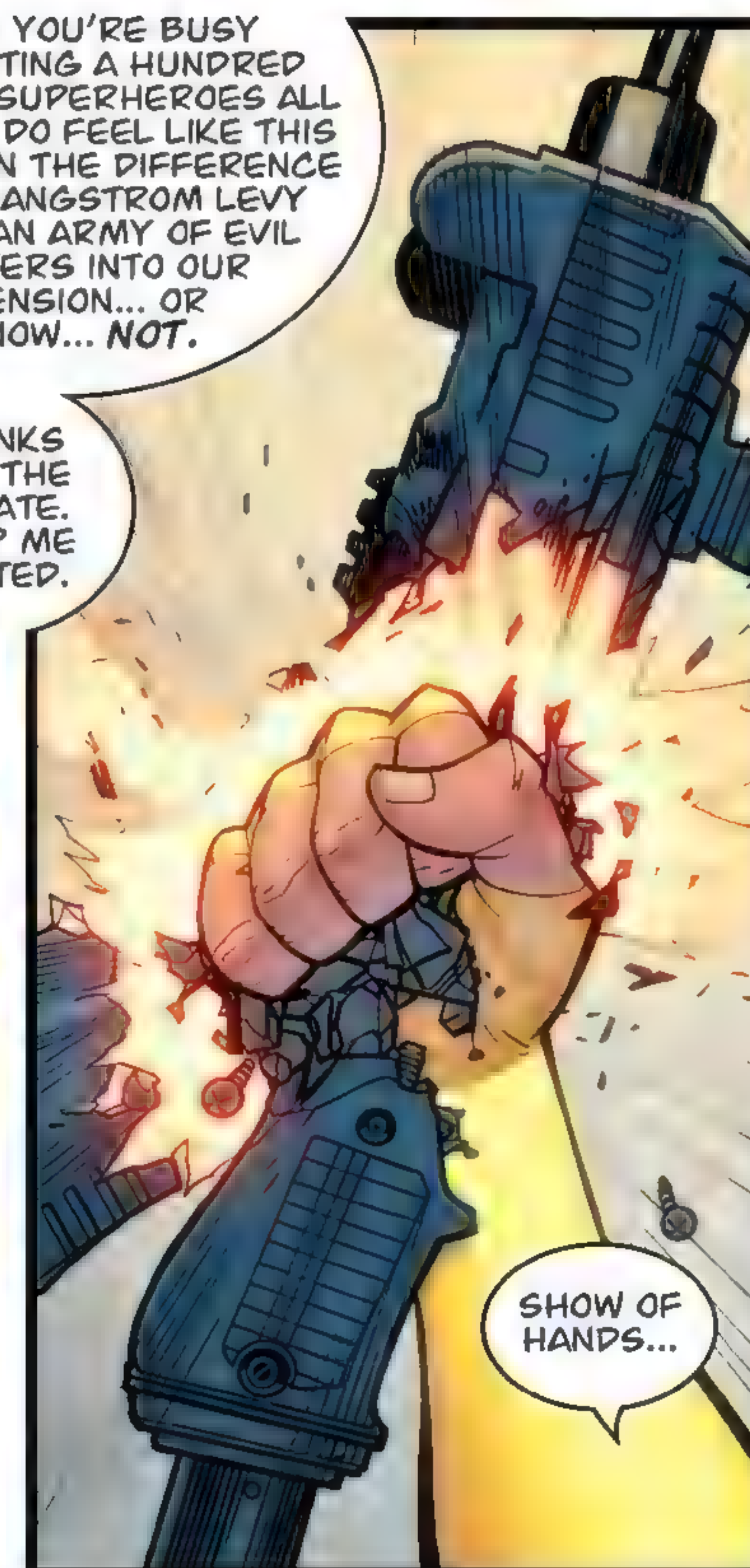
GREAT JOB, POWERPLEX! KINETIC, GUIDE THE SHIP SAFELY TO THE GROUND. I'LL HAVE A GDA CLEANUP CREW ON SITE IN TEN.

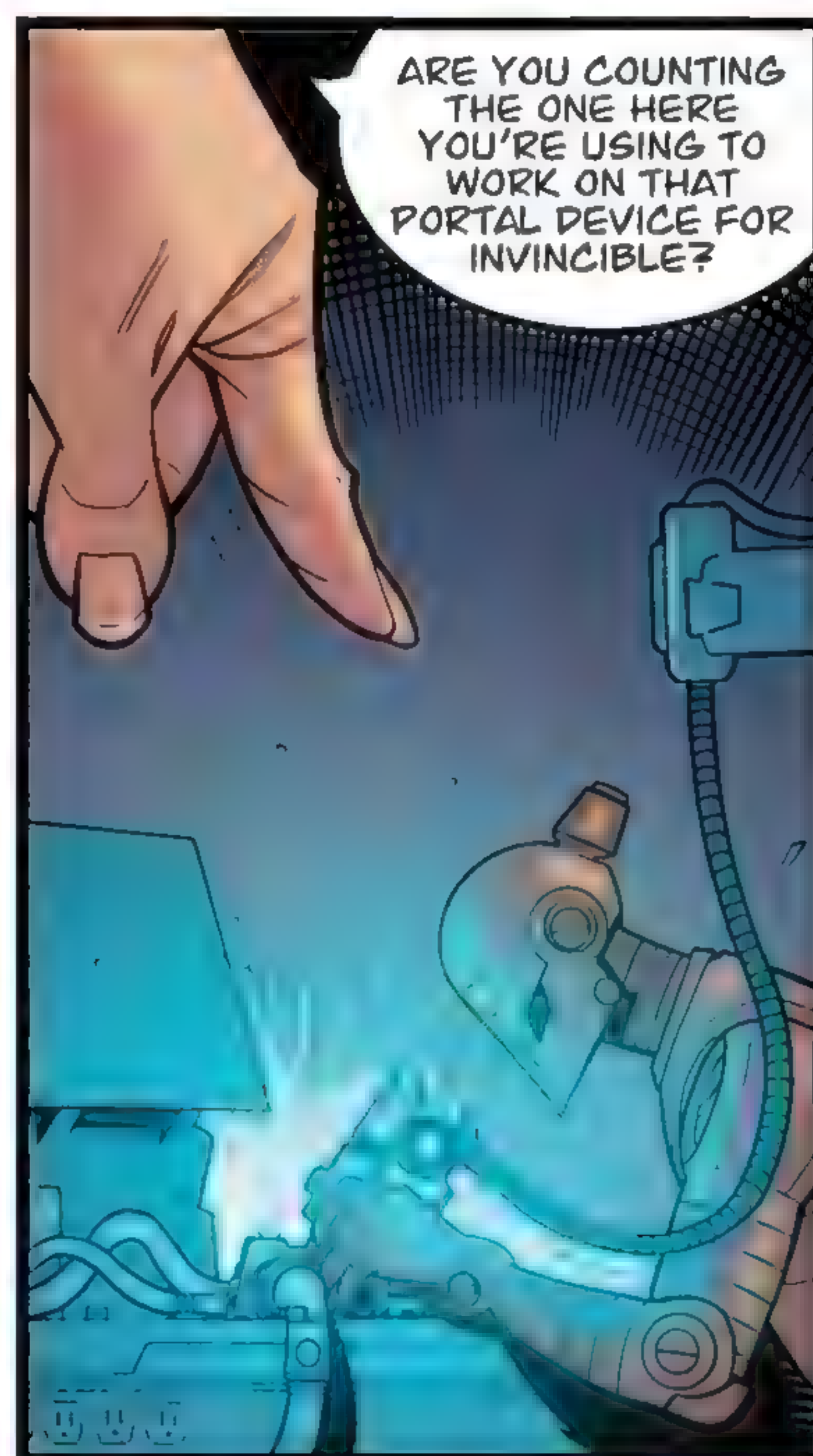
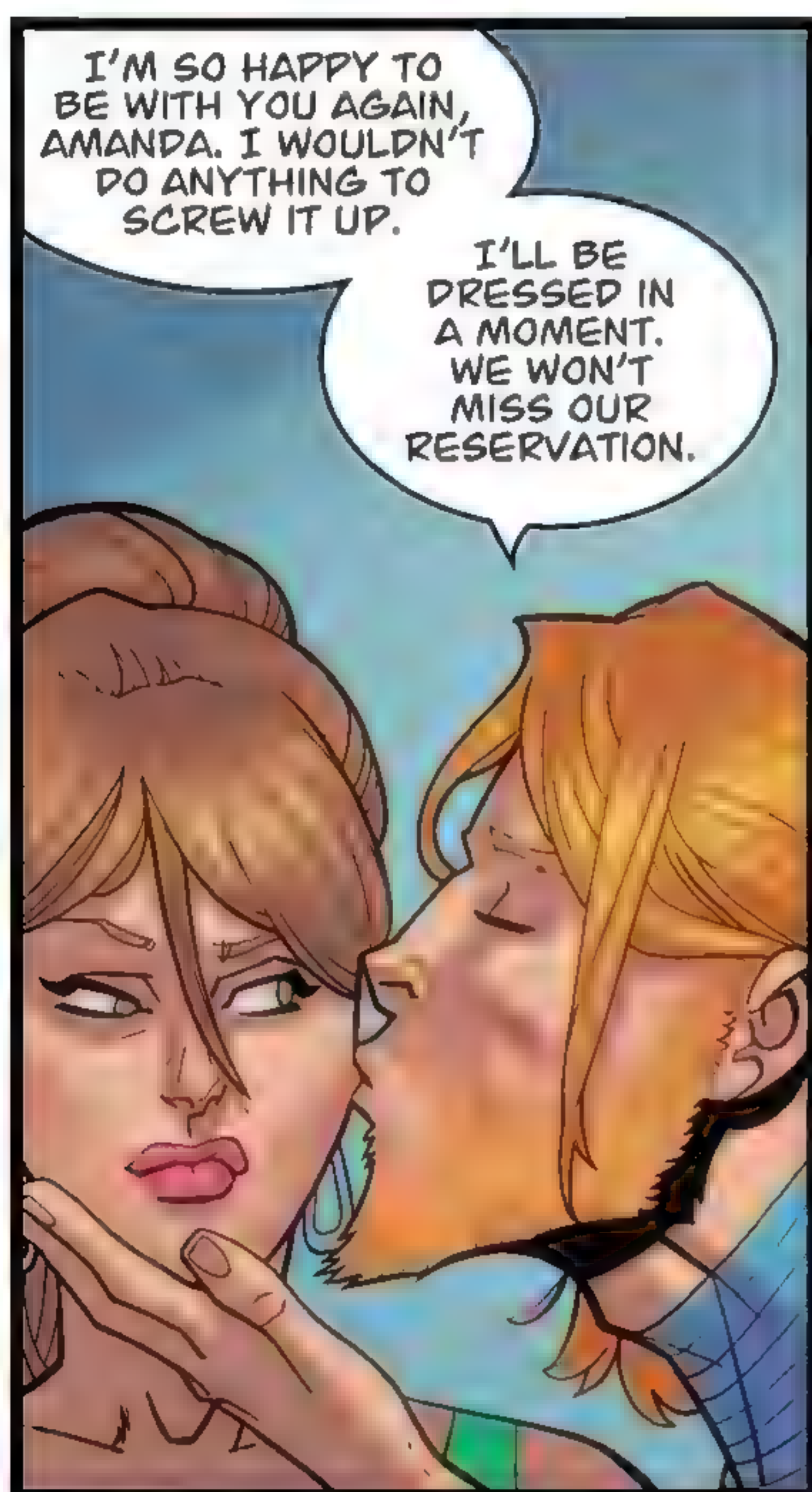


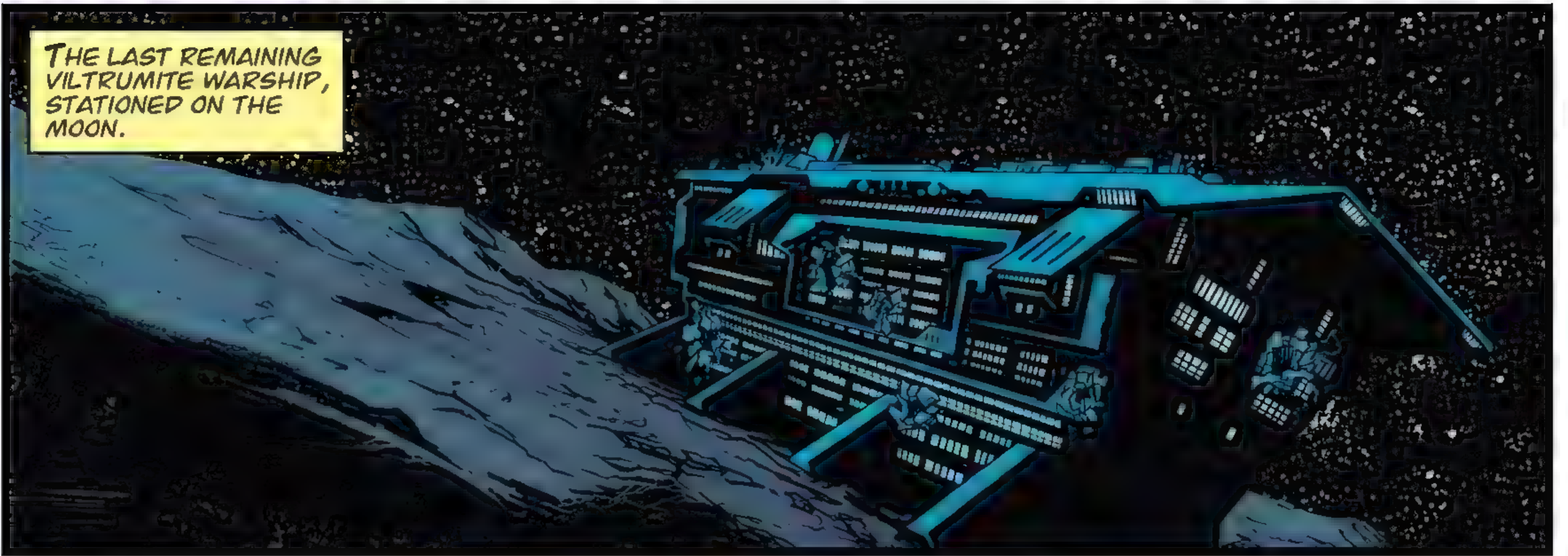
DONALD. I NEED A CLEANUP CREW TO THE COORDINATES I'M SENDING OVER. YEAH. SHIP'S DOWN. CHICAGO'S SAFE.

BRIT! COME IN. WE'VE GOT A ROBBERY ON WALL STREET--AND IT'S A BUNCH OF GORILLAS! ASSEMBLE A TEAM OF GUARDIANS AND MOVE OUT!

INVINCIBLE? YOU STILL THERE?









WE NOW STAND UNITED,
DEDICATED TO **PEACE**
AND **COEXISTENCE**
WITH ALL MANNER
OF LIFE IN THIS
UNIVERSE.

GONE ARE
THE DAYS OF WAR,
ENSLAVEMENT
AND CONQUEST.

TO PUNISH
YOU AS YOU SEE
NECESSARY
WOULD JUST BE
A RETURN TO
THOSE DAYS.



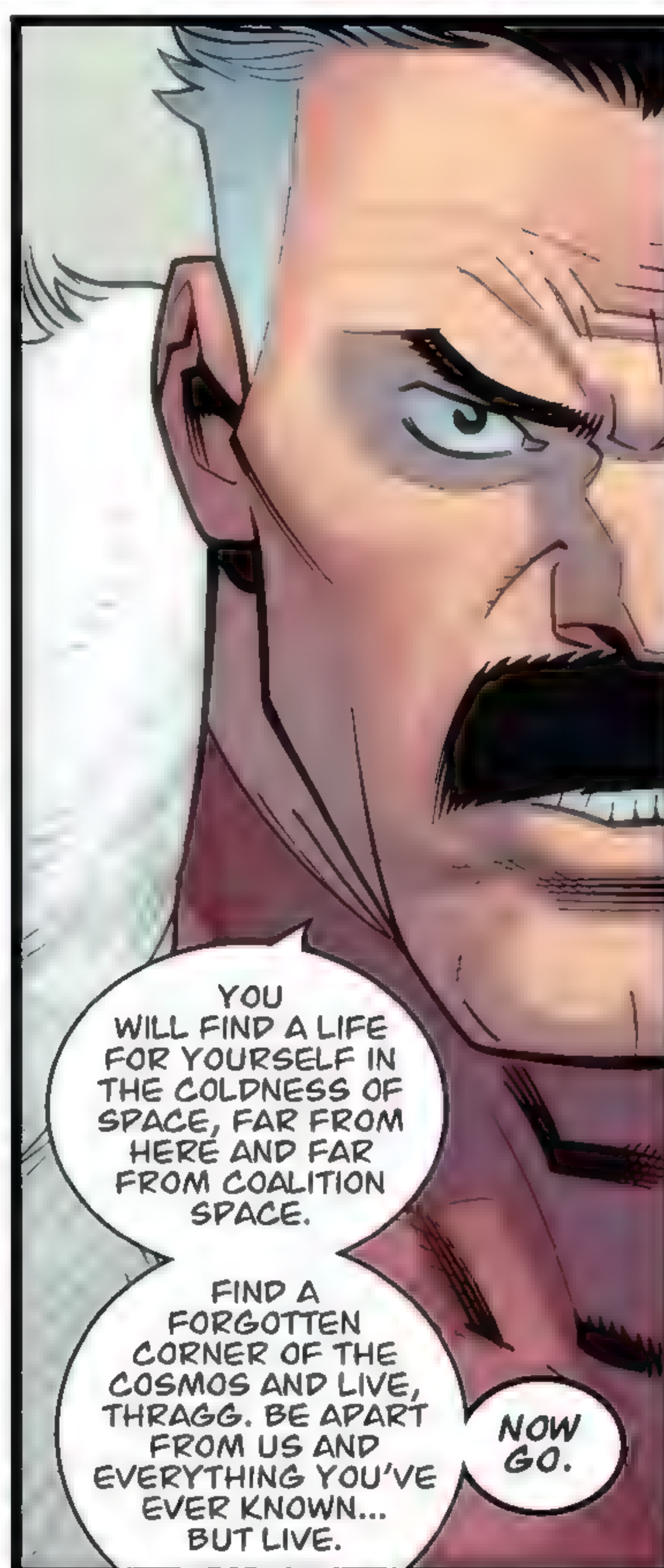
WHAT?

KLIK
KLOK.



I WISH FOR YOU TO SEE OUR
PEOPLE **THRIVE** UNDER MY RULE.
I WANT YOU TO KNOW THAT YOUR
WAY WAS WRONG... I WANT YOU TO
WITNESS OUR RESURGENCE... A
RETURN TO WHAT WE ONCE WERE...
BEFORE THE FALL OF ARGALL,
BEFORE THE SCOURGE VIRUS,
BEFORE THE VILTRUMITE WAR.

FOR YOU
I CHOOSE
EXILE.

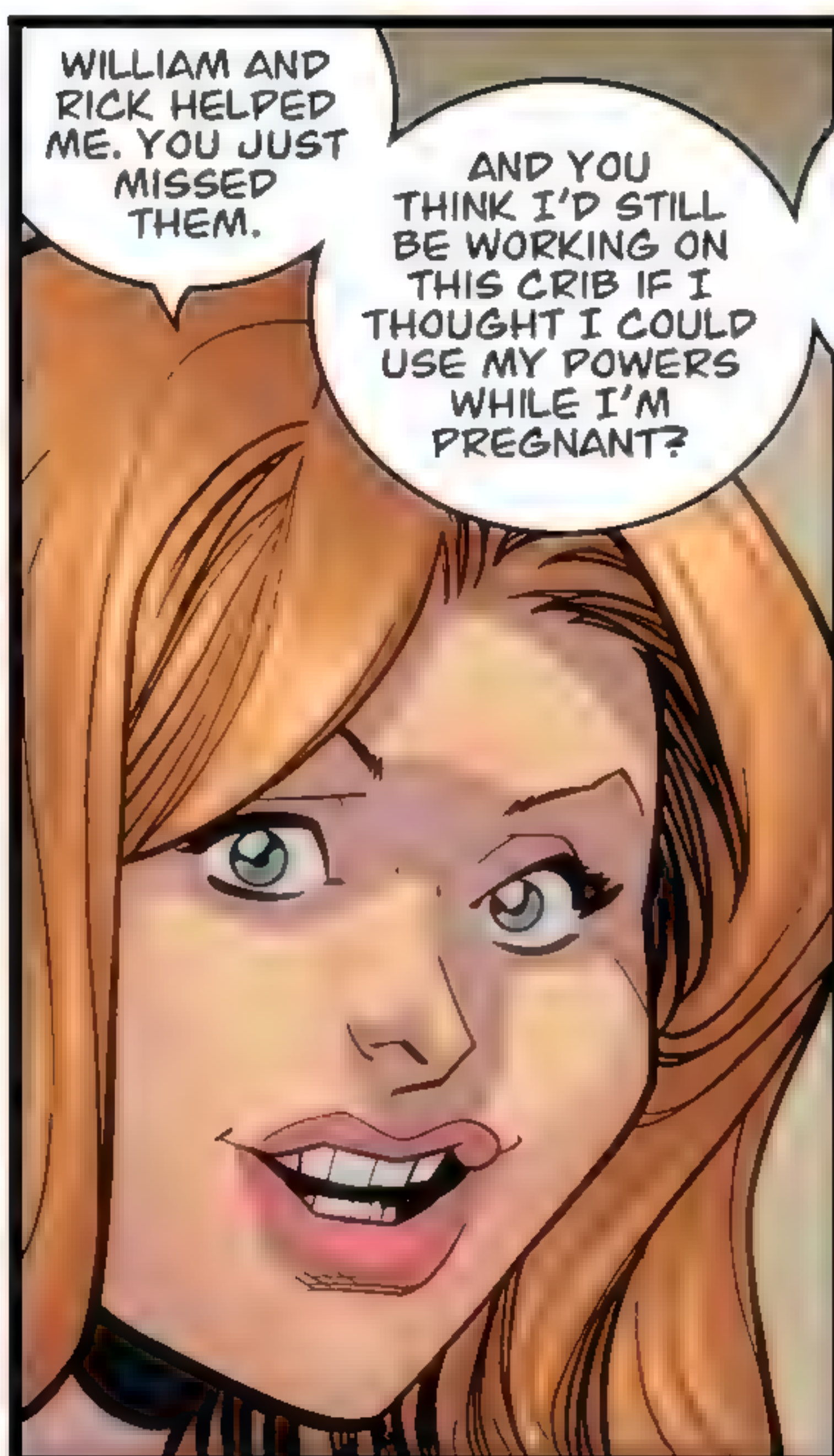
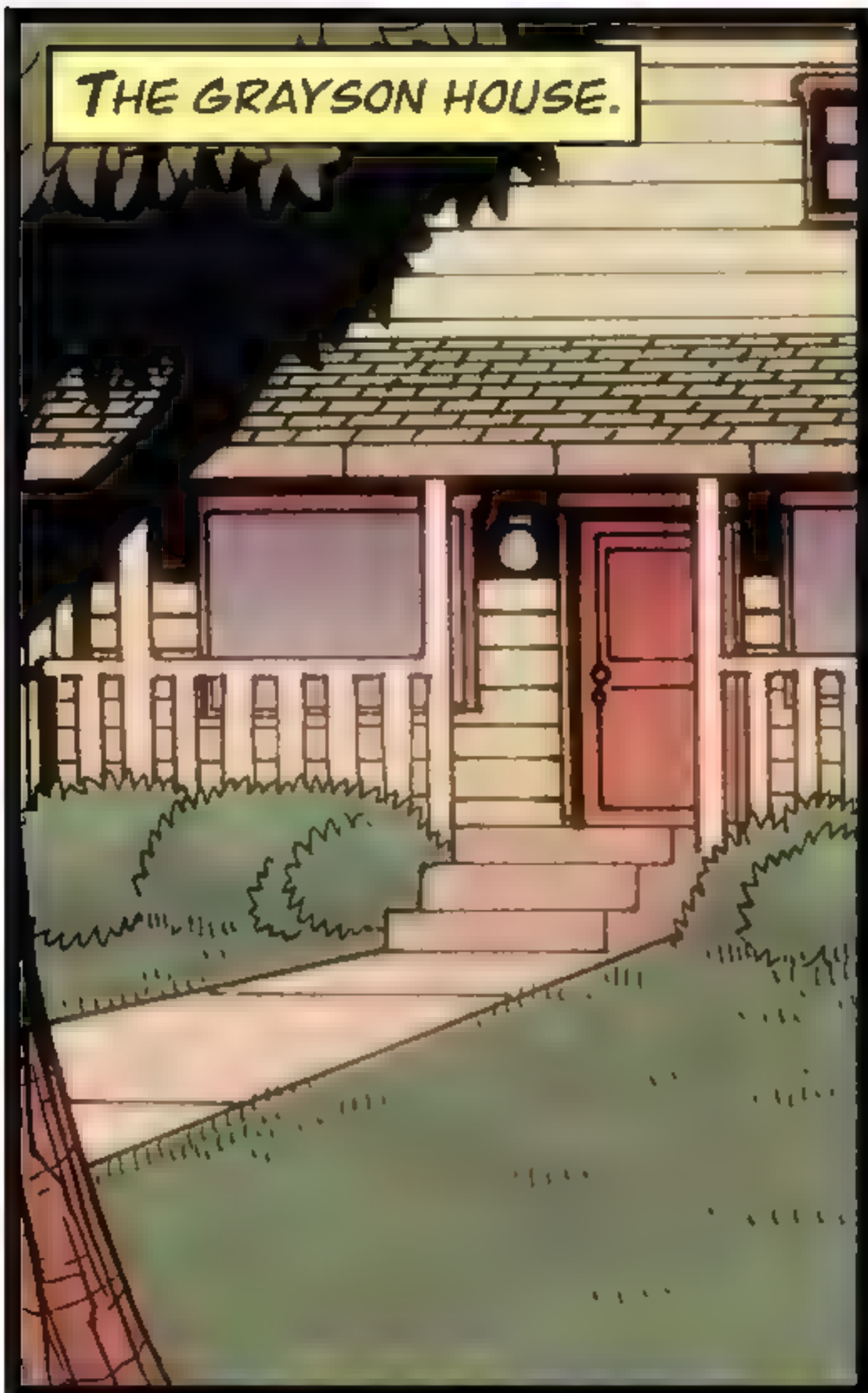


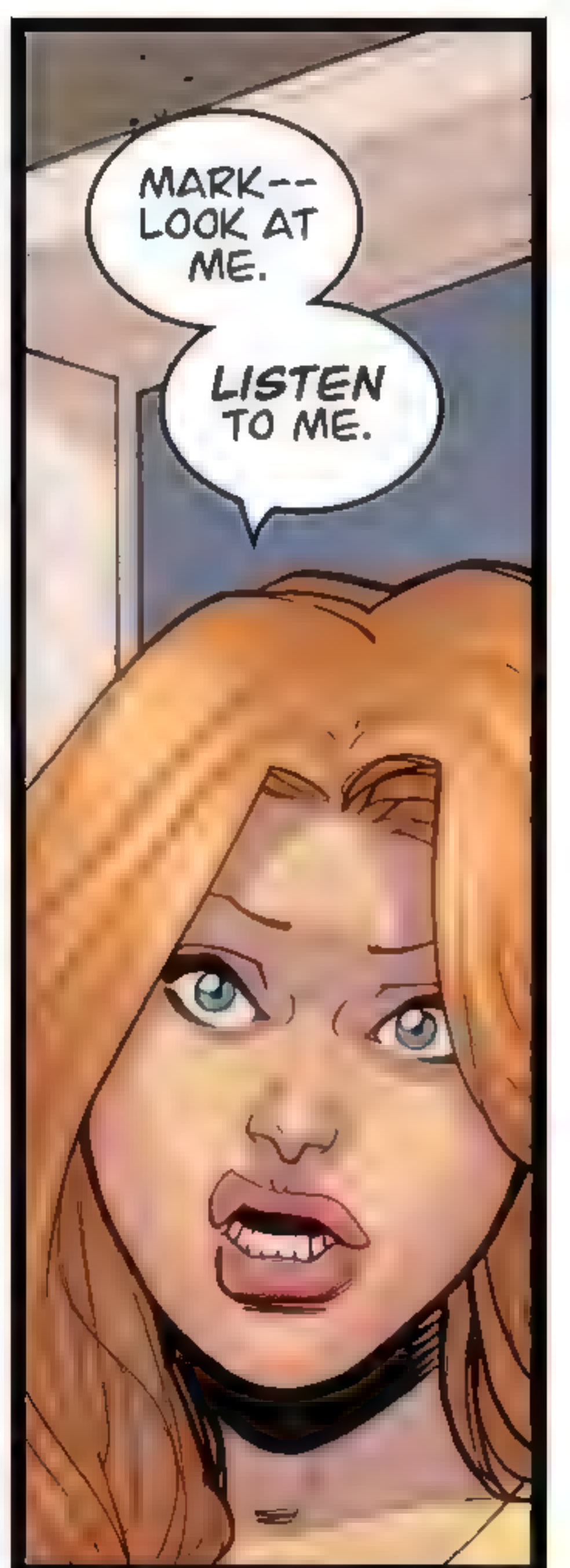
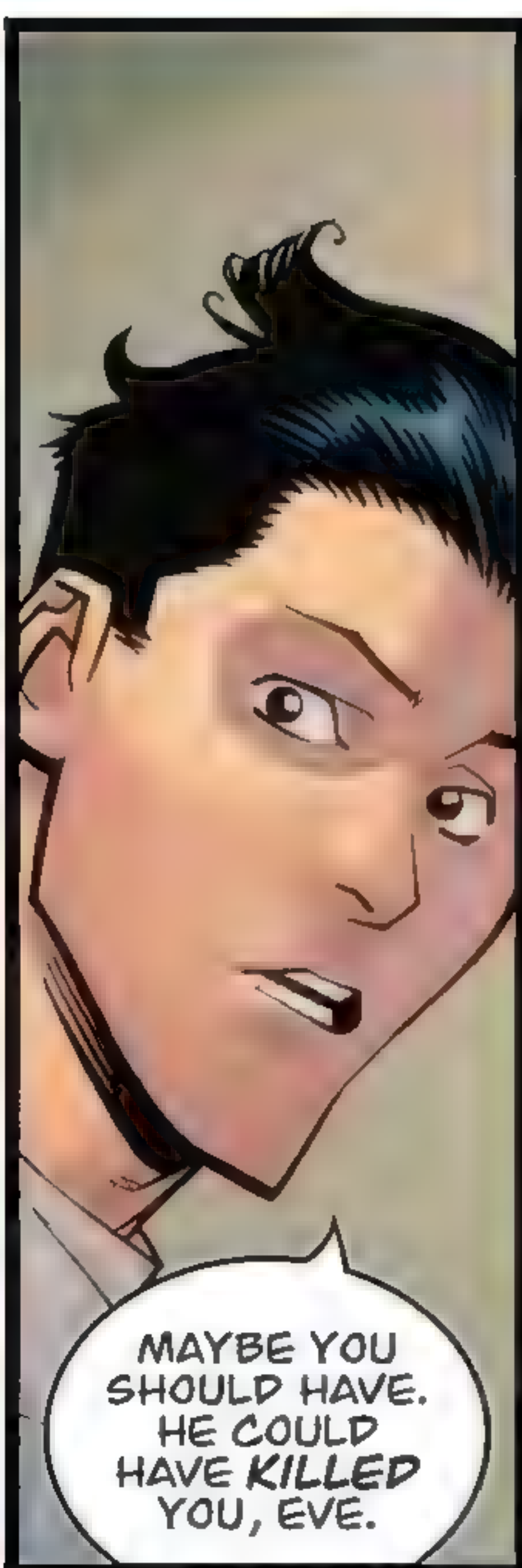
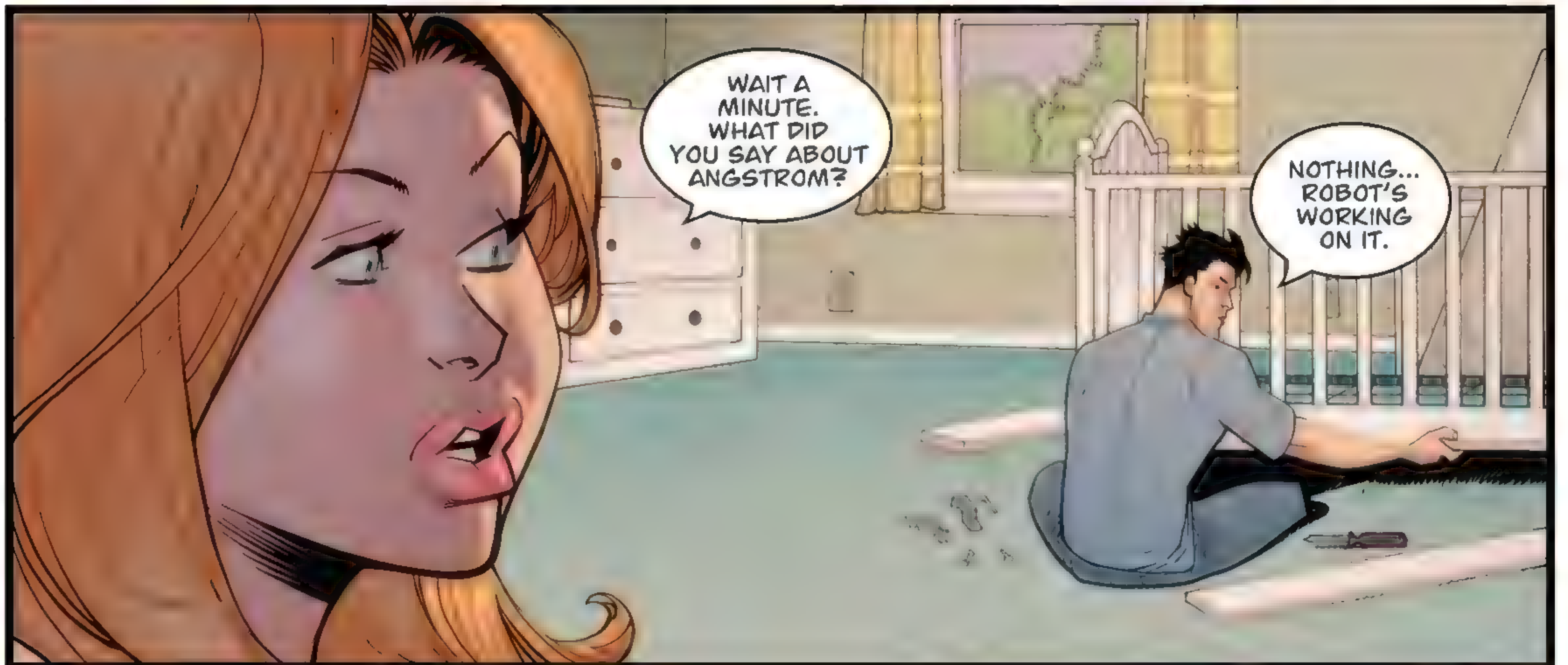
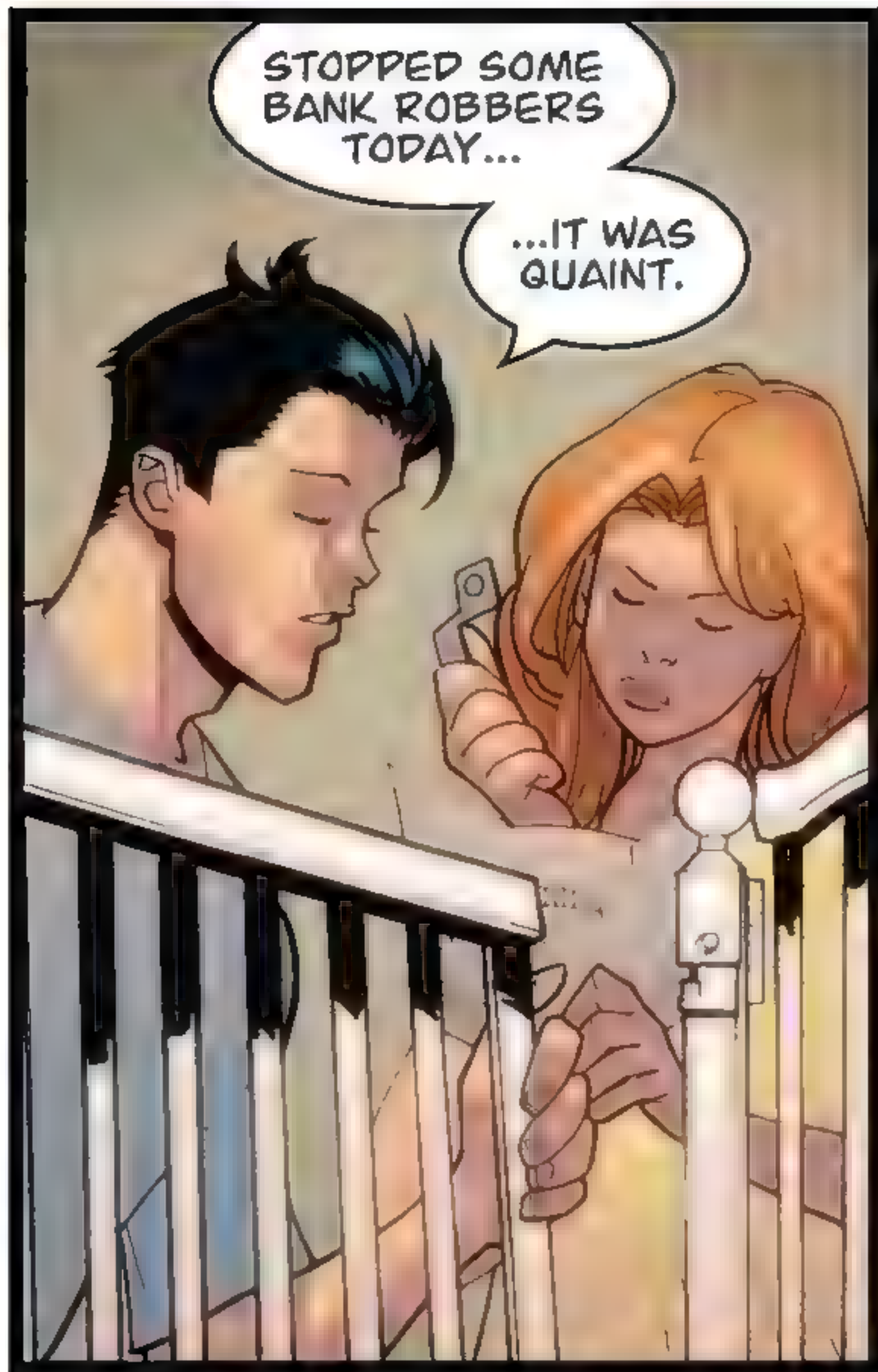
YOU
WILL FIND A LIFE
FOR YOURSELF IN
THE COLDNESS OF
SPACE, FAR FROM
HERE AND FAR
FROM COALITION
SPACE.

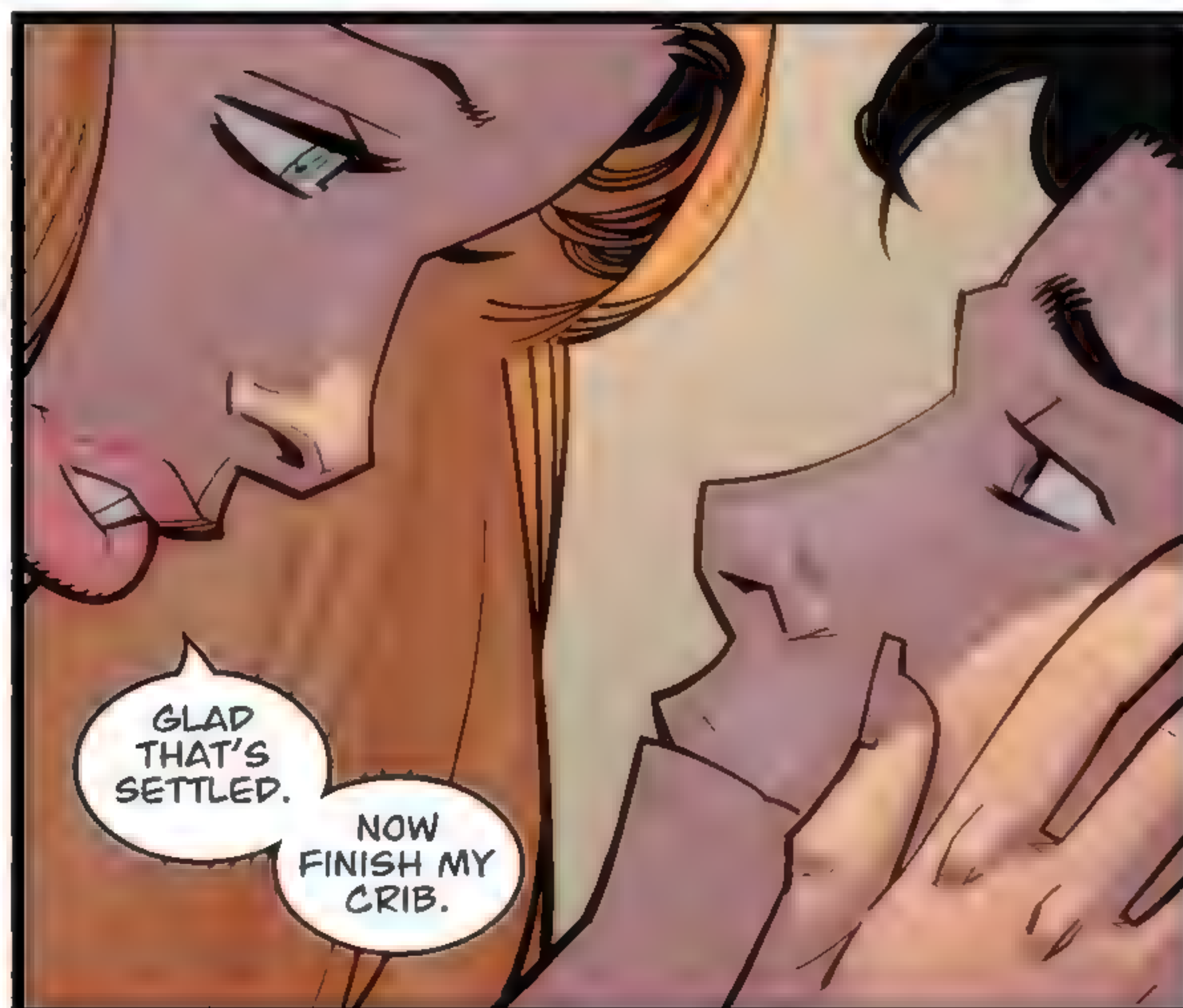
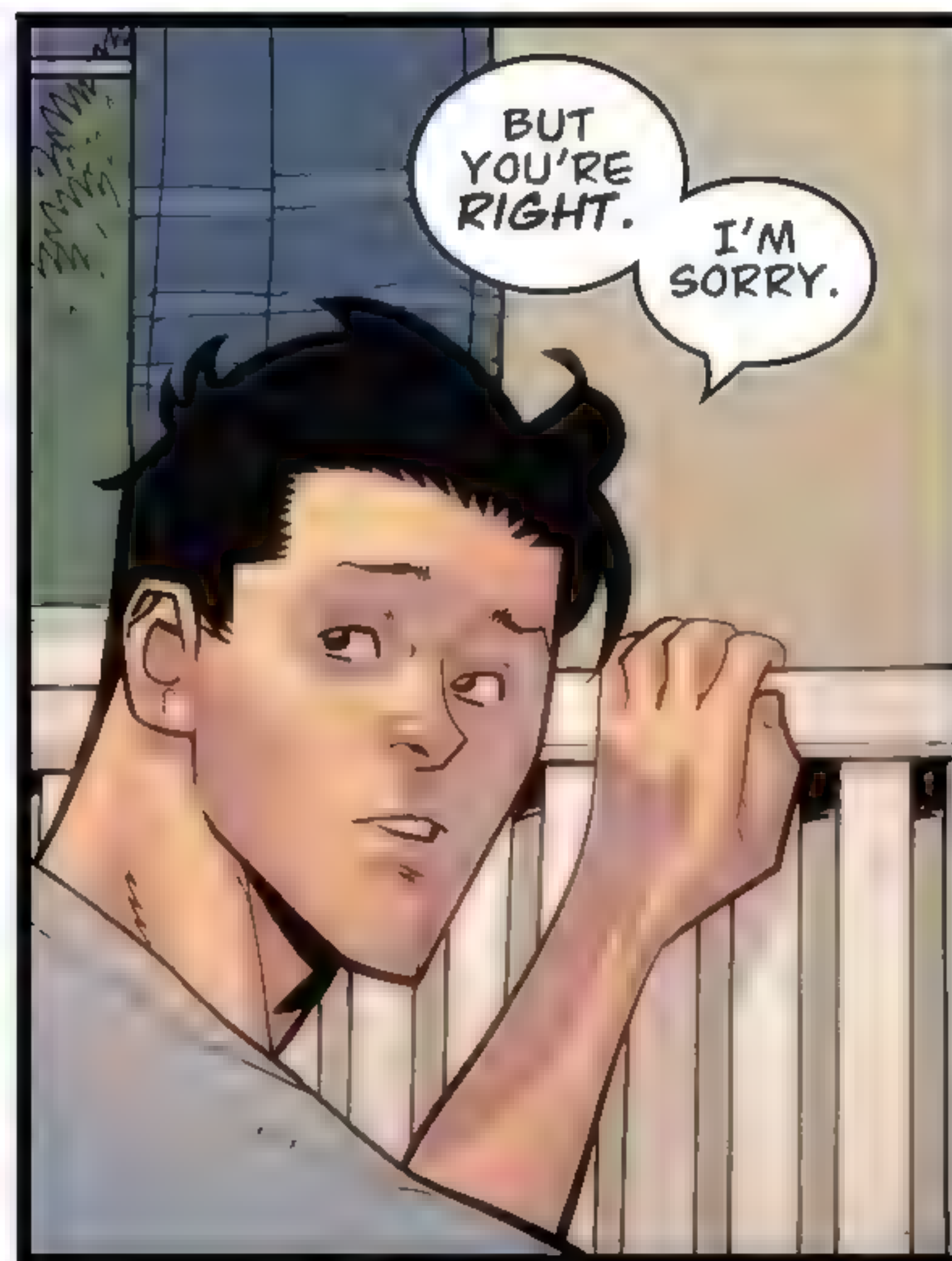
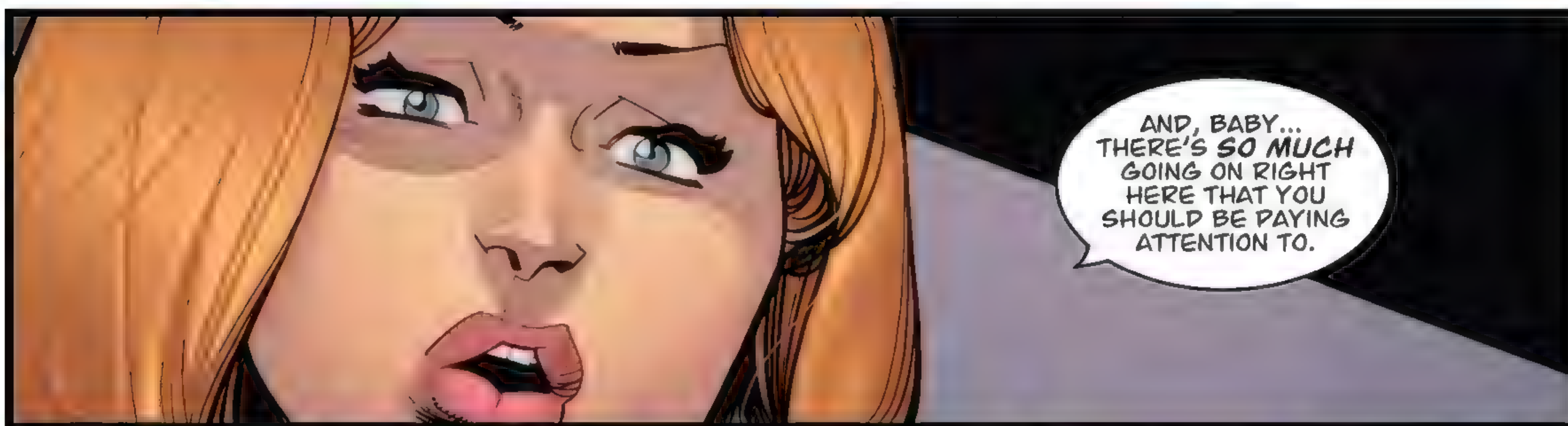
FIND A
FORGOTTEN
CORNER OF THE
COSMOS AND LIVE,
THRAGG. BE APART
FROM US AND
EVERYTHING YOU'VE
EVER KNOWN...
BUT LIVE.

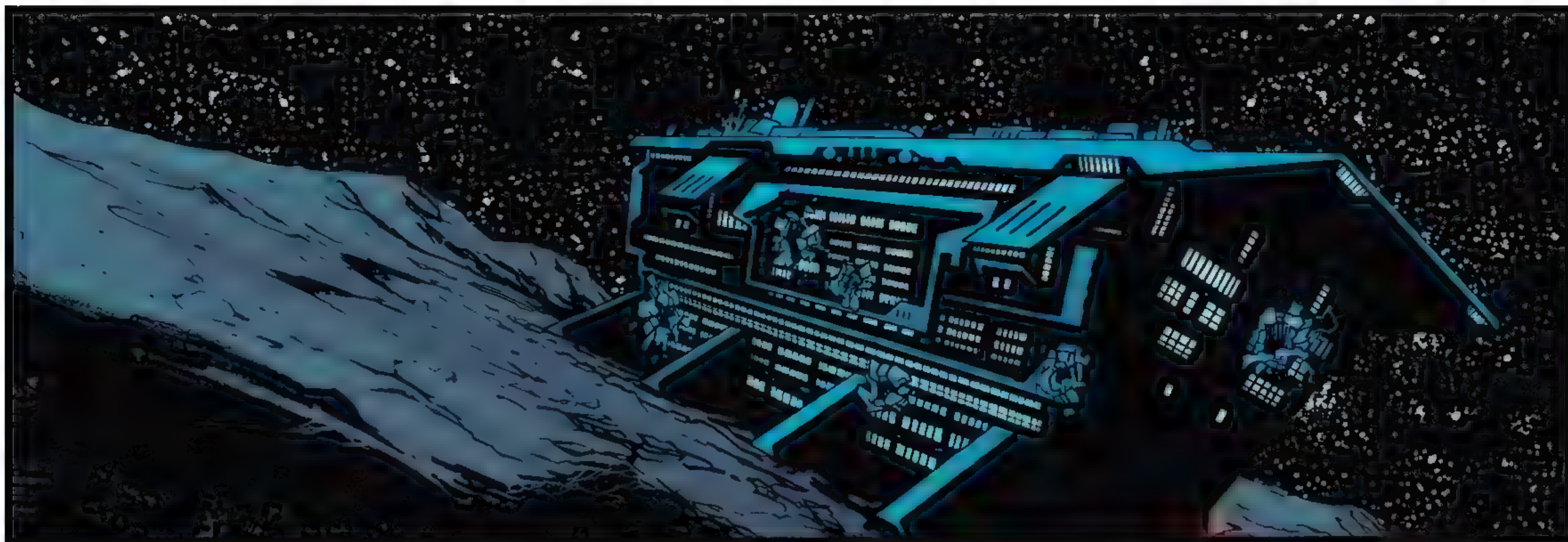
NOW
GO.











THIRTY MINUTES AGO.

WAIT, WHAT?! WHEN WE DETECTED A VILTRUMITE TRANSMISSION... THIS WAS... HAVE YOU BEEN TAKEN PRISONER?

NOT EXACTLY. THERE'S A LOT TO FILL YOU IN ON, ALLEN, OLD FRIEND...

NOW.

YOU LET THRAGG GO?! ARE YOU CRAZY?!

WHAT'S TO STOP HIM FROM ENSLAVING ANOTHER PLANET, BUILDING THEM INTO AN ARMY AND ATTACKING THE COALITION?!

YOU COULD HAVE DOOMED US ALL!

THINGS ARE DIFFERENT NOW, ALLEN. THE VILTRUMITES ARE ON YOUR SIDE. ALL OF THEM.

THRAGG CAN'T MAKE AN ARMY STRONG ENOUGH FOR THAT.

I GET WHAT YOU'RE TRYING TO DO... WHAT YOU'RE TRYING TO SHOW THE VILTRUMITES BY LETTING HIM GO...

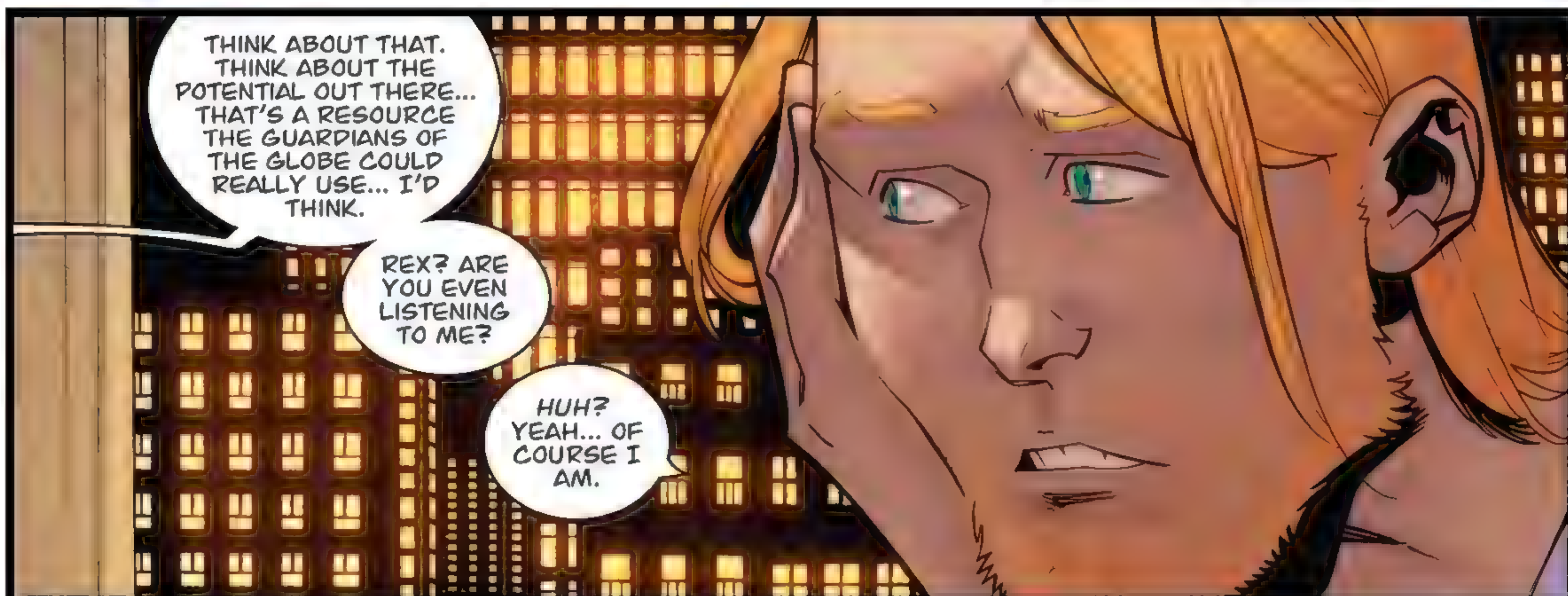
I JUST DON'T LIKE THE IDEA OF HIM BEING OUT THERE...



DON'T YOU THINK IT'S A LITTLE ODD? WE'RE FIFTY-PERCENT OF THE POPULATION... AND YET THERE ARE SO FEW FEMALE SUPERHEROES.

HOW DOES THAT HAPPEN?

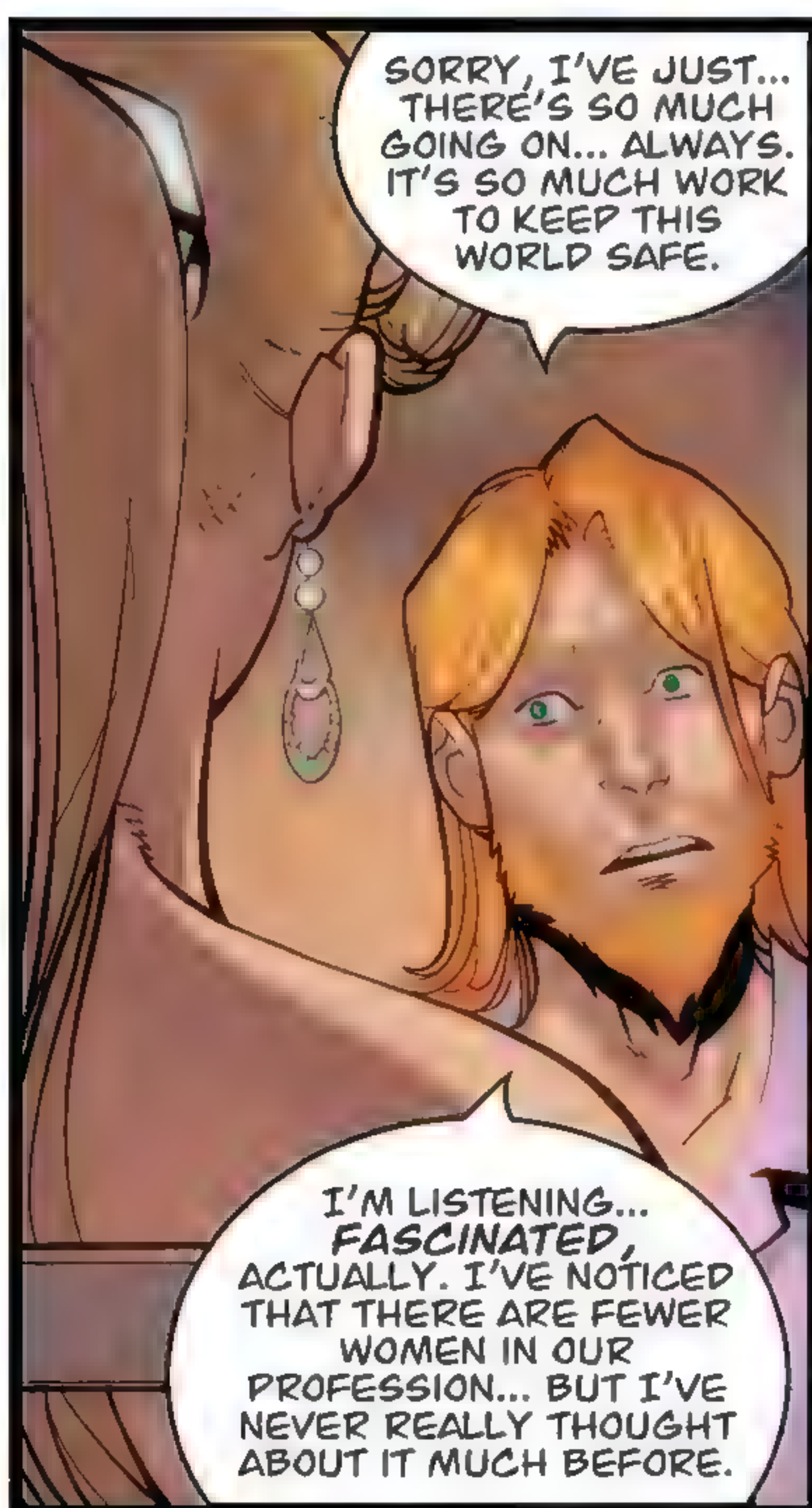
WHATEVER GIVES PEOPLE POWERS... THE HUNDREDS OF DIFFERENT WAYS IT HAPPENS... IS IT REALLY AFFECTING MORE MEN THAN WOMEN? OR ARE THERE WOMEN OUT THERE... POWERFUL WOMEN, WE JUST HAVEN'T FOUND YET?



THINK ABOUT THAT. THINK ABOUT THE POTENTIAL OUT THERE... THAT'S A RESOURCE THE GUARDIANS OF THE GLOBE COULD REALLY USE... I'D THINK.

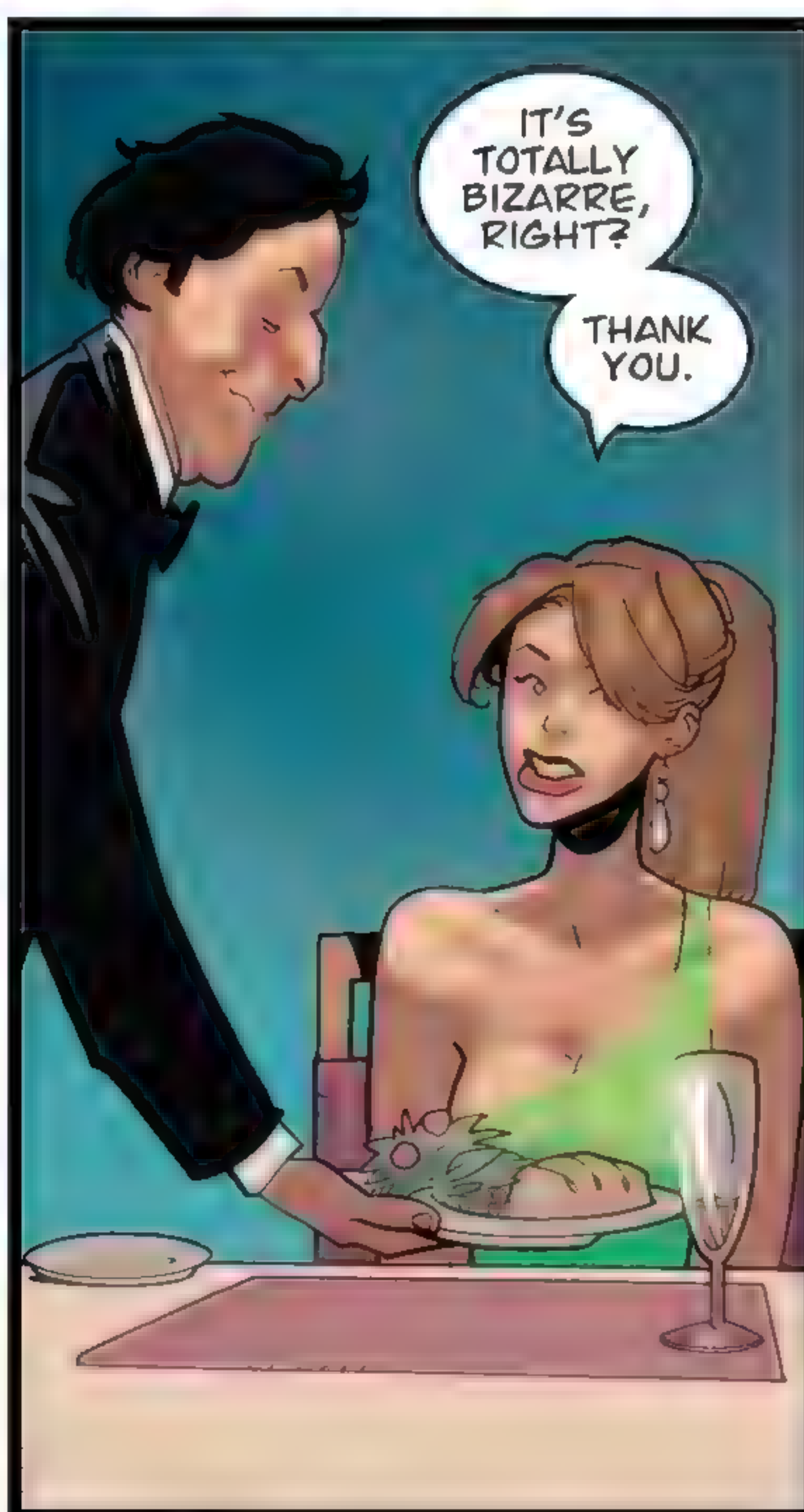
REX? ARE YOU EVEN LISTENING TO ME?

HUH? YEAH... OF COURSE I AM.



SORRY, I'VE JUST... THERE'S SO MUCH GOING ON... ALWAYS. IT'S SO MUCH WORK TO KEEP THIS WORLD SAFE.

I'M LISTENING... **FASCINATED**, ACTUALLY. I'VE NOTICED THAT THERE ARE FEWER WOMEN IN OUR PROFESSION... BUT I'VE NEVER REALLY THOUGHT ABOUT IT MUCH BEFORE.



IT'S TOTALLY BIZARRE, RIGHT?

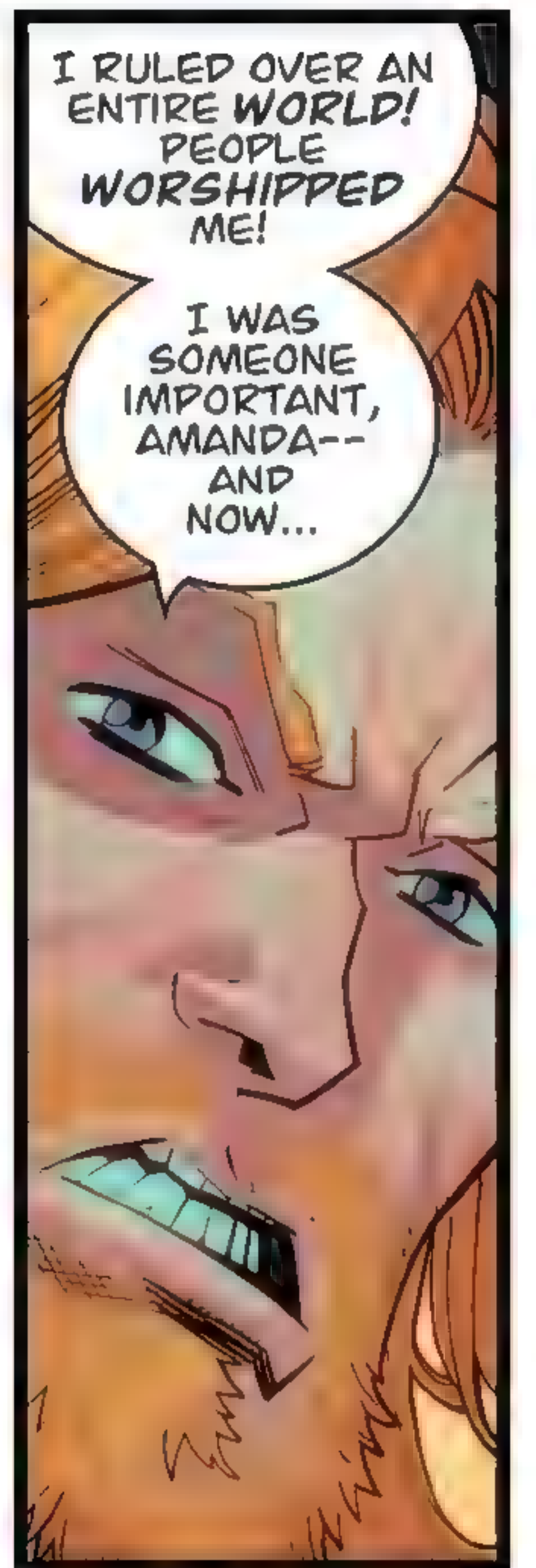
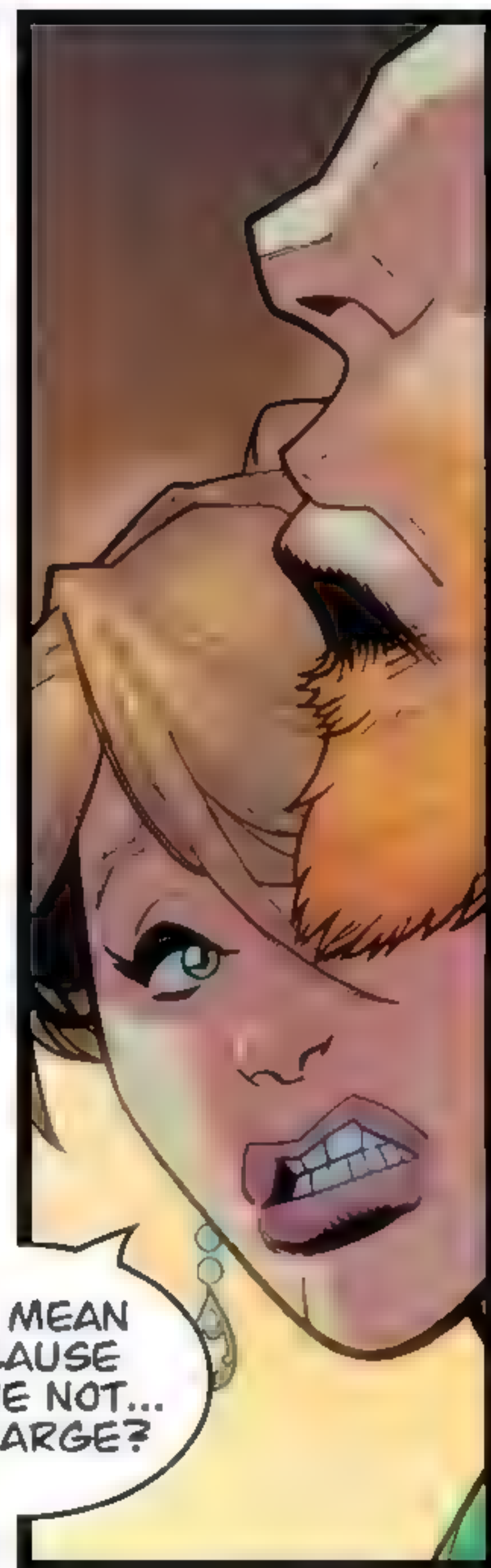
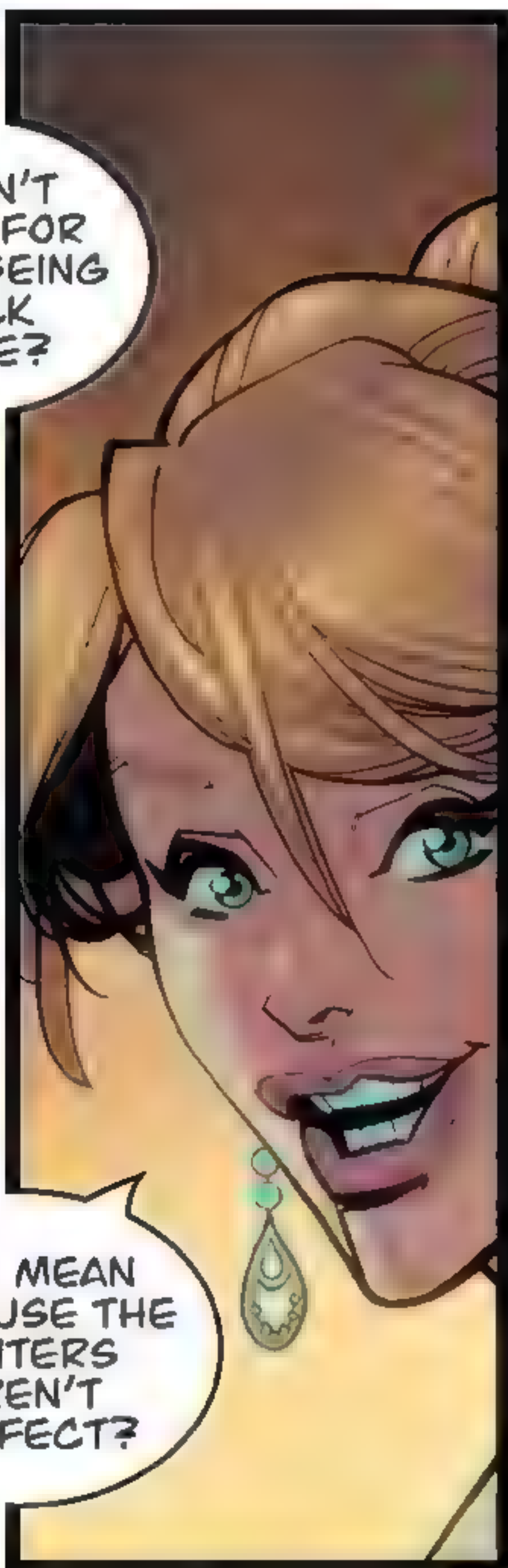
THANK YOU.

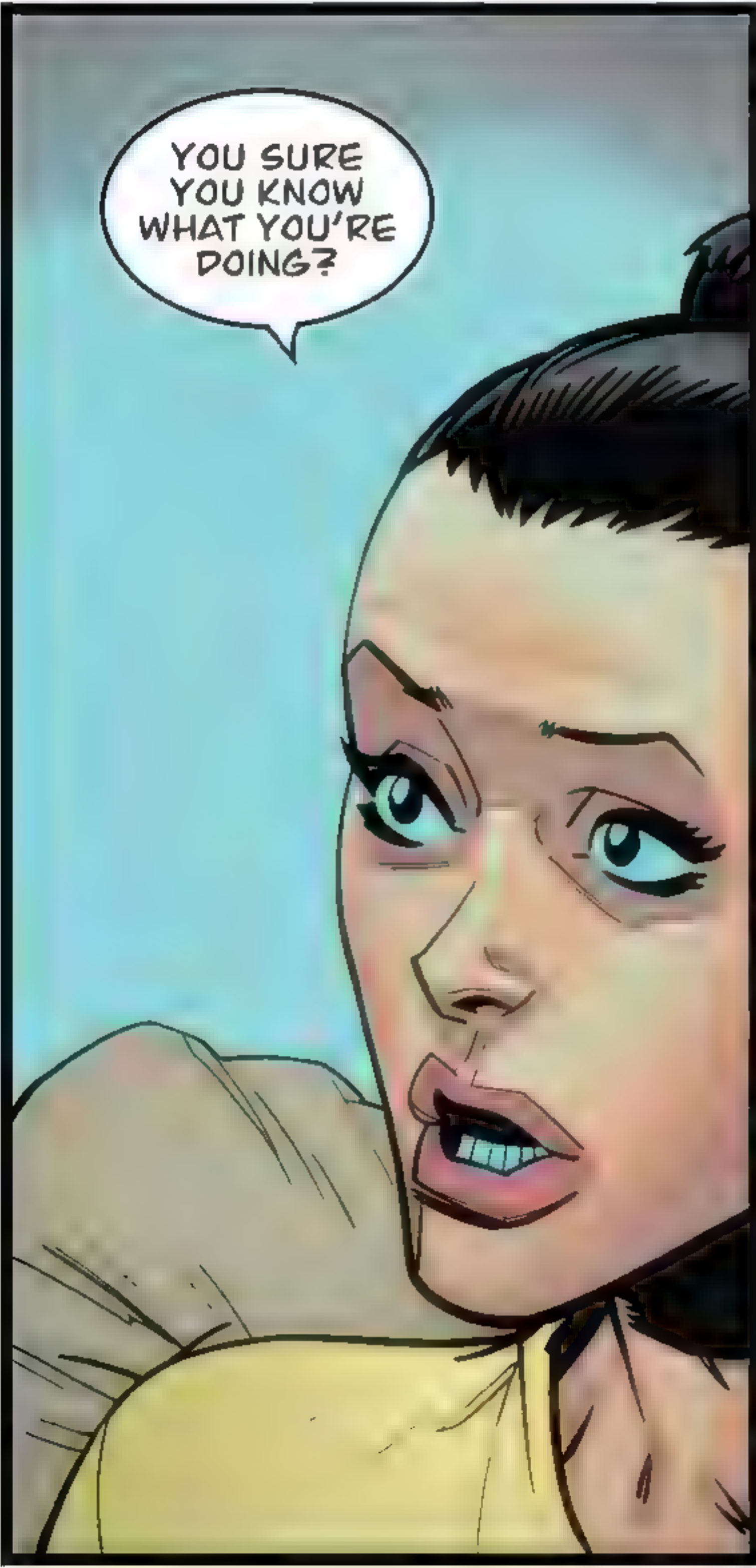
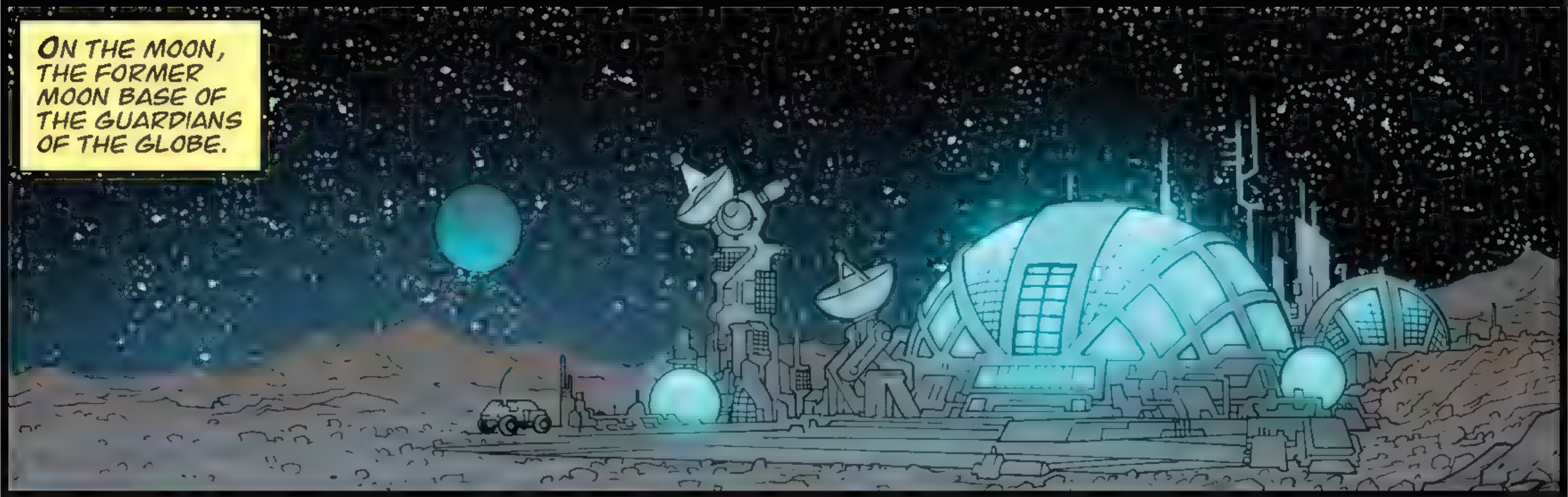


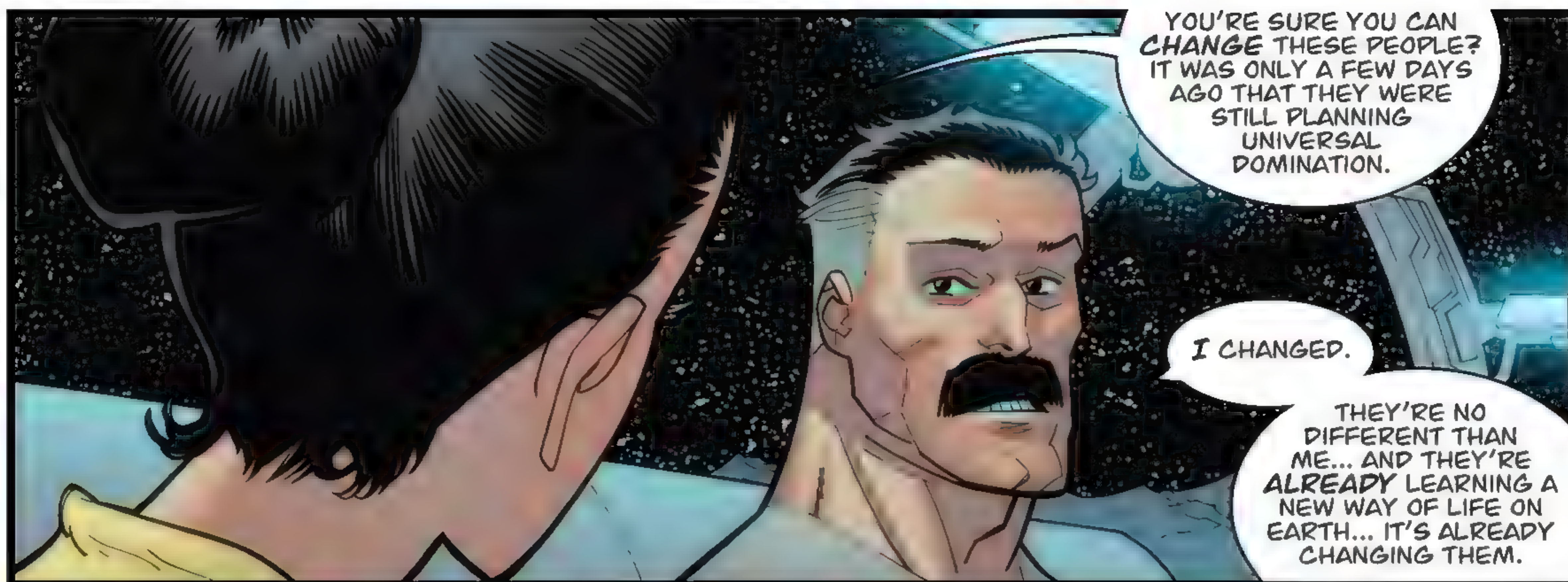
THIS ISN'T WHAT I ORDERED.

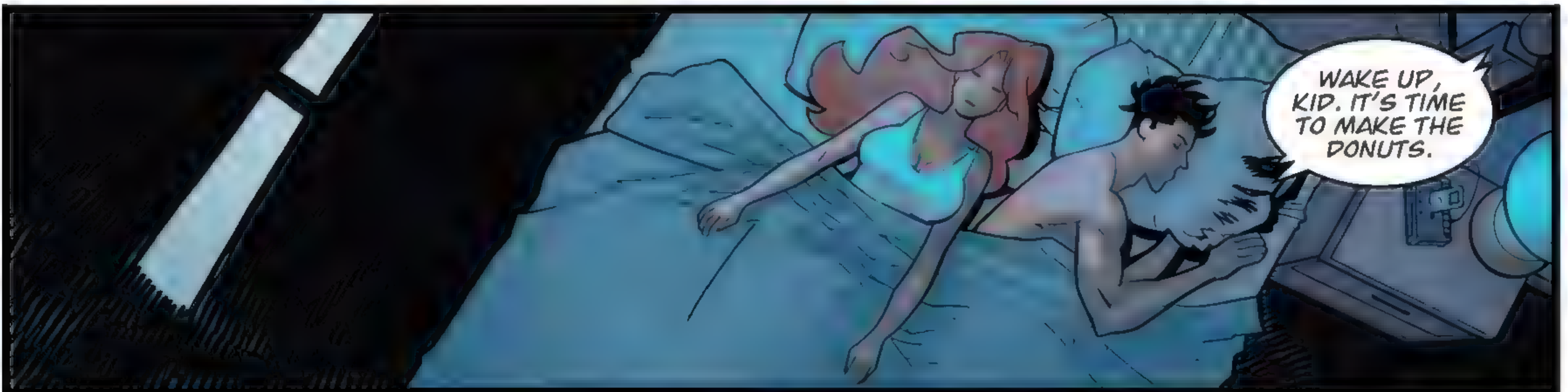
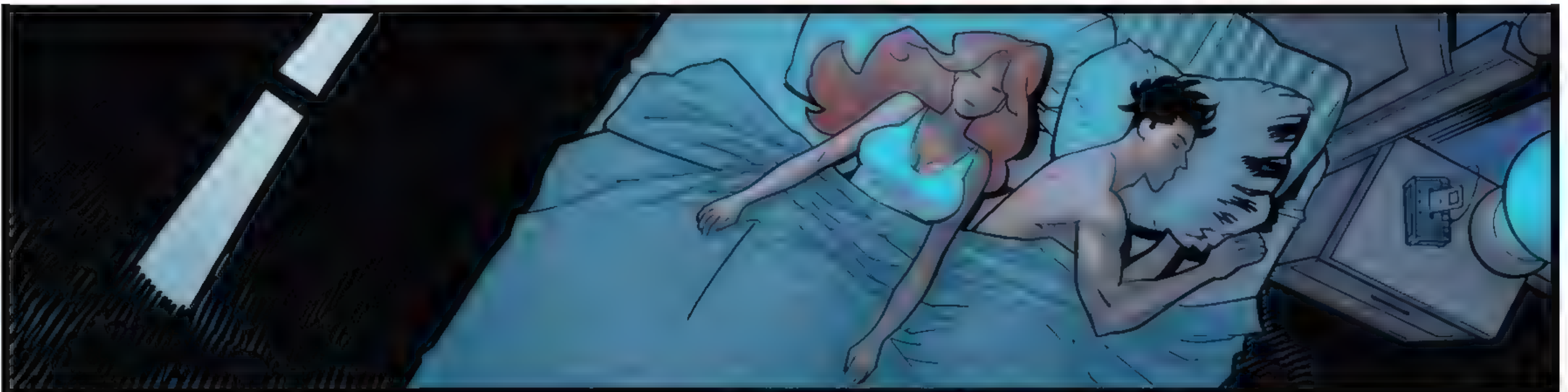
ARE YOU SURE?

ABSOLUTELY. DOES THIS LOOK LIKE SALMON TO YOU?







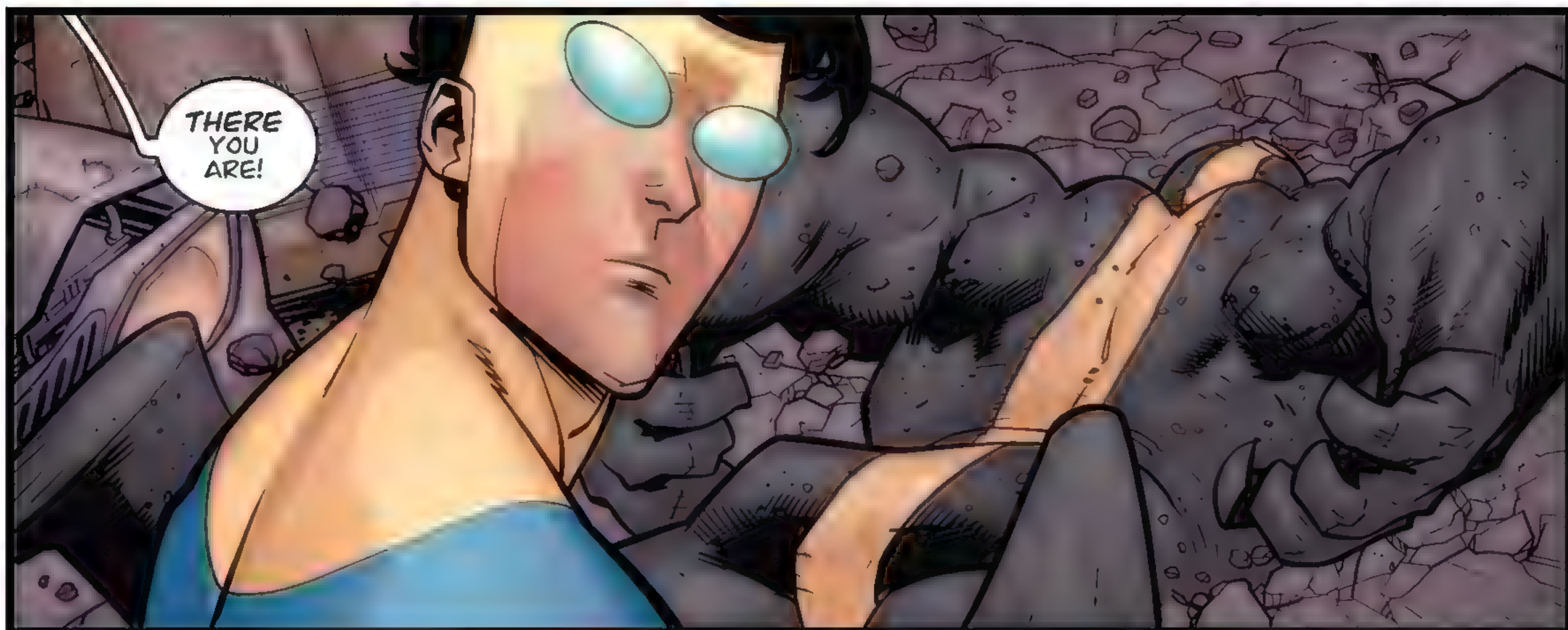


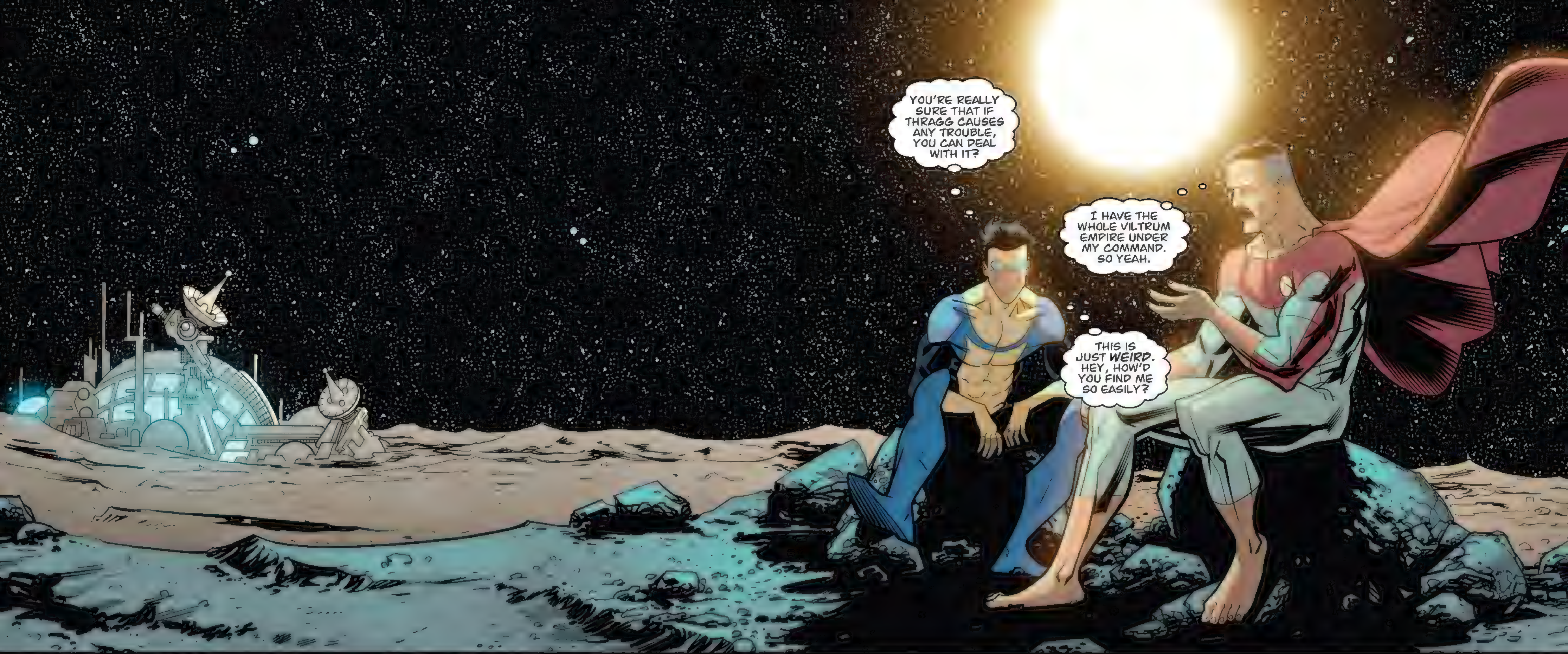


YEAH,
RIGHT...

"EASY."

KROKK!





YOU'RE REALLY SURE THAT IF THRAGG CAUSES ANY TROUBLE, YOU CAN DEAL WITH IT?

I HAVE THE WHOLE VILTRUM EMPIRE UNDER MY COMMAND. SO YEAH.

THIS IS JUST WEIRD. HEY, HOW'D YOU FIND ME SO EASILY?



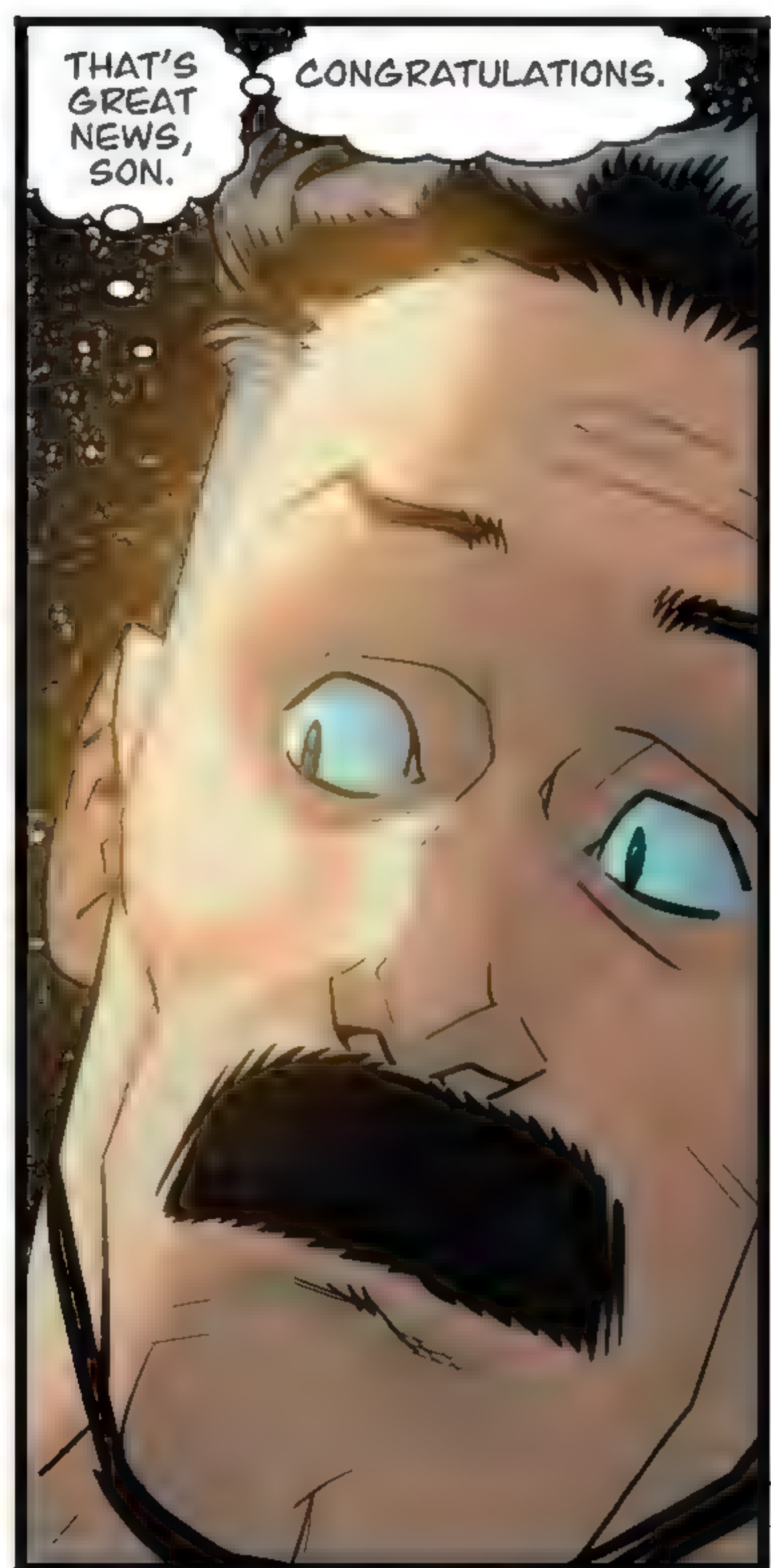
I HAVE TECHNOLOGY CECIL DOESN'T KNOW I HAVE. I CAN HEAR EVERYTHING HE SAYS TO YOU.

AND JUST TO BE SAFE... WE SHOULD ONLY DISCUSS VILTRUMITE MATTERS THIS WAY... SO HE CAN NEVER LISTEN IN.



UNDERSTOOD.

I'M NOT SUPPOSED TO TELL YOU THIS... BUT EVE AND I ARE HAVING A BABY.



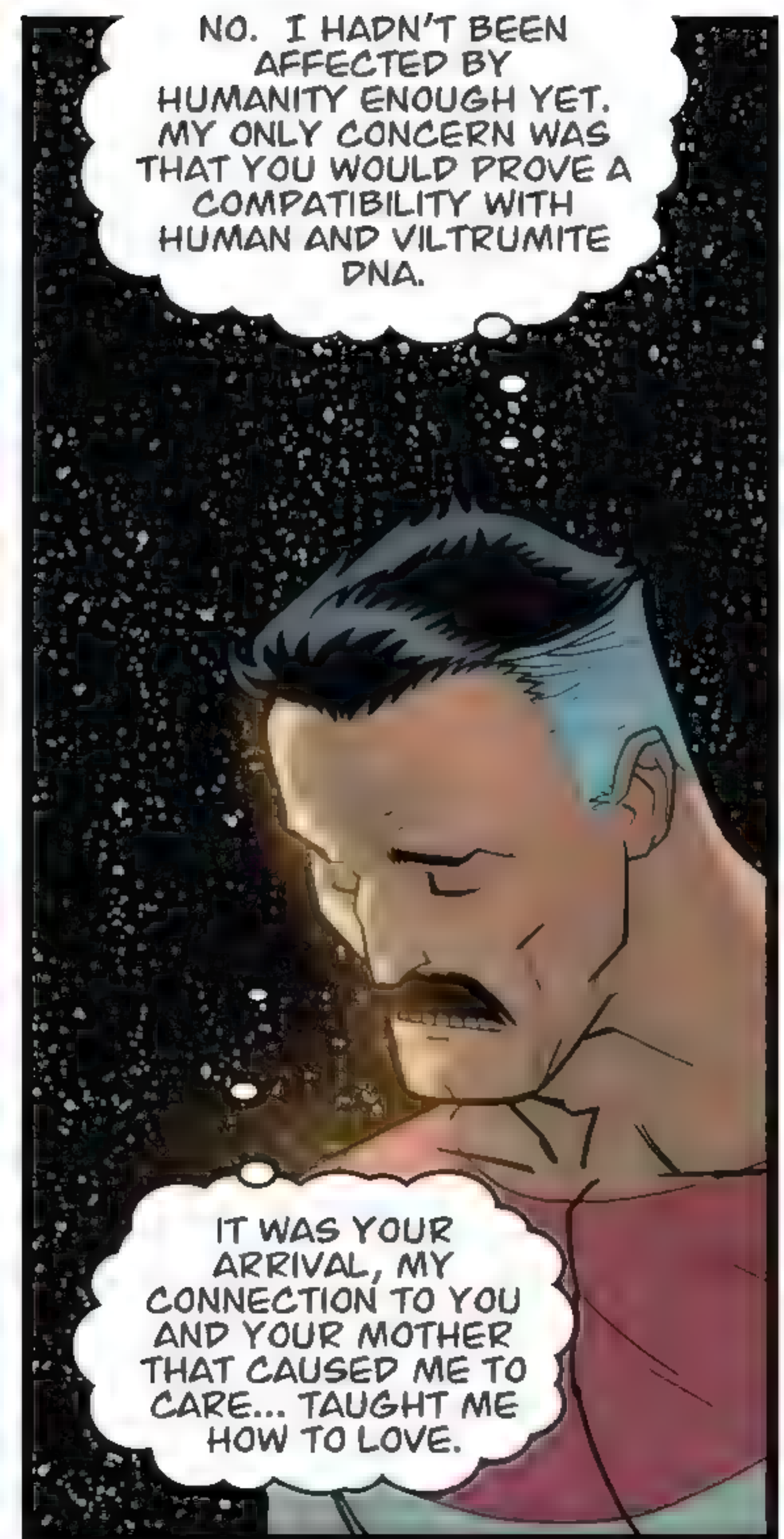
THAT'S GREAT NEWS, SON.

CONGRATULATIONS.



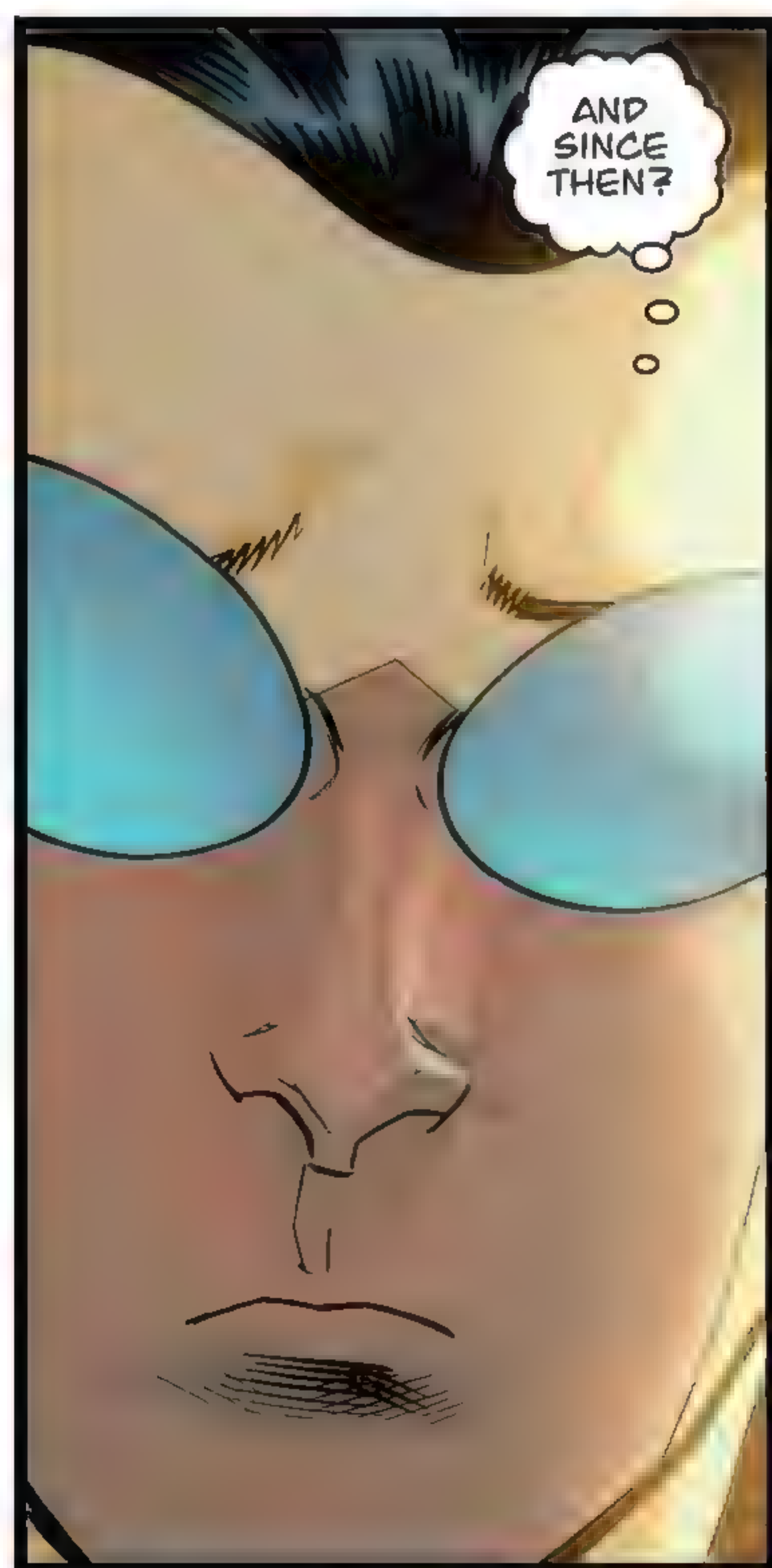
CAN YOU... HELP ME, I MEAN... NOT BE SO SCARED? I'M WORRIED I'M GOING TO SCREW IT UP... OR THAT I'LL GET THROWN INTO THE FUTURE AND MISS ITS CHILDHOOD OR SOMETHING.

WERE YOU SCARED WHEN MOM WAS PREGNANT?



NO. I HADN'T BEEN AFFECTED BY HUMANITY ENOUGH YET. MY ONLY CONCERN WAS THAT YOU WOULD PROVE A COMPATIBILITY WITH HUMAN AND VILTRUMITE DNA.

IT WAS YOUR ARRIVAL, MY CONNECTION TO YOU AND YOUR MOTHER THAT CAUSED ME TO CARE... TAUGHT ME HOW TO LOVE.



AND SINCE THEN?






CHAPTER 106



RYAN 13
RAUCH



MADE CLEAR
TO ME IT IS. DEAD
MY MEN ARE.
NONE LEFT THERE
IS BUT US. SEE
THIS I CAN.

TO MY HEAD
WENT THE POWER.
LOST CONTROL WAS.
FORGOTTEN WAS
ORIGINAL PURPOSE
THAT CAUSED
ME TO TAKE
COMMAND.

POWER
WAS I
OBSESSED
WITH. CLEAR
TO ME NOW
IT IS.

OPPRESS
MY PEOPLE,
NEVER
AGAIN I
WILL.

THAT LAST
PART, AT
LEAST, I
KNOW TO BE
TRUE.



YOU'LL NEVER OPPRESS ANYONE AGAIN.



YOU WILL NOW BOTH DIE BY MY HAND. THERE IS NO QUESTION OF THAT.

THE ONLY QUESTION IS IF YOU WILL RESIST OR SUBMIT TO YOUR DISMEMBERMENT LIKE COWARDS.







I JUST NEED SOME TIME TO CLEAN UP.

BATTLE BEAST, WAIT!



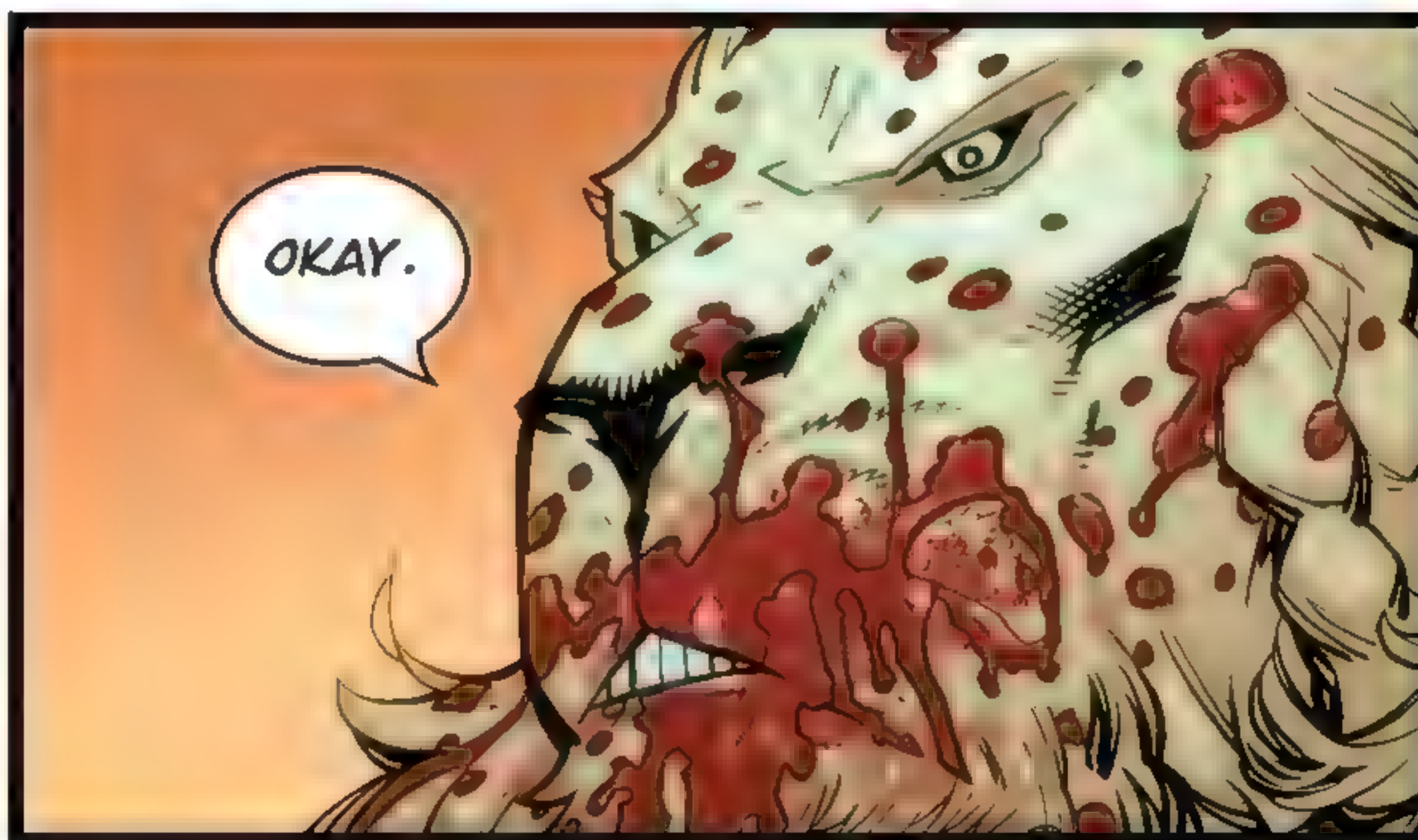
SAVED MY PEOPLE YOU HAVE. CHANGED FOREVER OUR LIVES ARE!

TO TRULY REPAY YOU I WILL NEVER BE ABLE.

TAKE ME WITH YOU, I BEG.

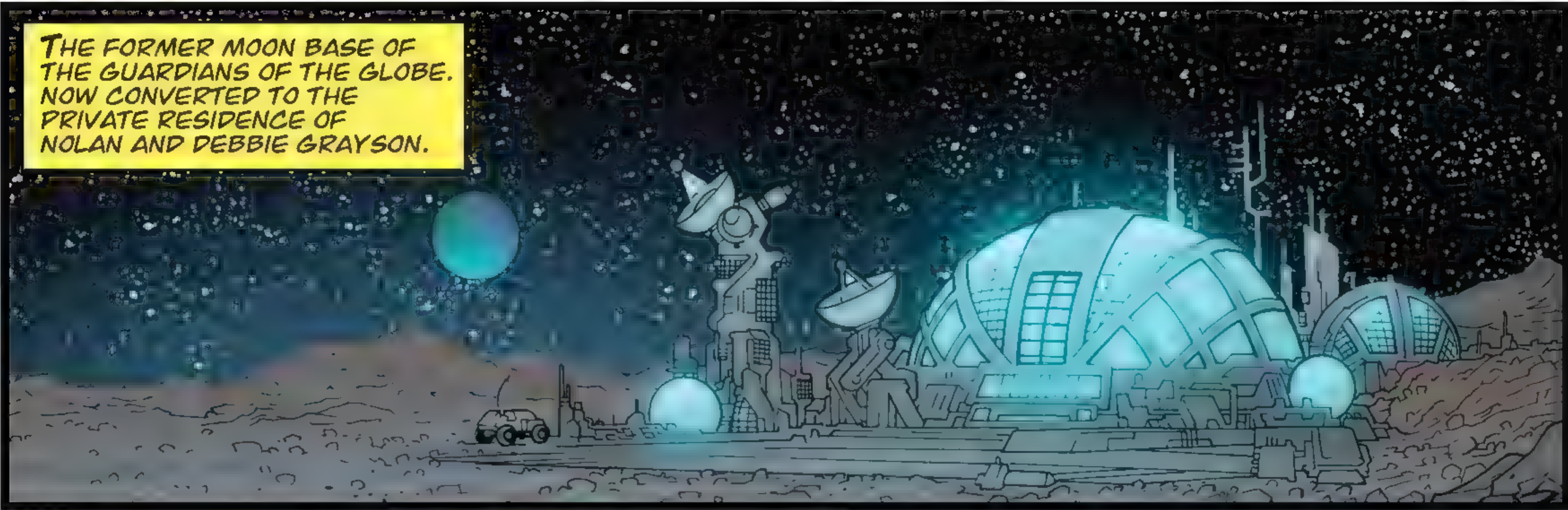


PLEASE?



OKAY.





THE FORMER MOON BASE OF THE GUARDIANS OF THE GLOBE. NOW CONVERTED TO THE PRIVATE RESIDENCE OF NOLAN AND DEBBIE GRAYSON.



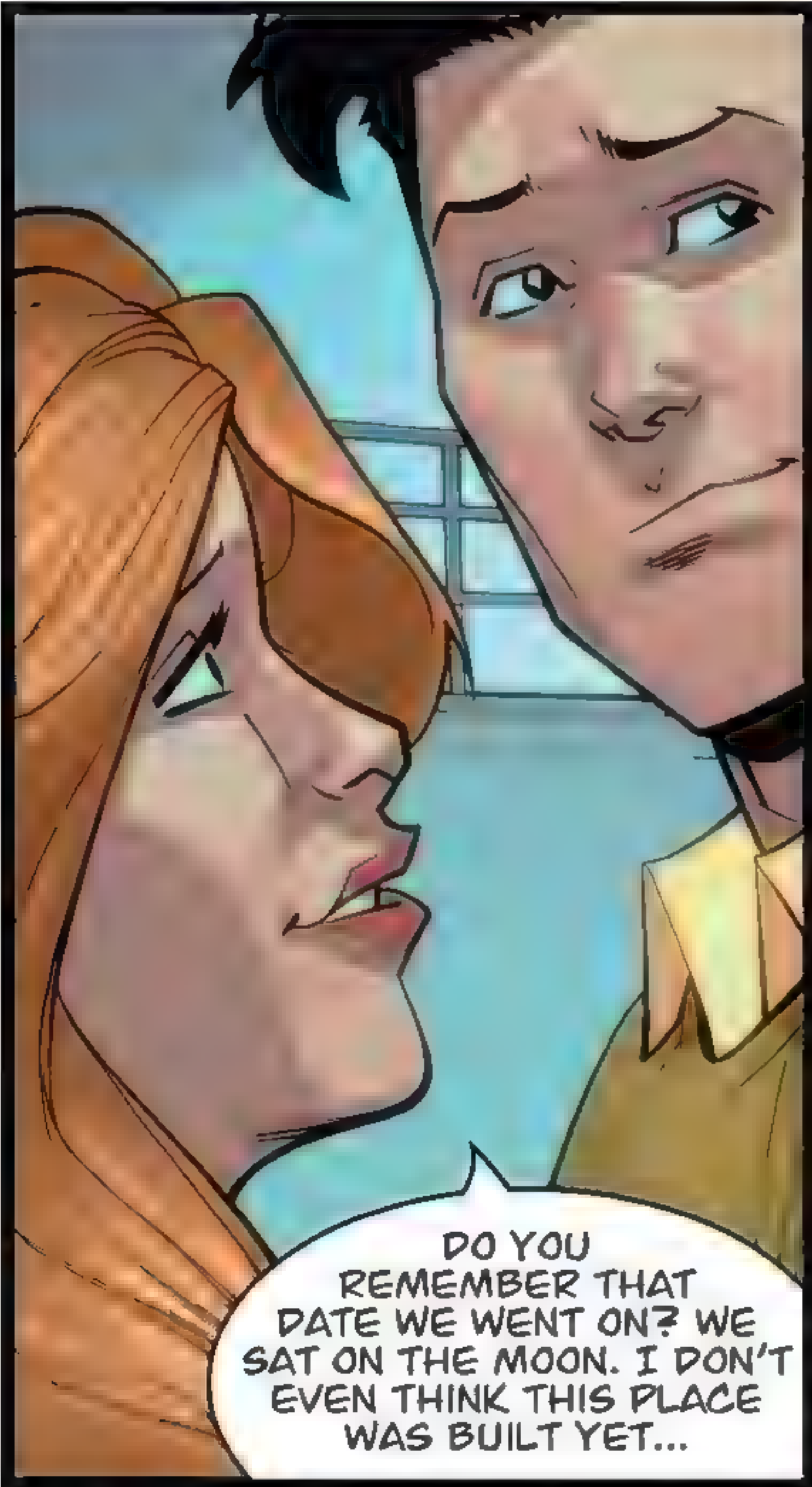
OKAY, SERIOUSLY... THIS PLACE IS COOL! WE ARE GOING TO VISIT WAY MORE OFTEN.

THIS IS JUST AMAZING!

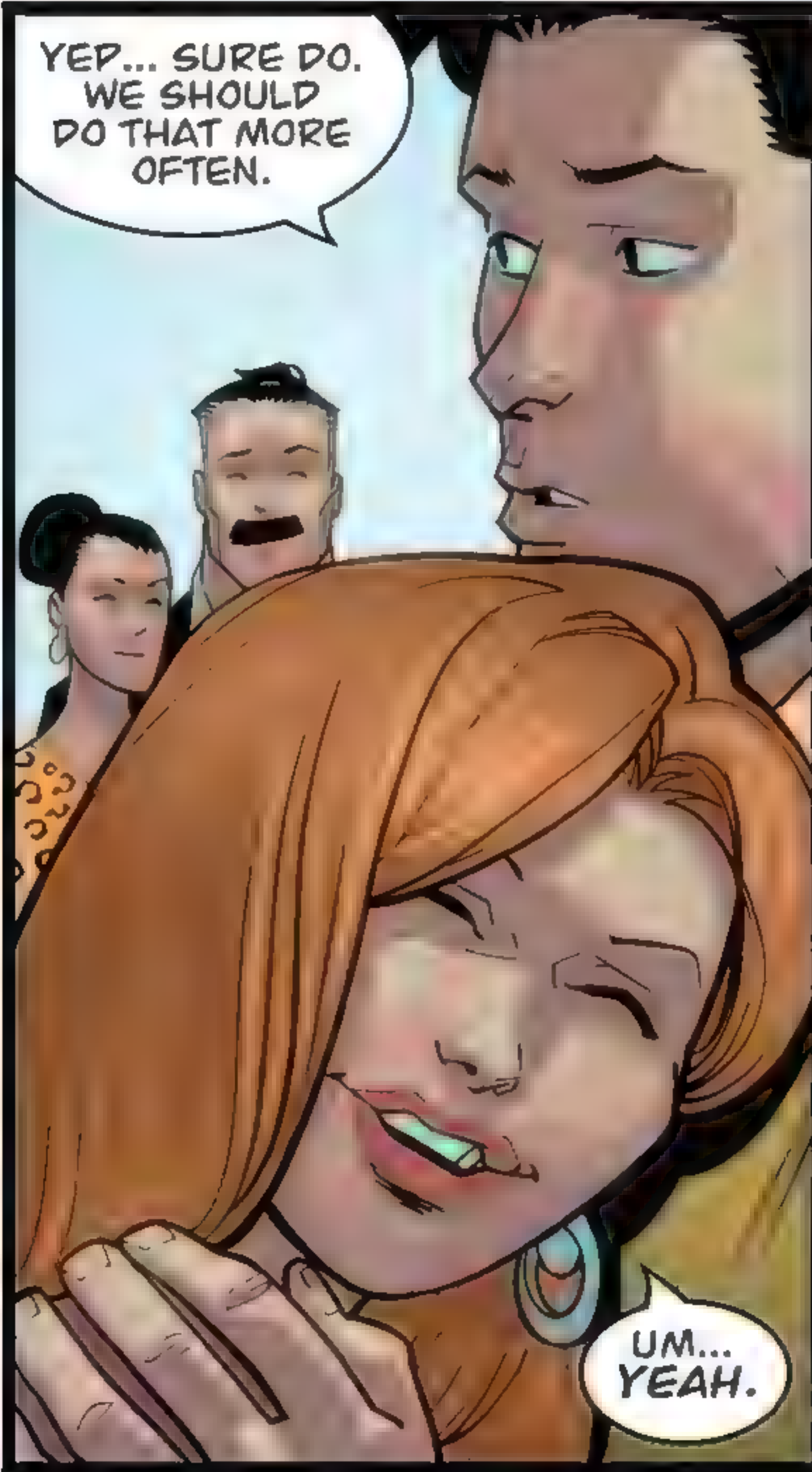
I FORGET SOMETIMES HOW LITTLE TIME YOU SPEND IN SPACE. FEELS LIKE EVERY DAY FOR ME, OF COURSE... THAT NEVER GETS OLD.



WHOA.

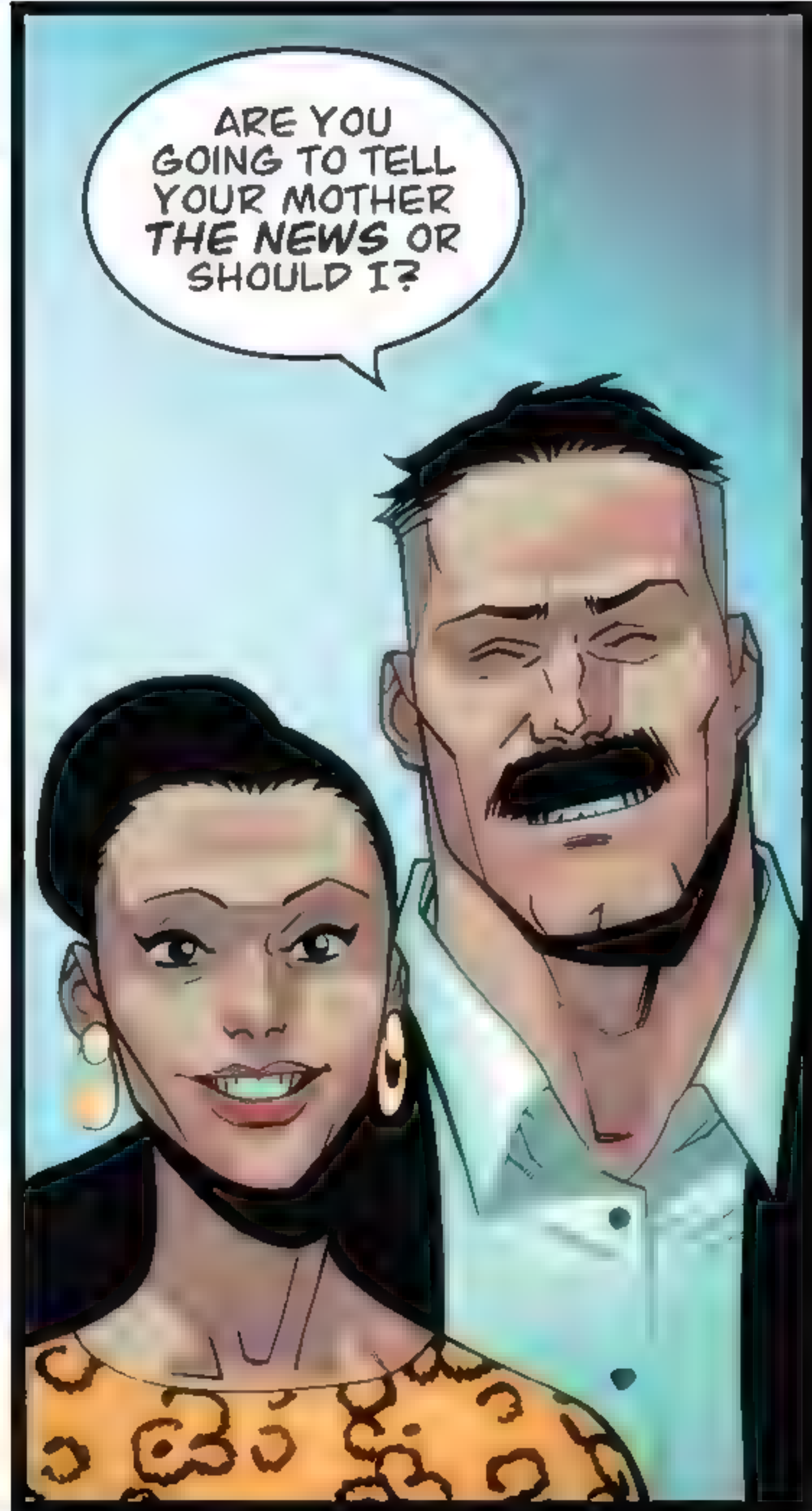


DO YOU REMEMBER THAT DATE WE WENT ON? WE SAT ON THE MOON. I DON'T EVEN THINK THIS PLACE WAS BUILT YET...

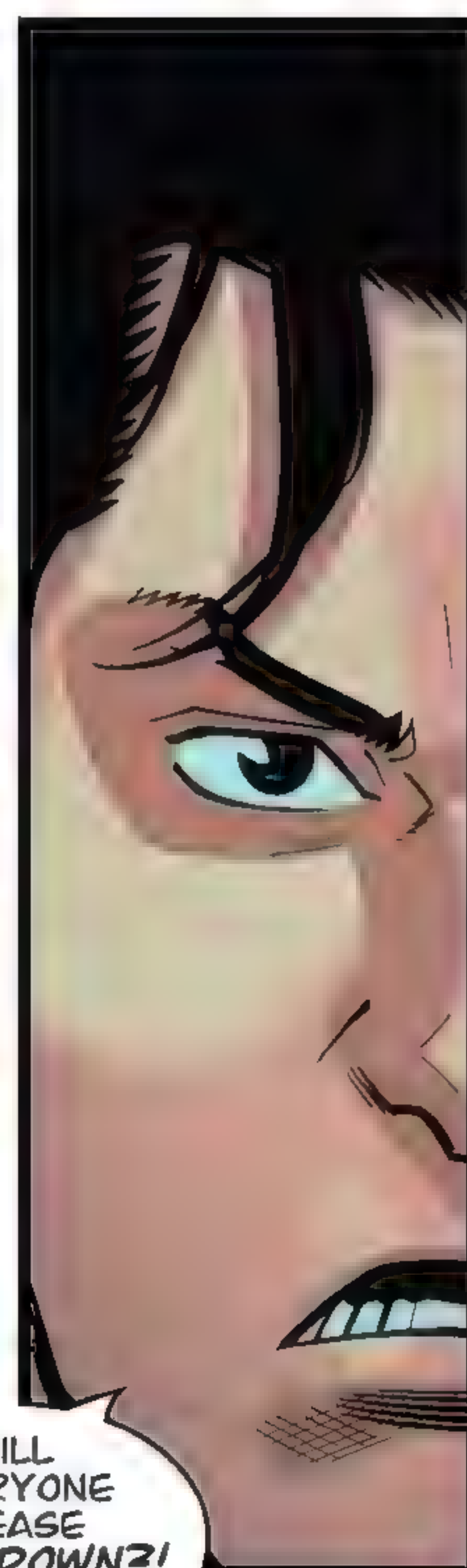
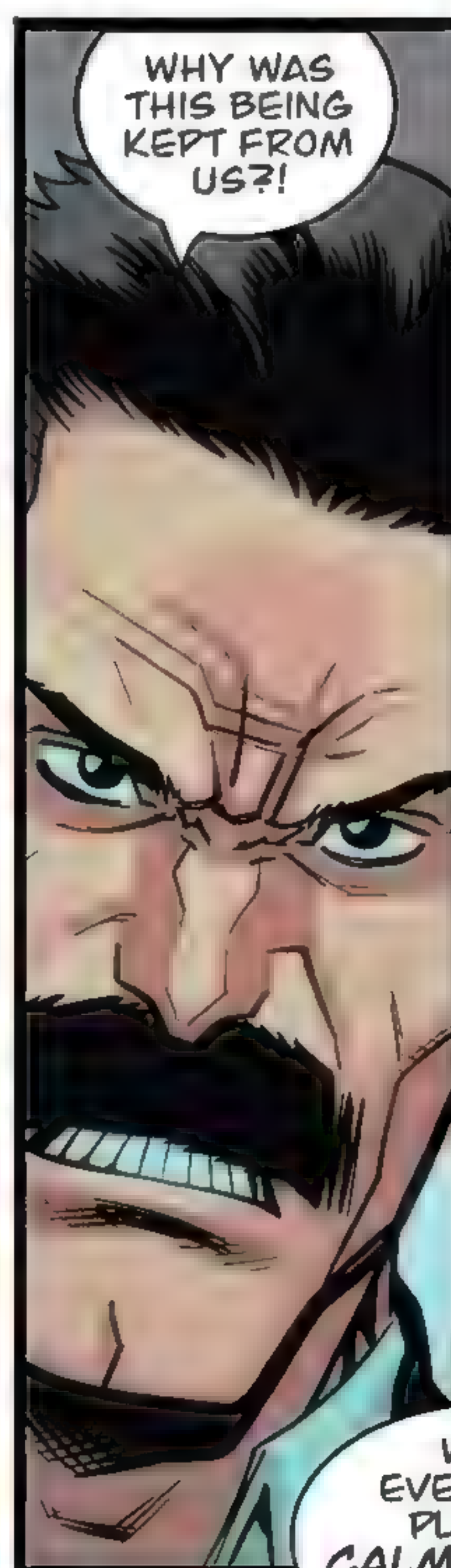
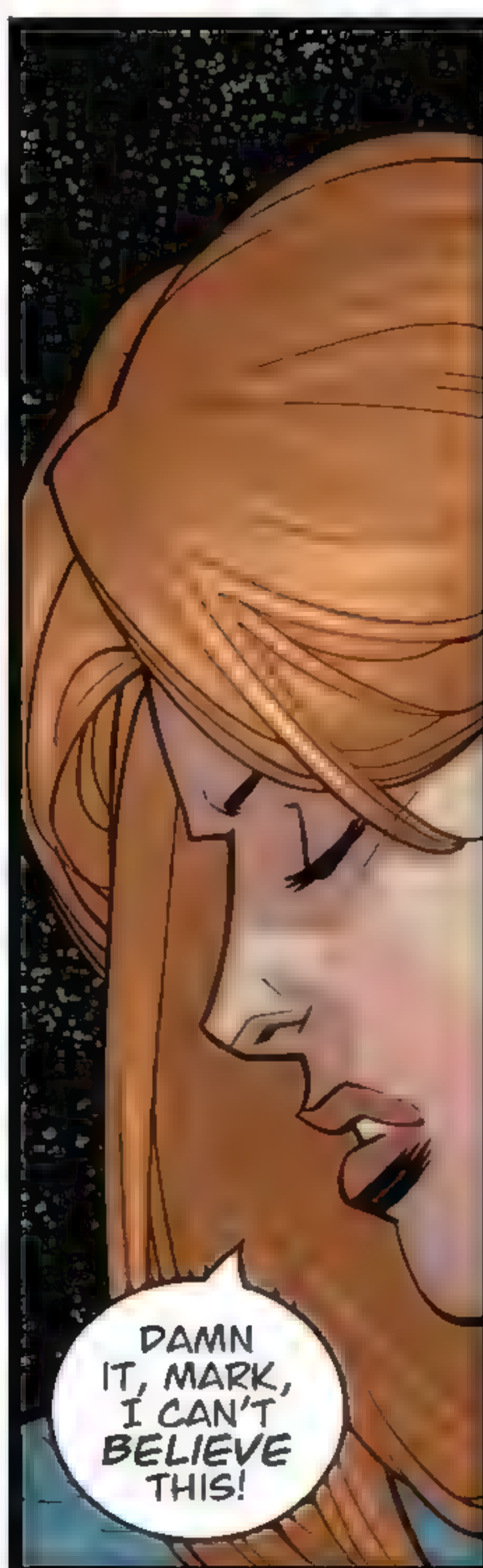
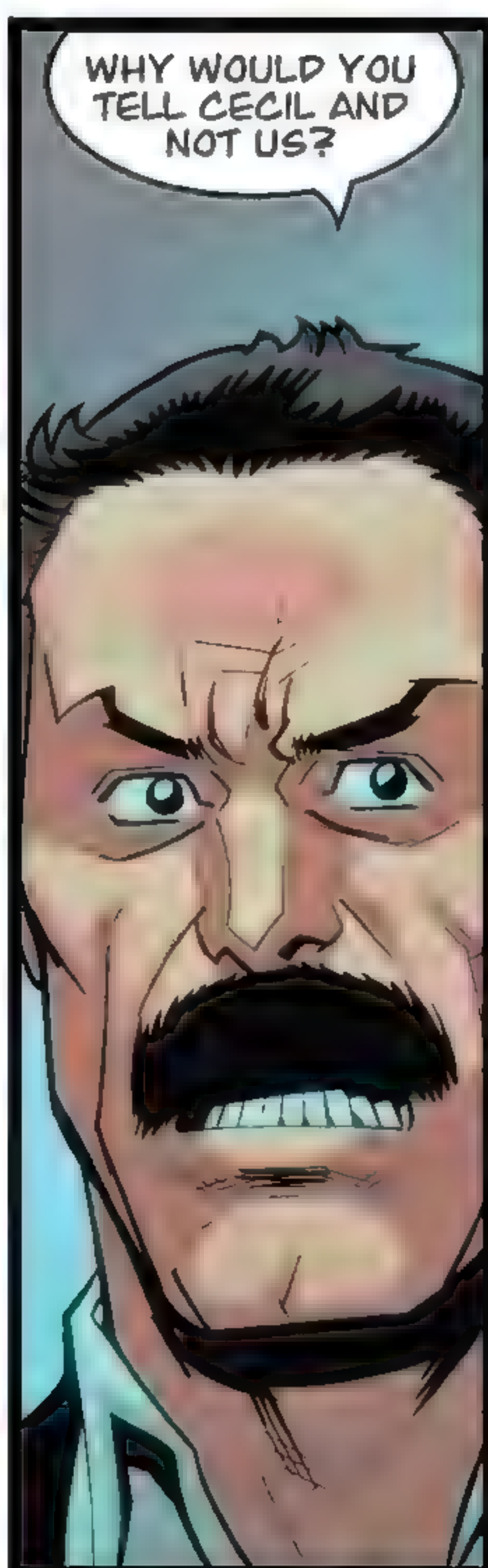
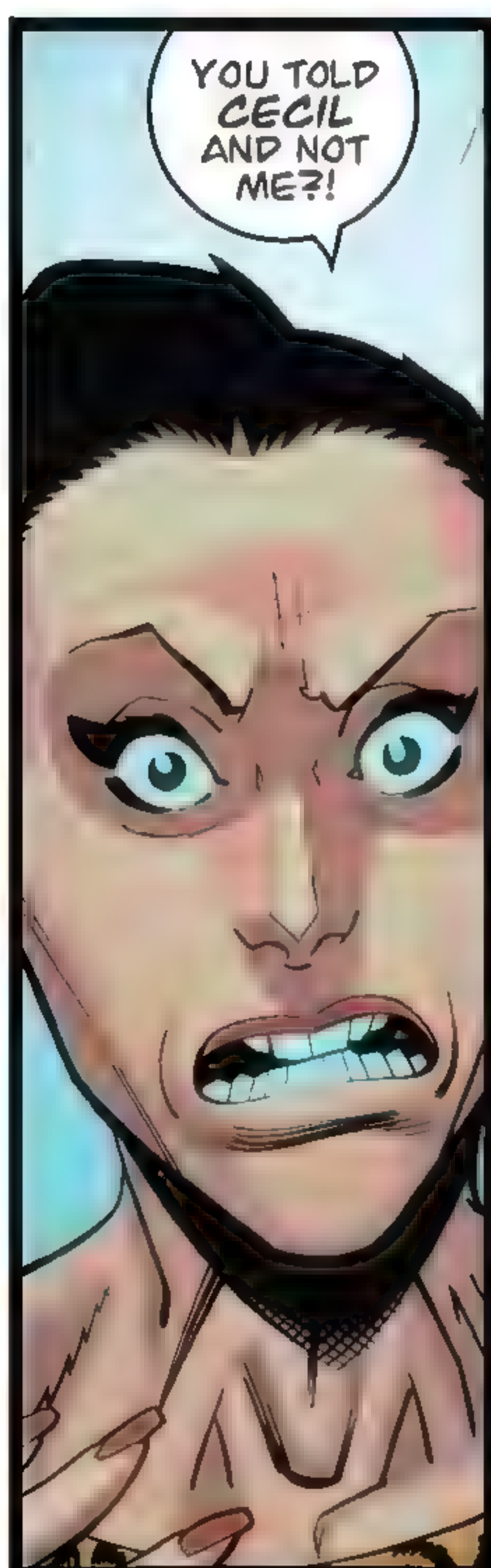
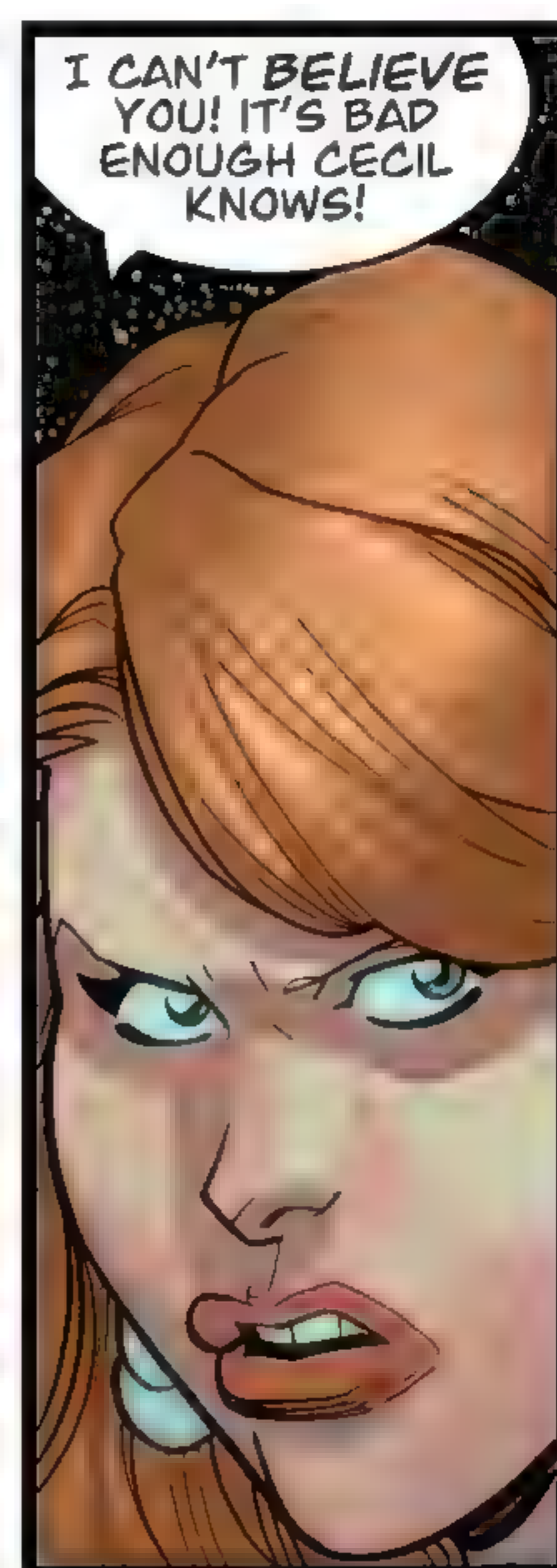
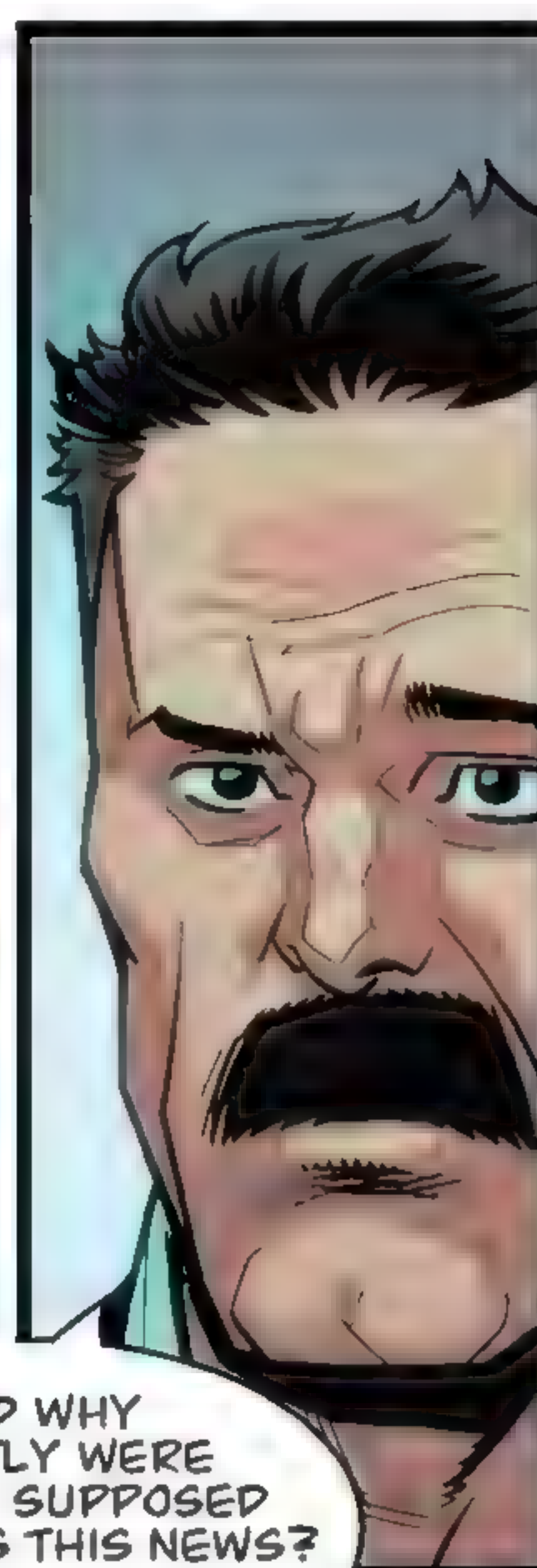
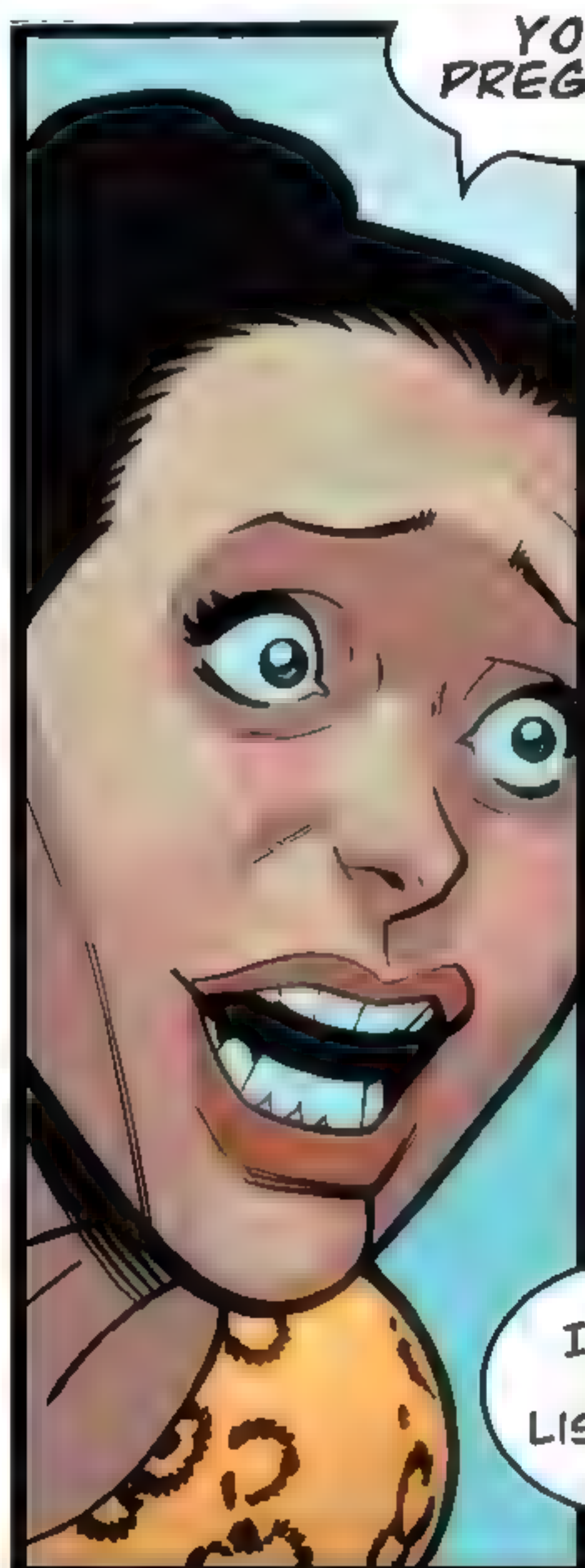


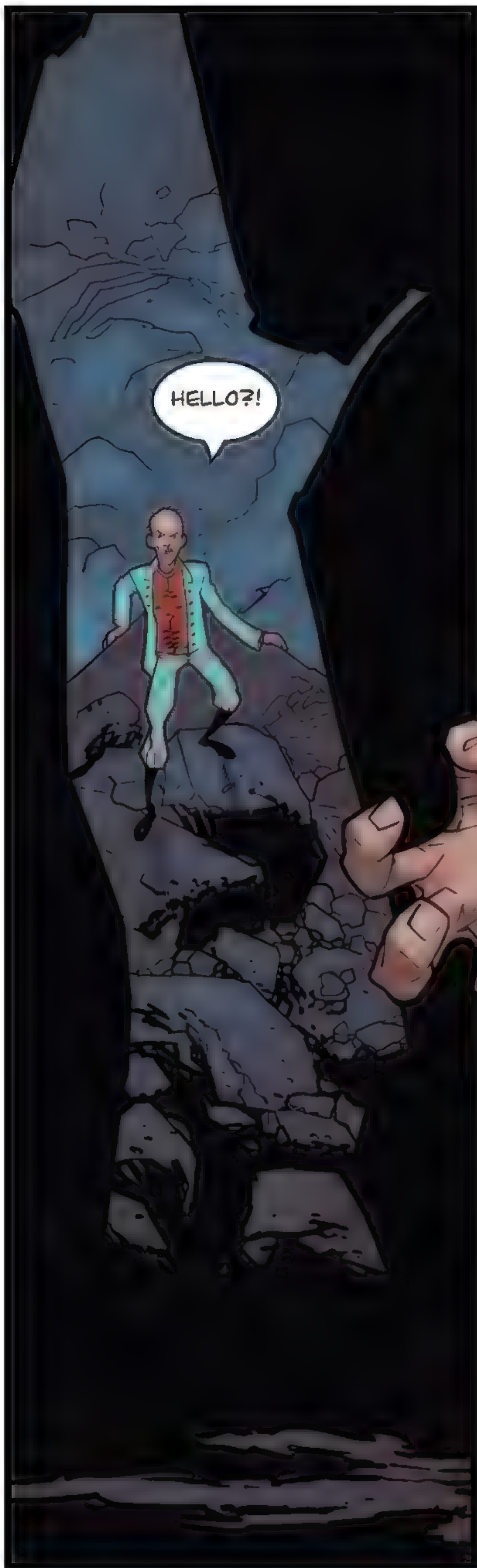
YEP... SURE DO. WE SHOULD DO THAT MORE OFTEN.

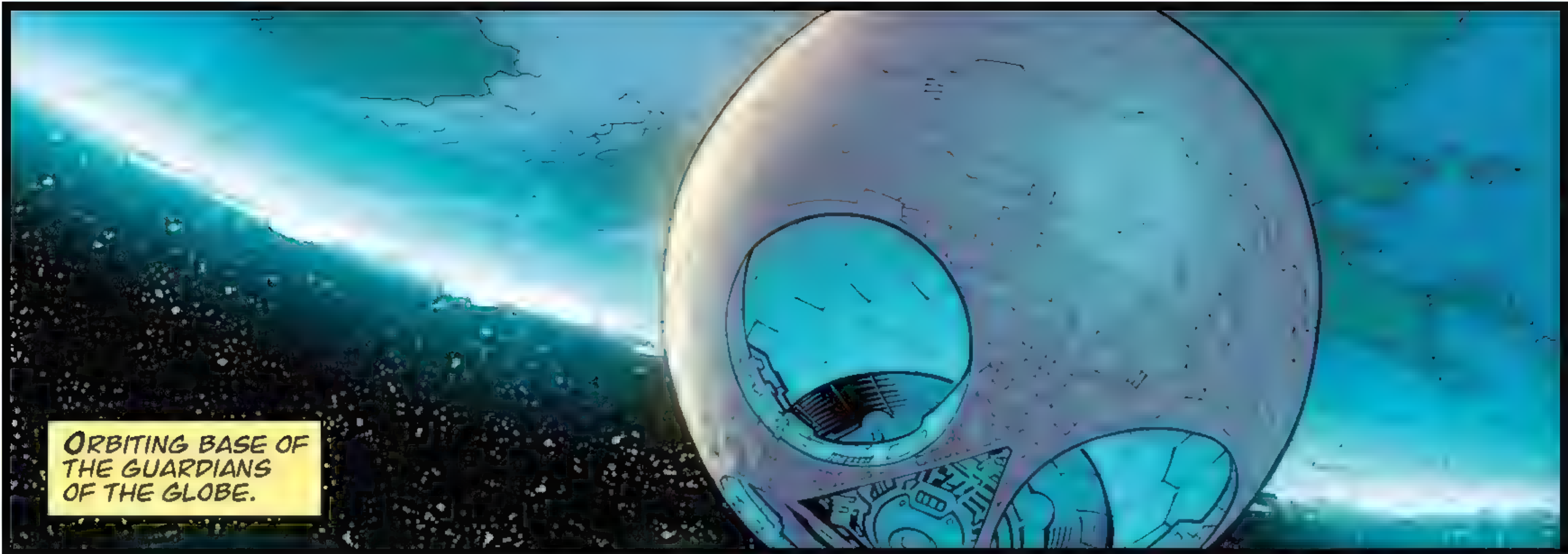
UM... YEAH.



ARE YOU GOING TO TELL YOUR MOTHER THE NEWS OR SHOULD I?







ORBITING BASE OF THE GUARDIANS OF THE GLOBE.

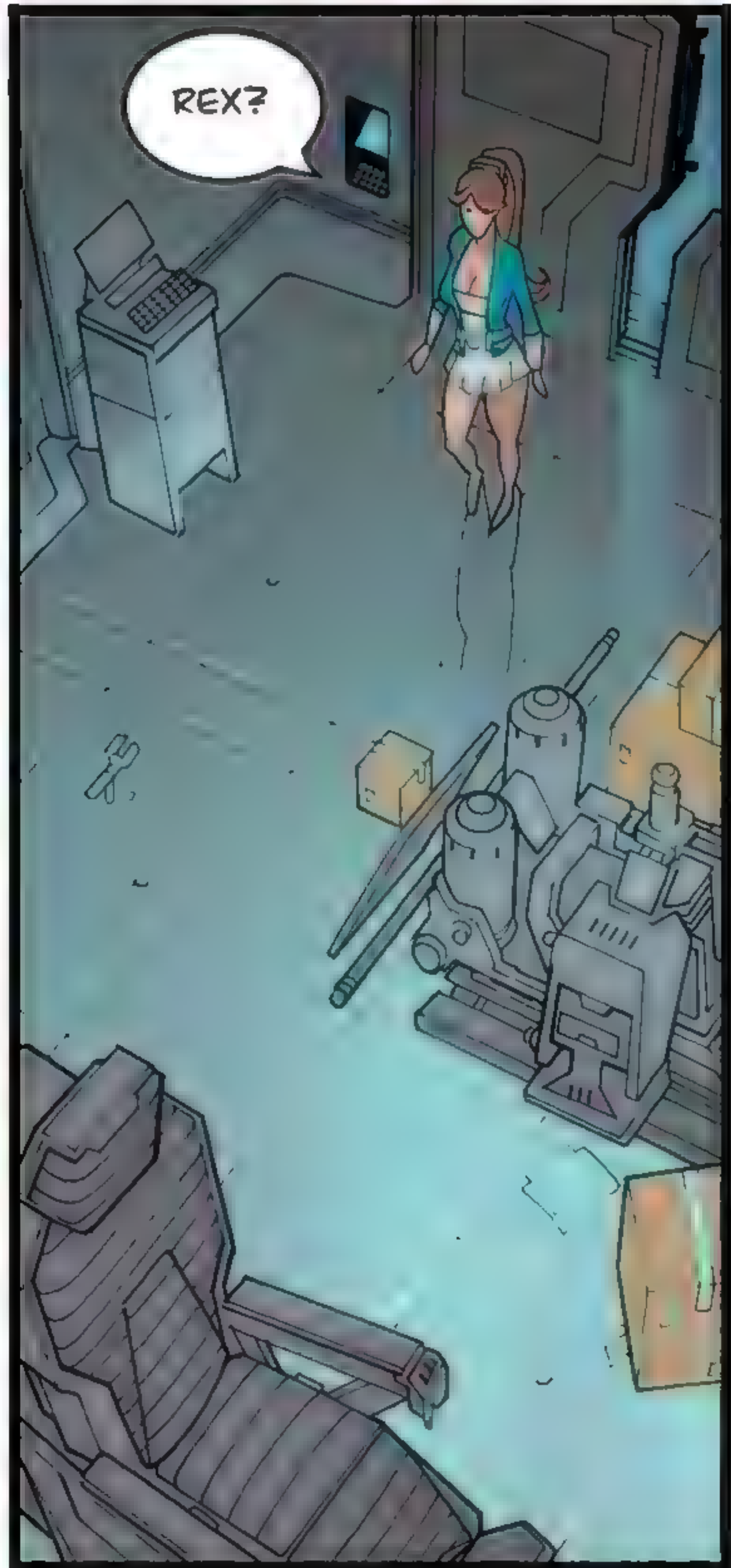
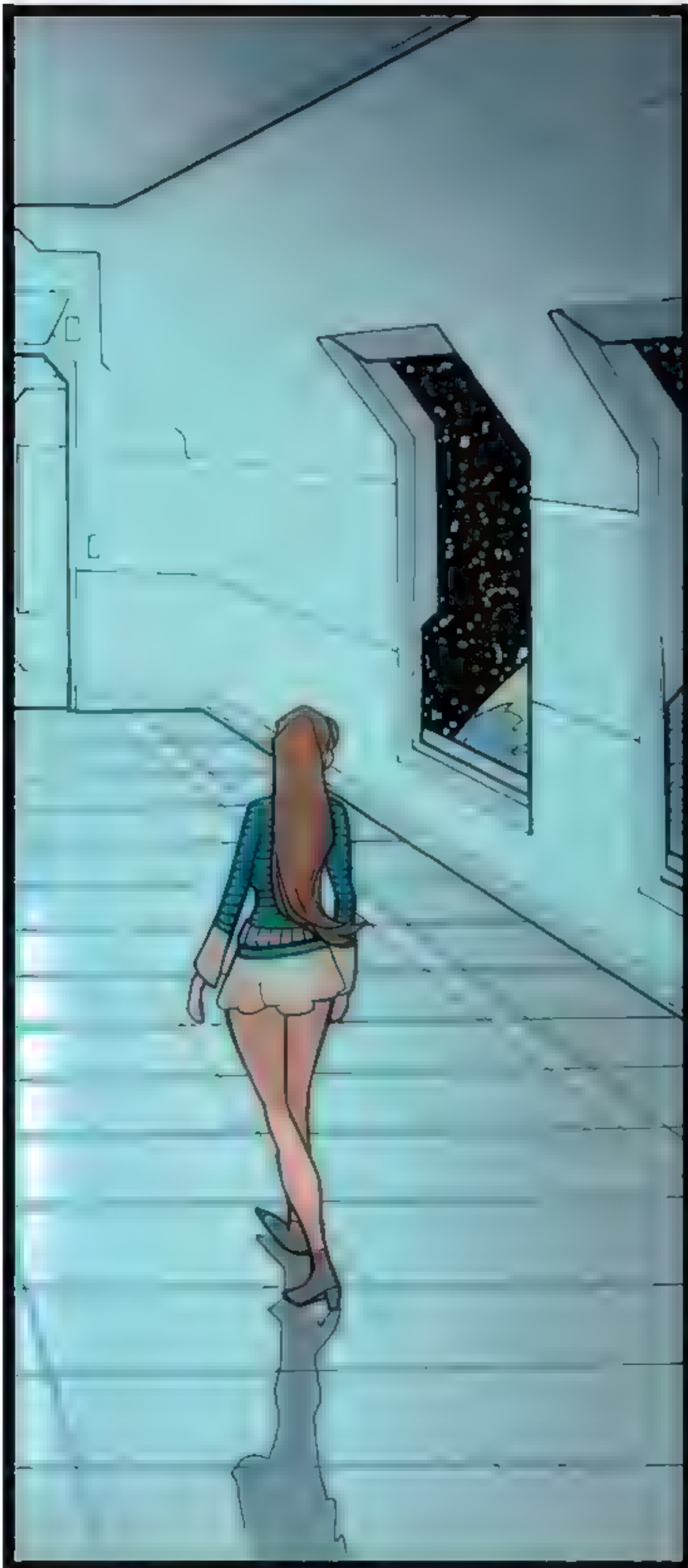


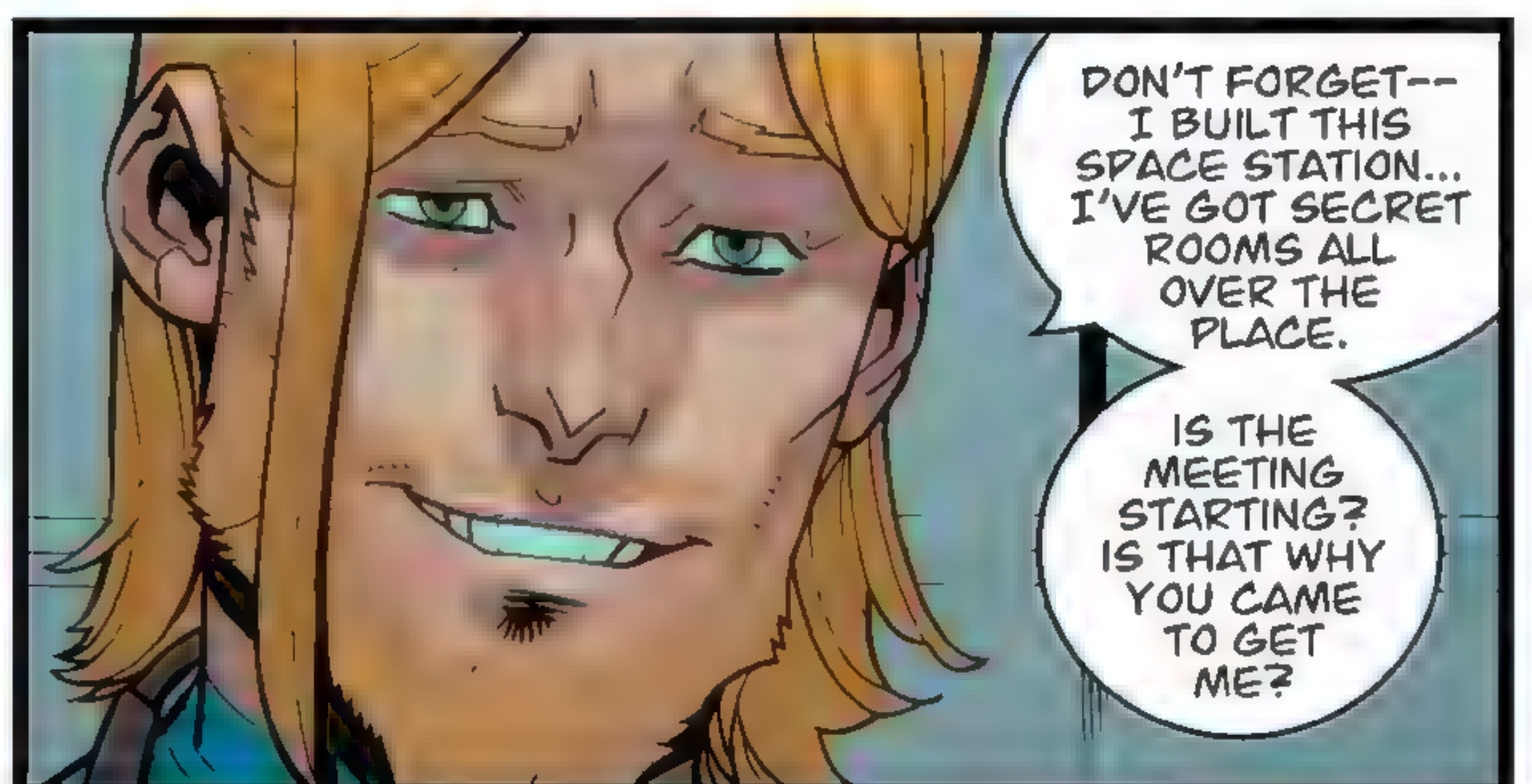
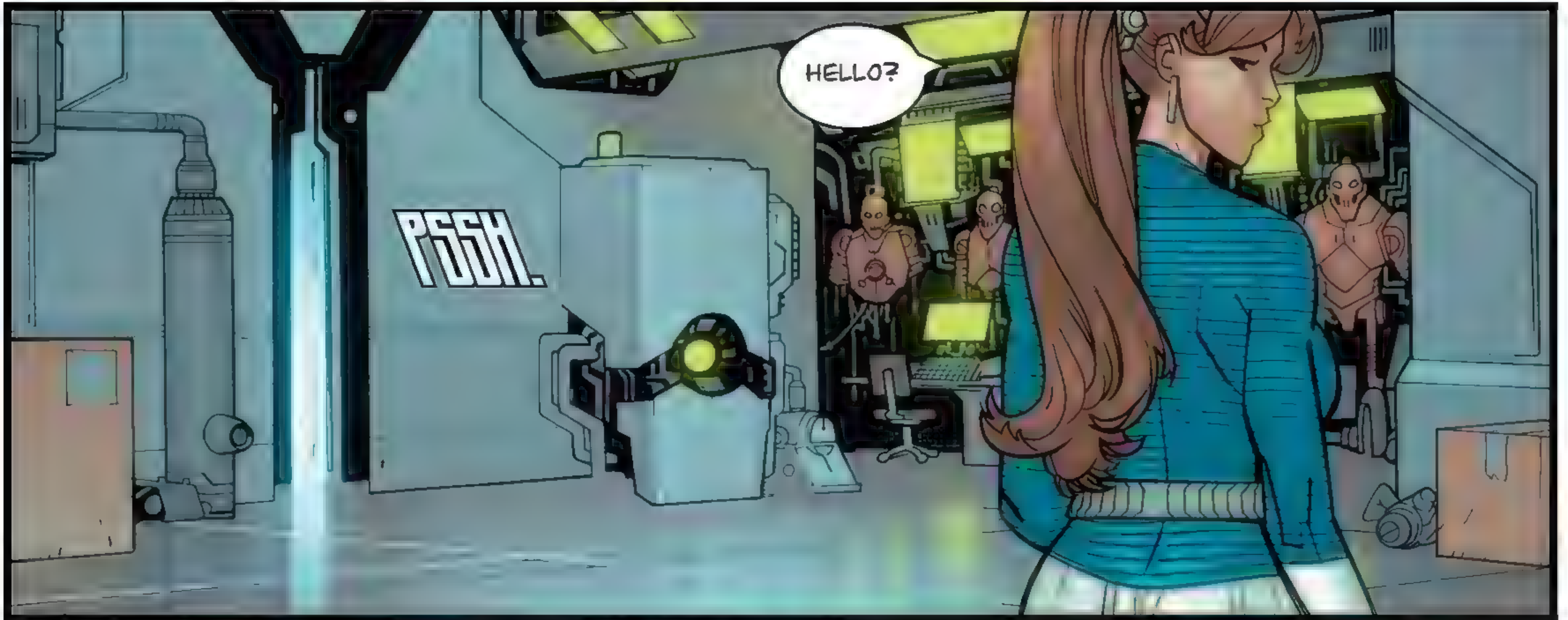
OH, I'LL SEND YOU A LINK. SHE MAKES ALL KINDS OF JEWELRY, BUT I THINK THE EARRINGS ARE THE BEST.

HAVE FUN TONIGHT.

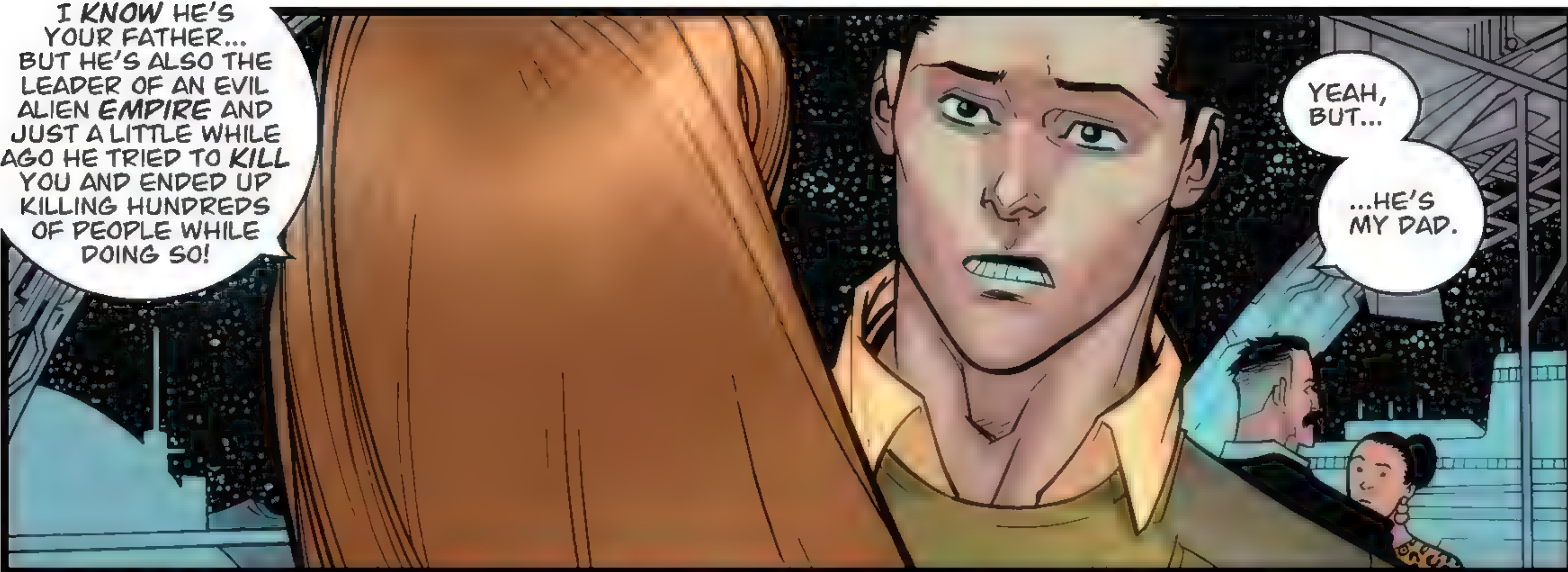
NO GUARANTEES ON THAT. I'VE NEVER SEEN THE GUY IN PERSON, SO... IT'S GOING TO BE AN ADVENTURE. HE KNOWS ABOUT THE WINGS, THOUGH... SO AT LEAST THAT'S OUT OF THE WAY.

SEE YOU IN THE MEETING!





I KNOW HE'S YOUR FATHER... BUT HE'S ALSO THE LEADER OF AN EVIL ALIEN EMPIRE AND JUST A LITTLE WHILE AGO HE TRIED TO KILL YOU AND ENDED UP KILLING HUNDREDS OF PEOPLE WHILE DOING SO!

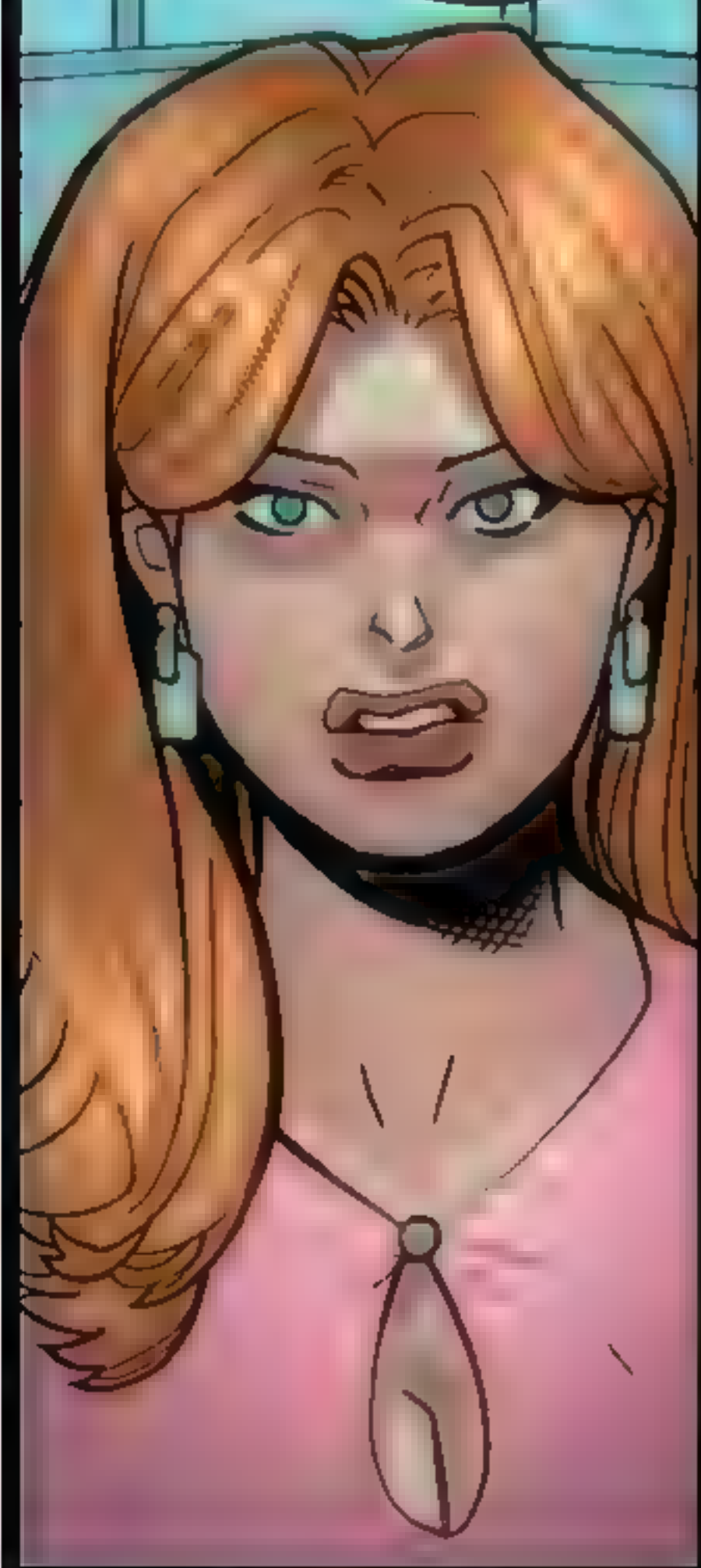


YEAH, BUT...

...HE'S MY DAD.

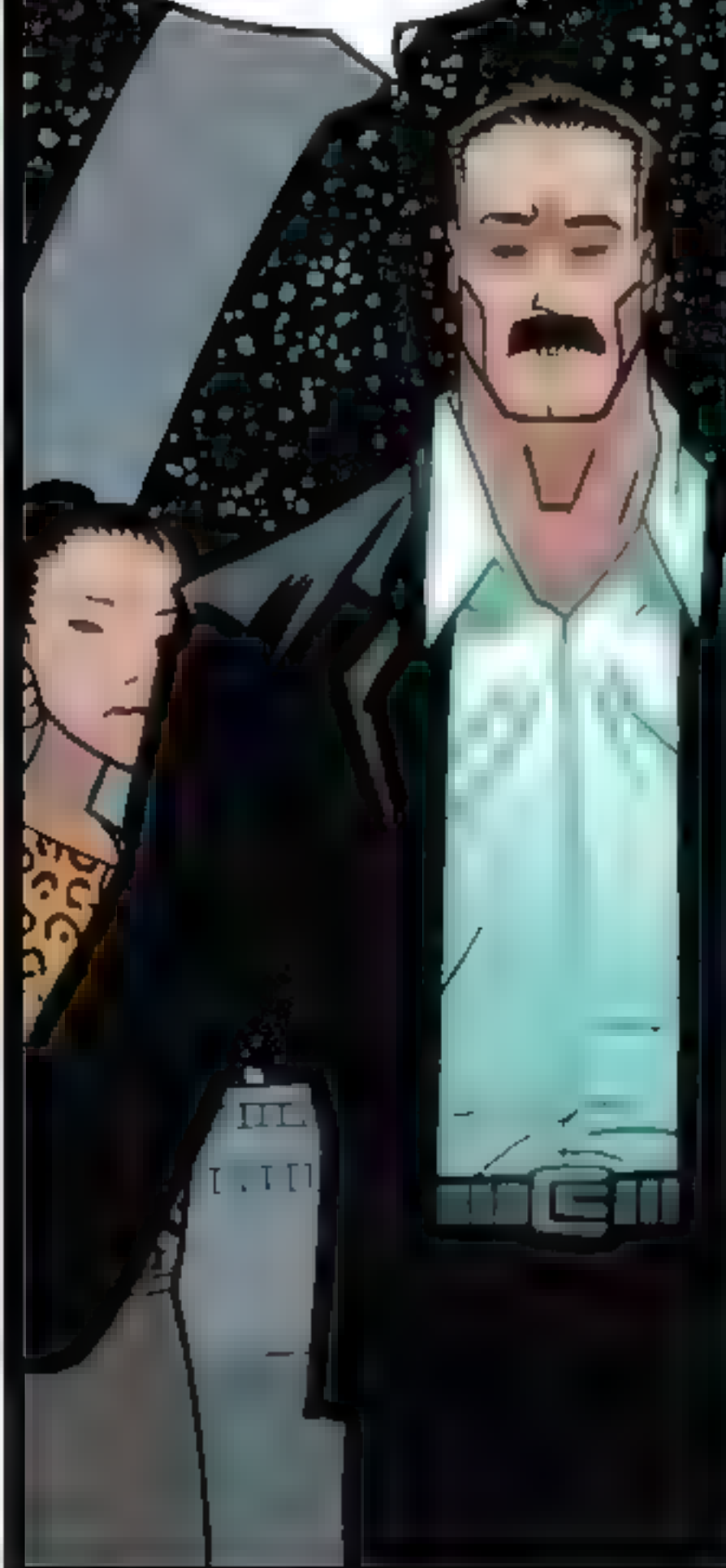
THAT DOESN'T MAKE UP FOR EVERYTHING ELSE, MARK.

NOT FOR ME, AT LEAST.



IF YOU HATED ME FOREVER BECAUSE OF THAT, I WOULD UNDERSTAND.

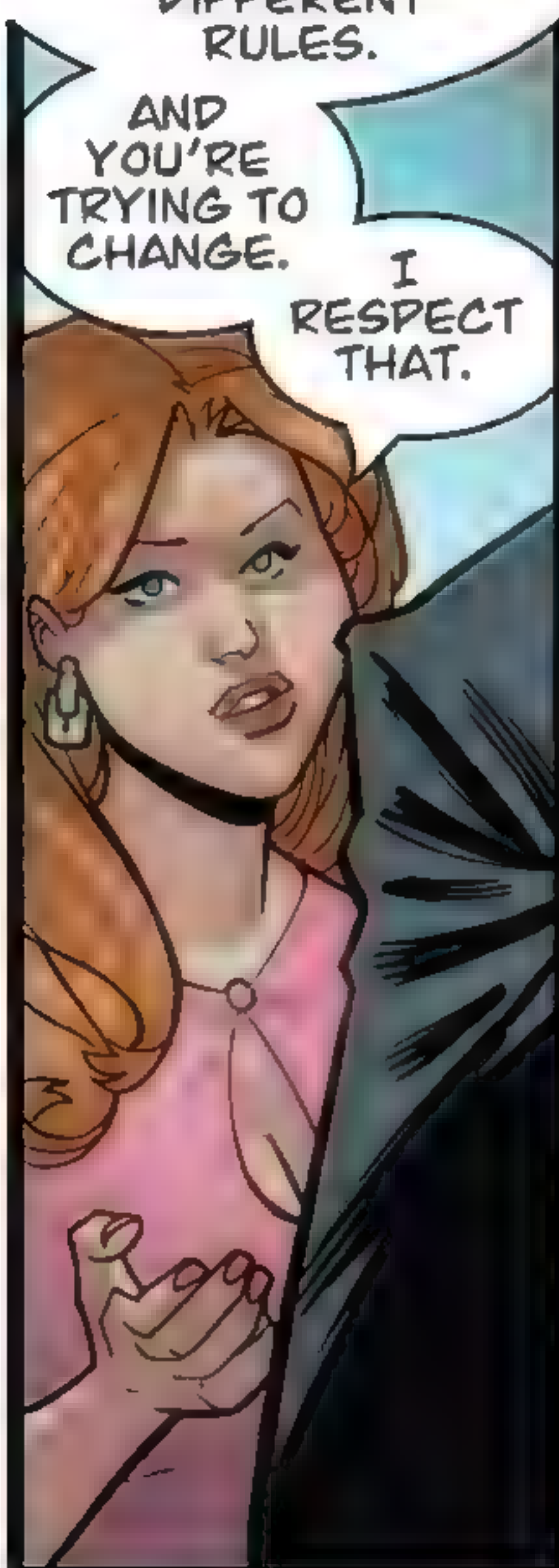
AND IT SHOULDN'T.



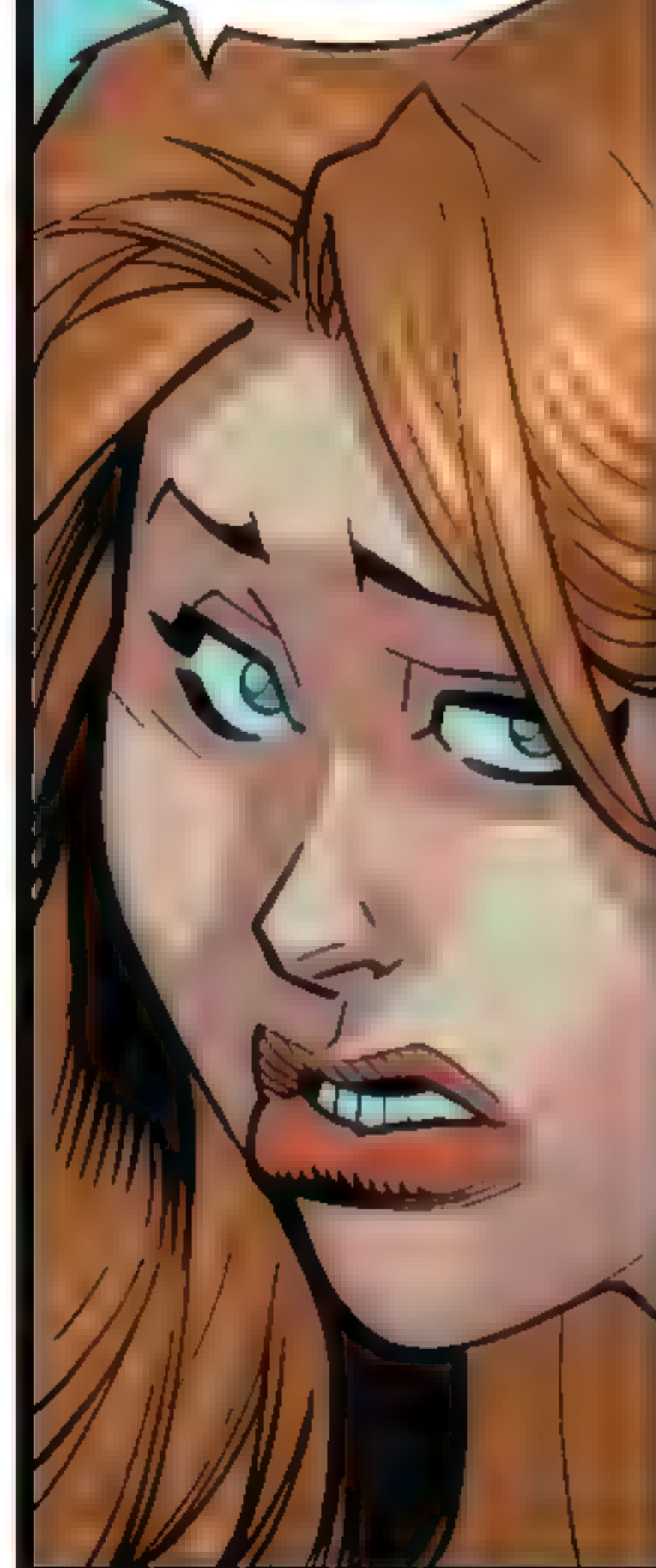
NO, LISTEN. MARK AND I HAVE TALKED ABOUT THIS. YOU'RE AN ALIEN WHO LIVED BY DIFFERENT RULES.

AND YOU'RE TRYING TO CHANGE.

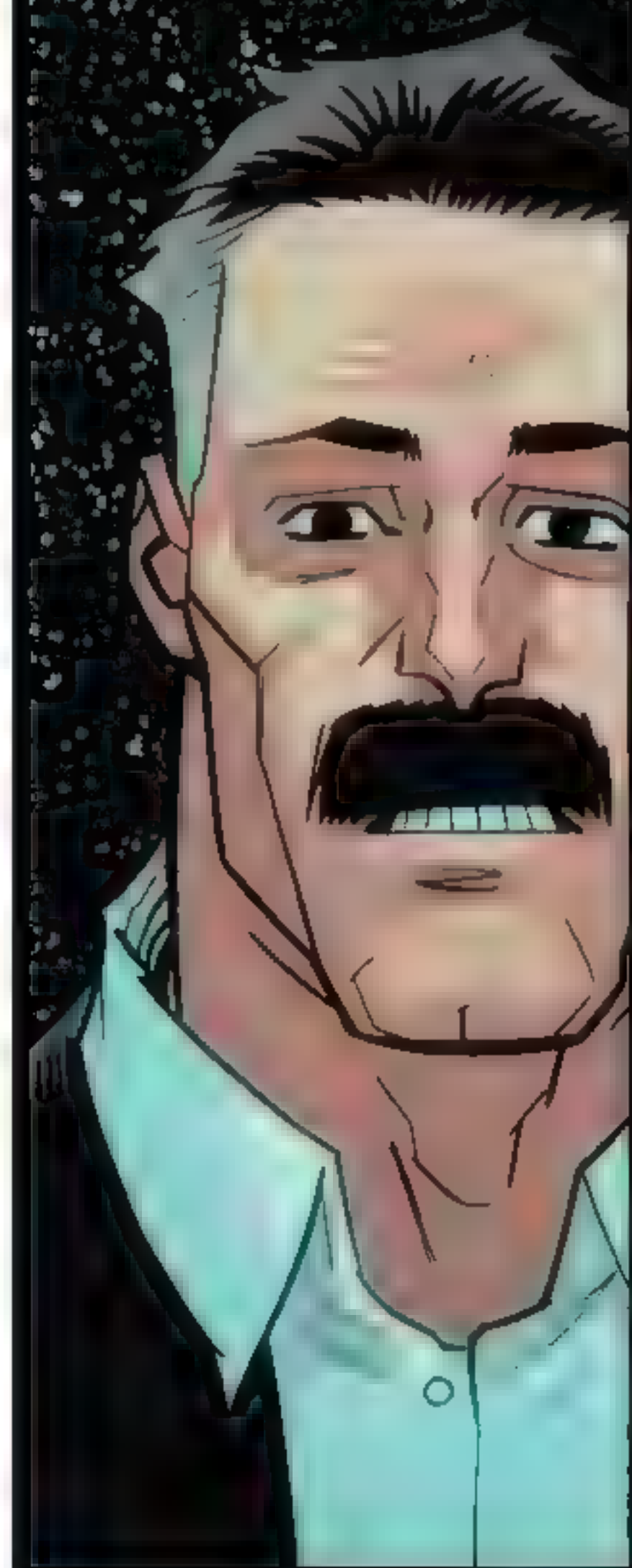
I RESPECT THAT.



BUT FOR ALL I KNOW THERE'S A VILTRUMITE CUSTOM WHERE THE BABY IS PUNCHED OUT OF THE MOTHER AND GROWN IN A TUBE.

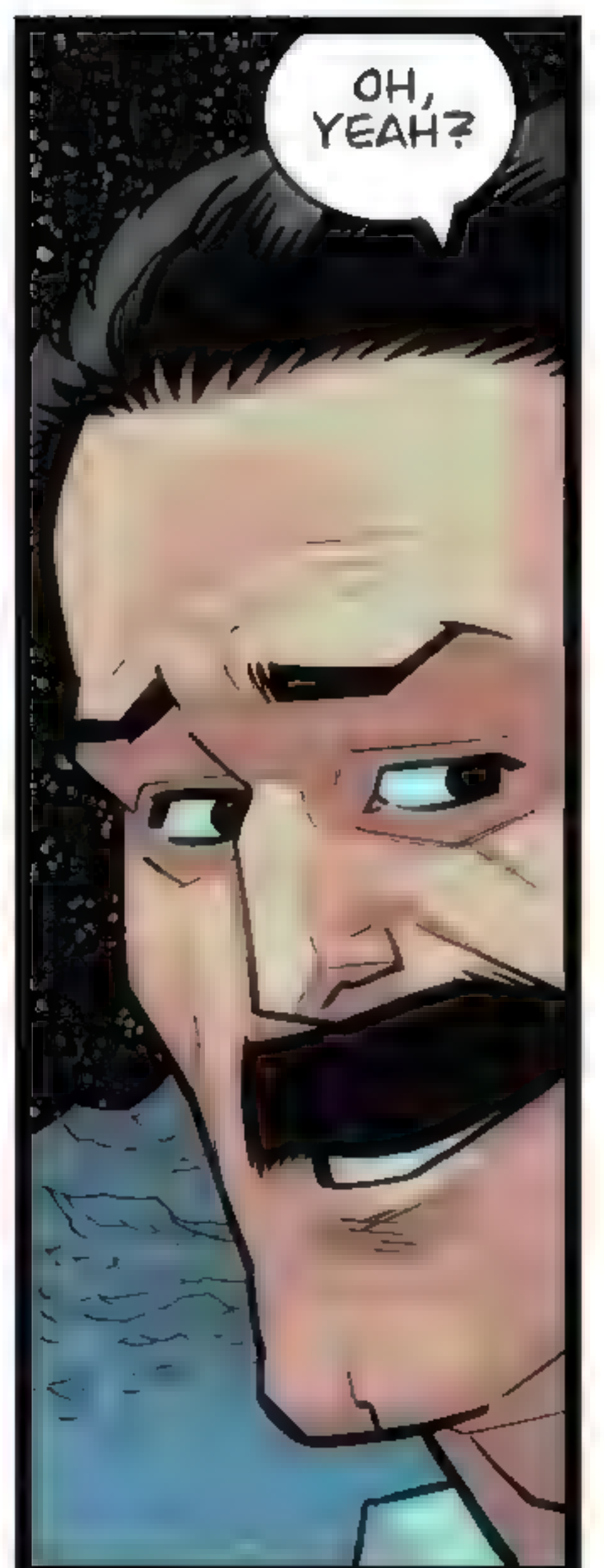
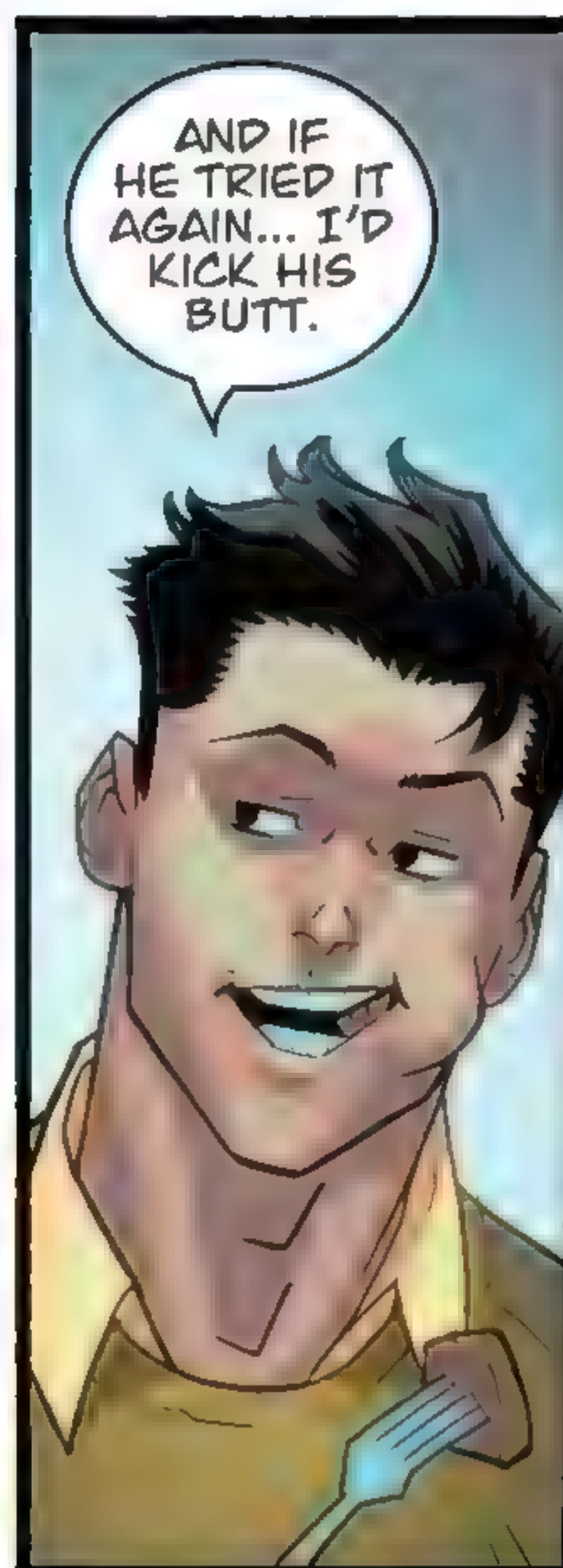
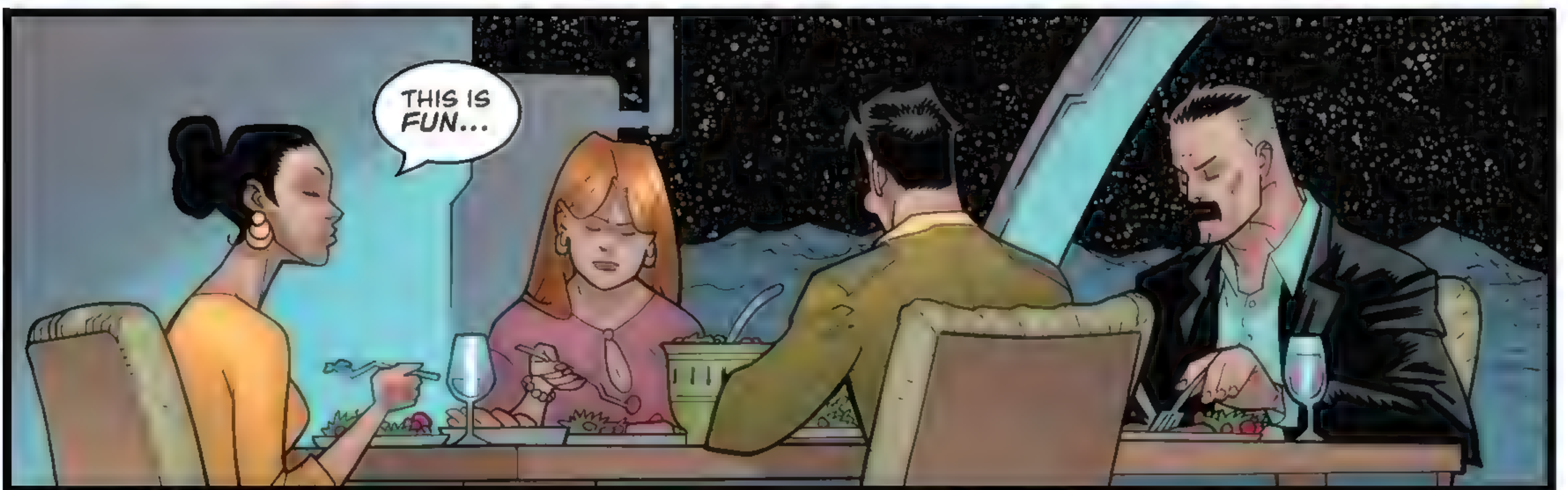
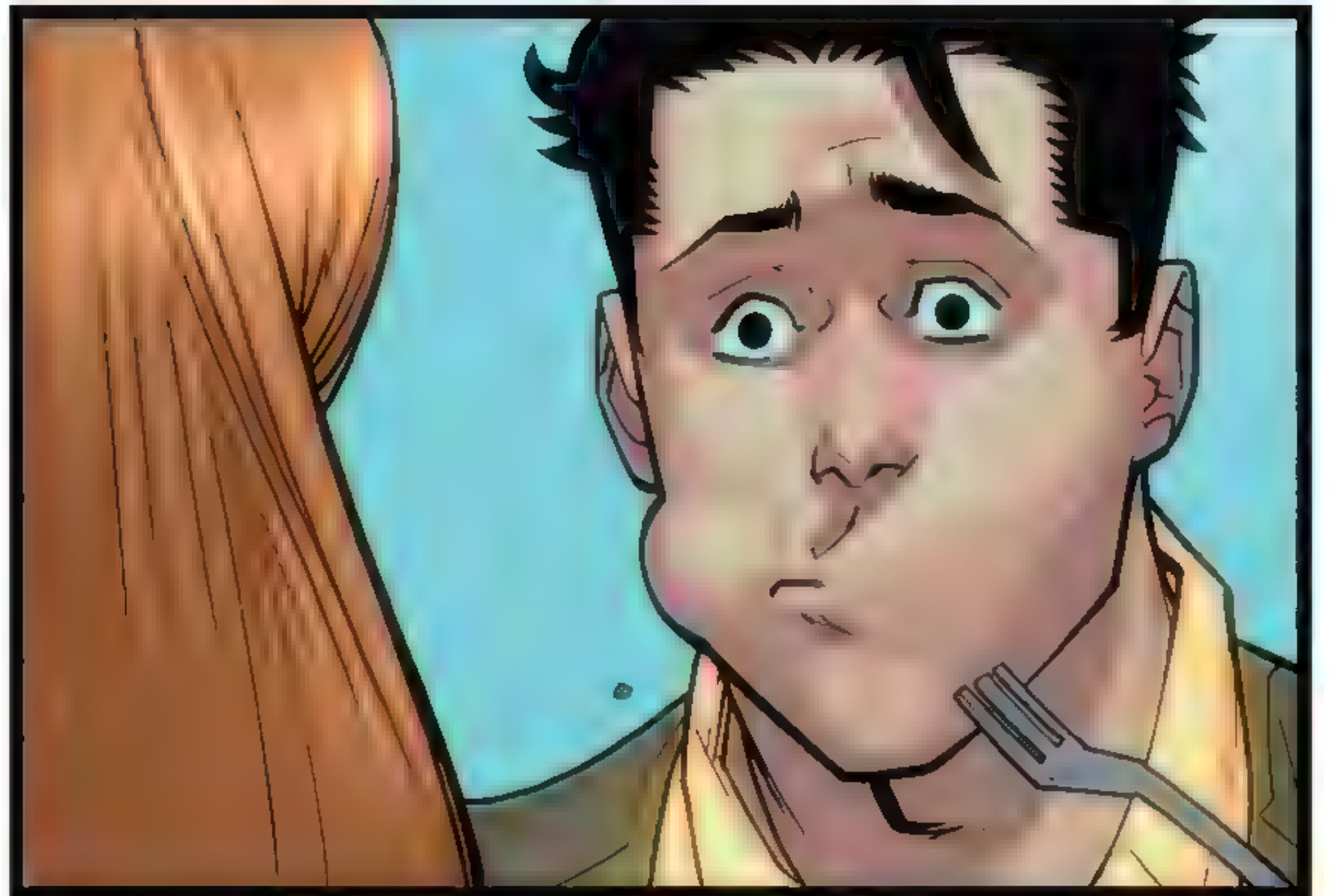
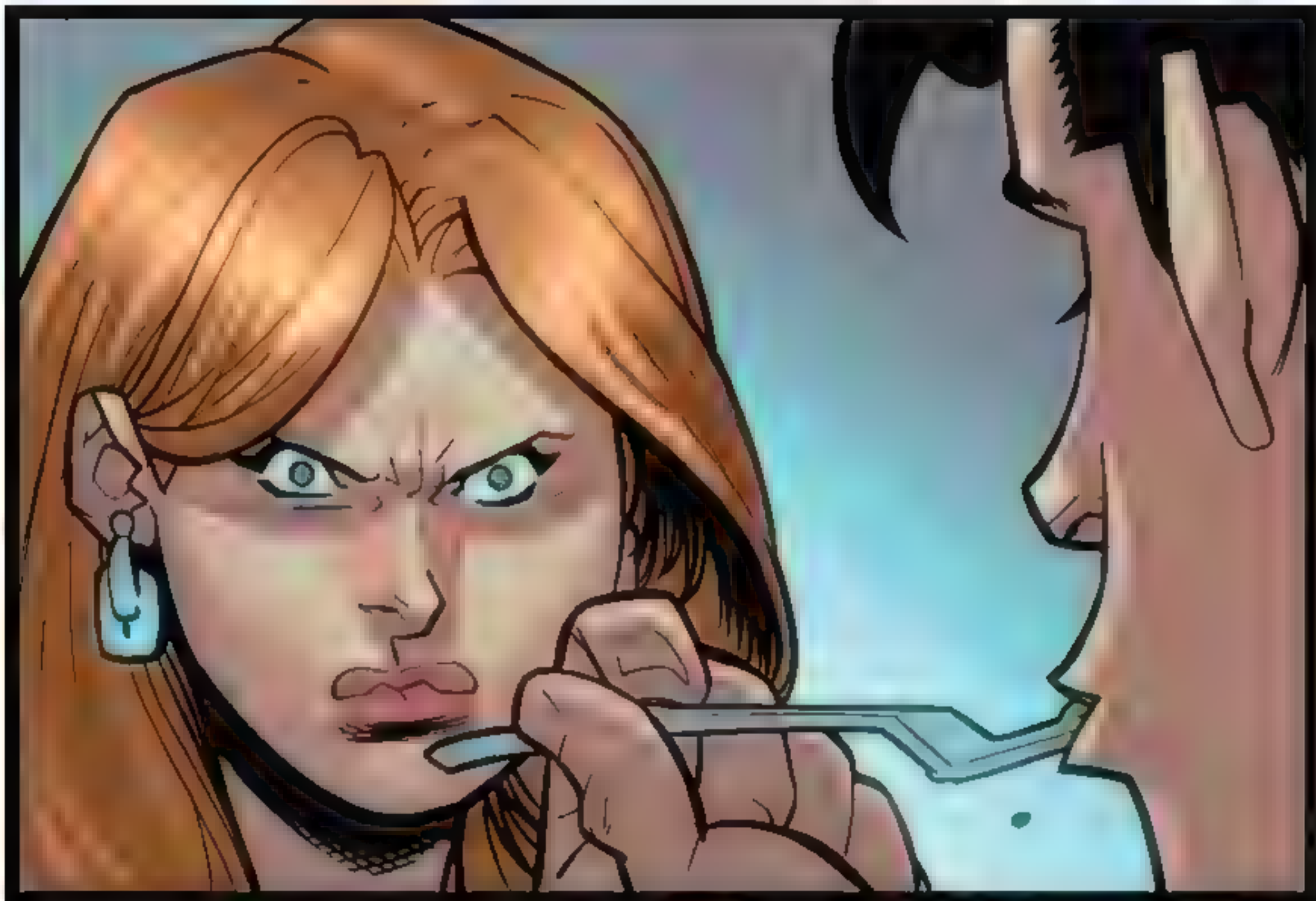


I ASSURE YOU, THERE IS NO SUCH CUSTOM.



WHO'S READY FOR DINNER?







I JUST MEAN I'M WAY **STRONGER** NOW. THAT'S ALL.



REALLY? I SEEM TO RECALL HAVING TO PULL YOU ALONG WITH ME SO YOU COULD KEEP UP WHEN WE DESTROYED VILTRUM.



THAT'S FLYING--- AND I'M GETTING FASTER.

REMEMBER HOW I PUNCHED RIGHT THROUGH THE PLANET ALONG WITH YOU AND THAEDUS?



YOU REALLY THINK YOU'RE STRONGER THAN ME NOW?

COULD BE. YOU NEVER KNOW... UNLESS...

YOU THINKING WHAT I'M THINKING?



OH, GOD...

IS THIS REALLY HAPPENING RIGHT NOW?



HE REALLY IS A CHANGED MAN. I CAN PROMISE YOU THAT.

OTHERWISE WE WOULDN'T BE TOGETHER.

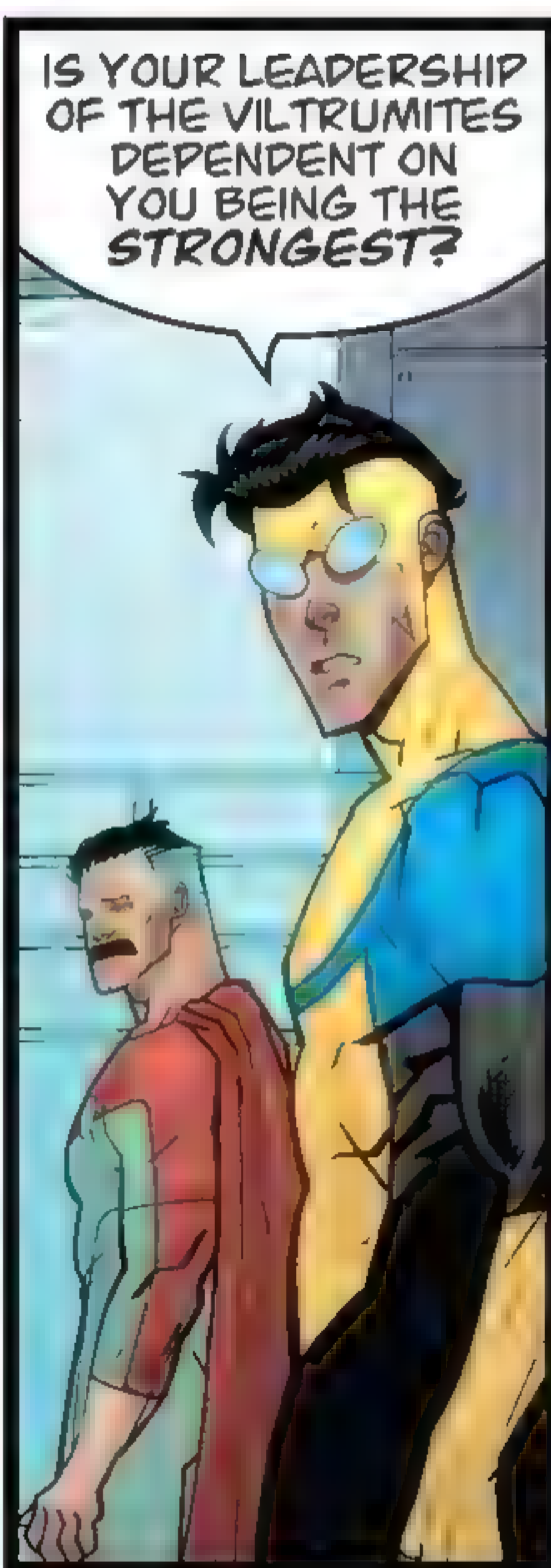
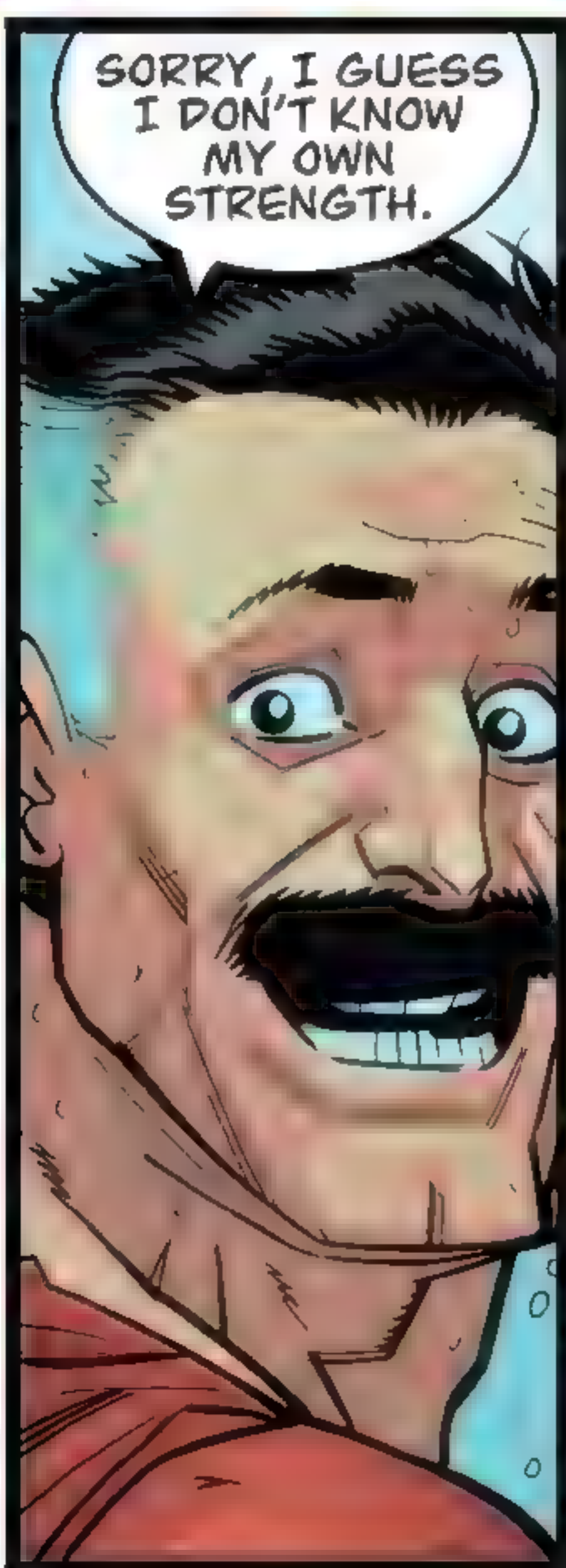
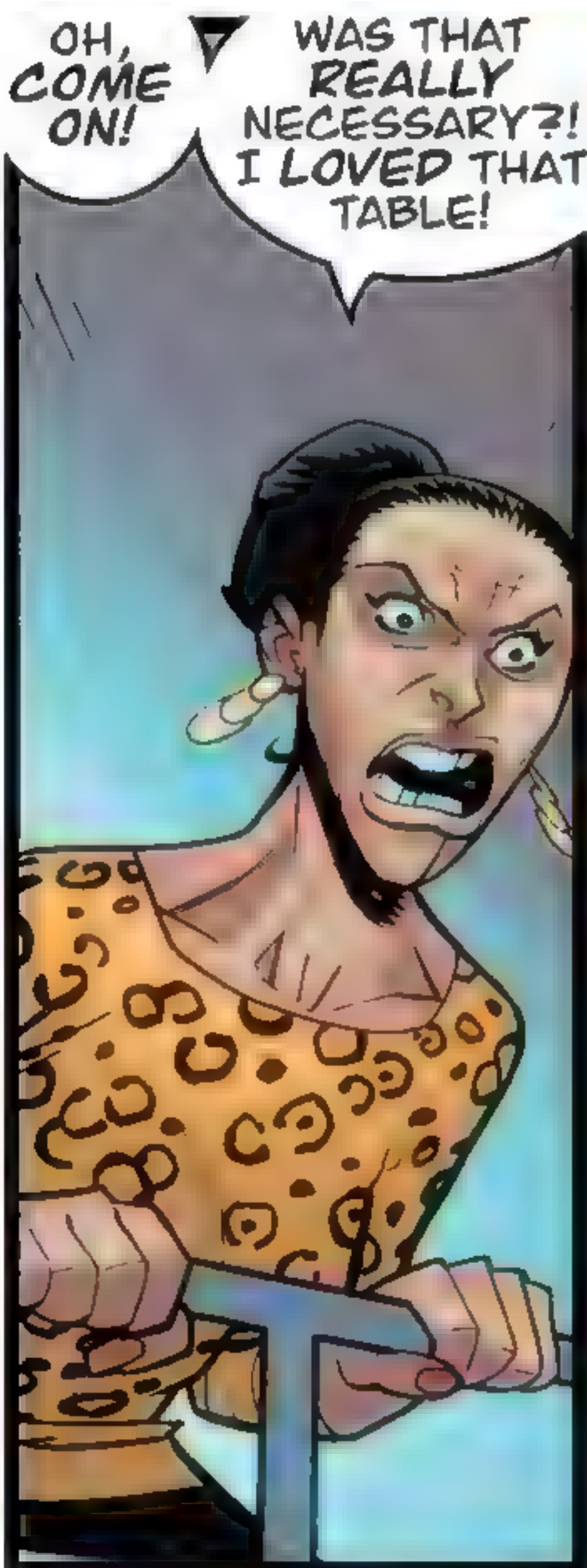
I KNOW... IT'S NOT LIKE THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I'VE SEEN HIM SINCE... Y'KNOW.

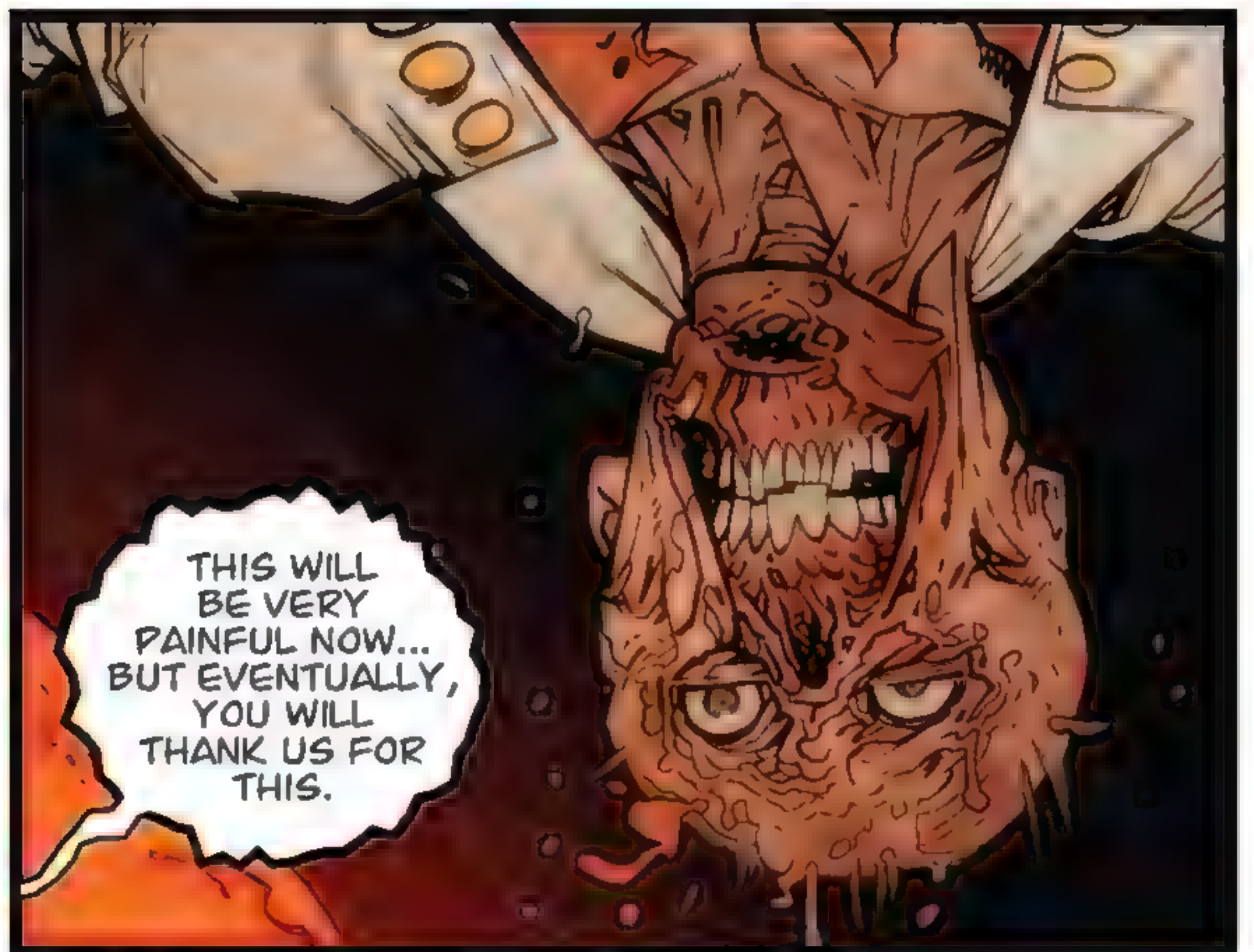
BUT THIS IS MY CHILD. I FEEL LIKE I HAVE TO BE EXTRA CAREFUL... CERTAIN... ABSOLUTELY CERTAIN.

YOU UNDERSTAND?

I COMPLETELY UNDERSTAND.





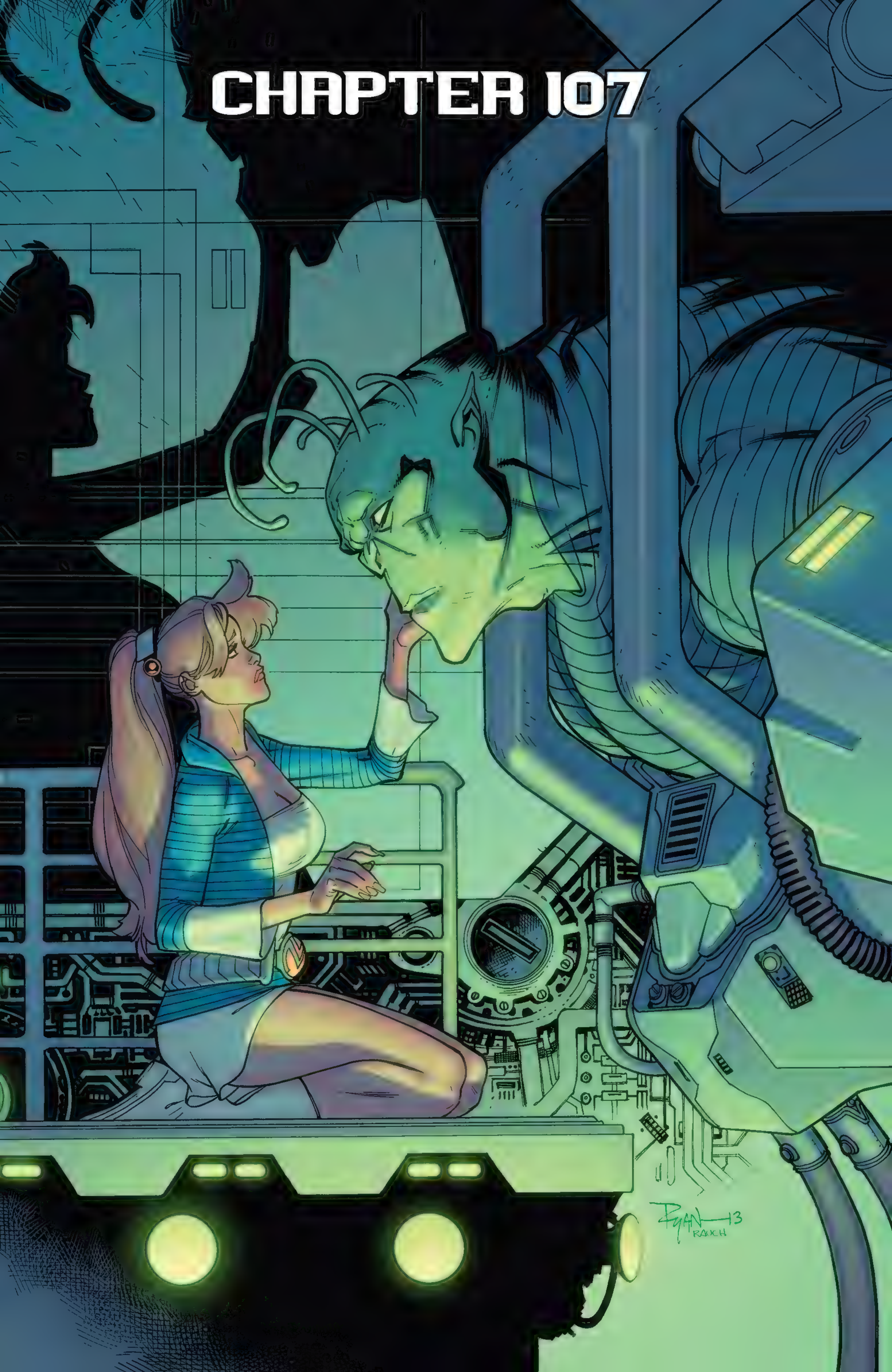








CHAPTER 107





I HAVE
WATCHED
YOU FROM AFAR
FOR A VERY
LONG TIME...
**DOCTOR
SEISMIC.**

YOU
CALLED TO US,
WITH YOUR ABILITY
TO MOVE THE EARTH.
YOU SPOKE TO THE
MAGMANITES, A
SLAVE RACE
CREATED BY MY
PEOPLE.



REMARKABLE
DEVICES YOU HAVE
CONSTRUCTED...
THAT ALLOW YOU TO
SHAKE THE GROUND
BENEATH YOUR
FEET.

BUT ULTIMATELY
UNNECESSARY.

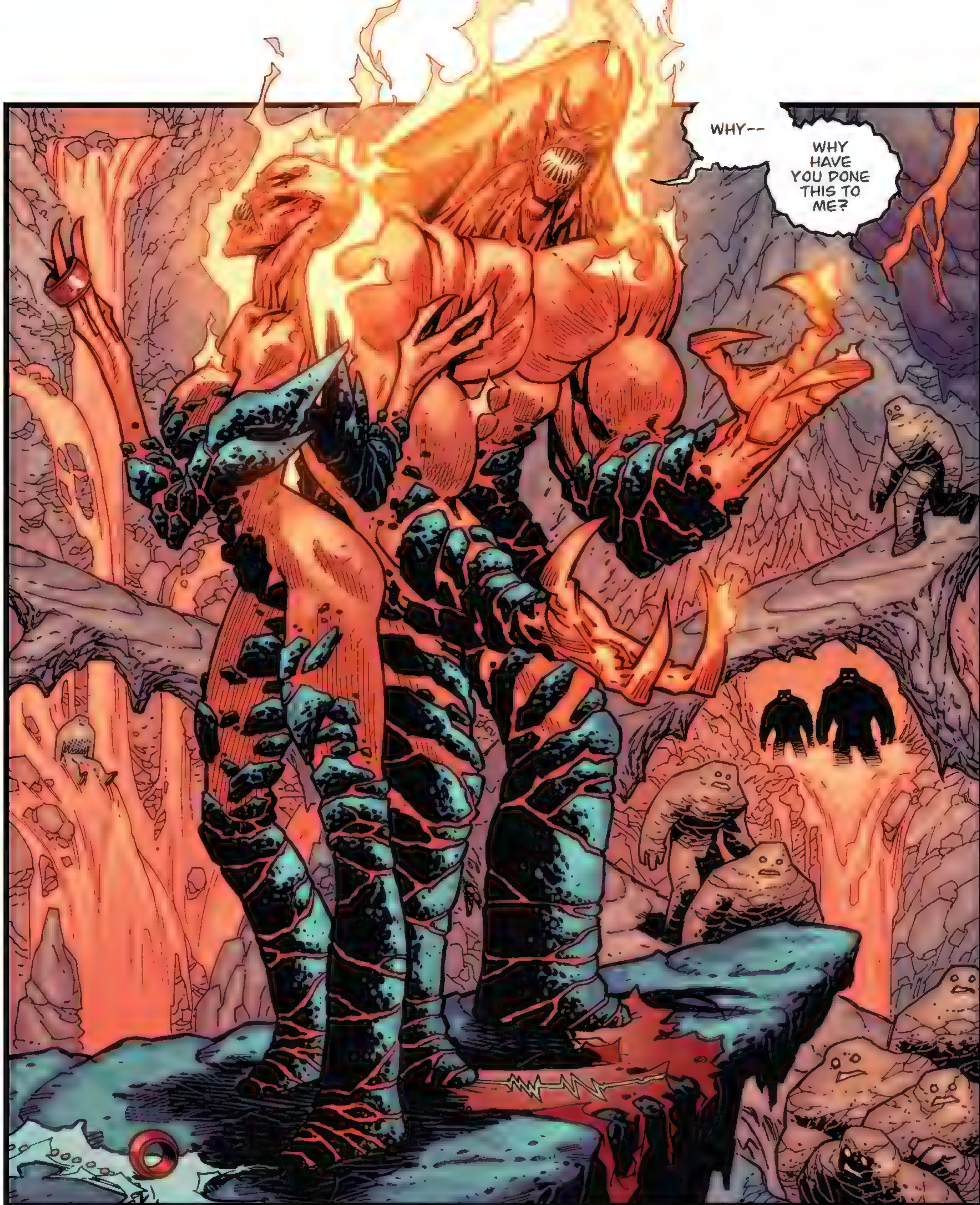


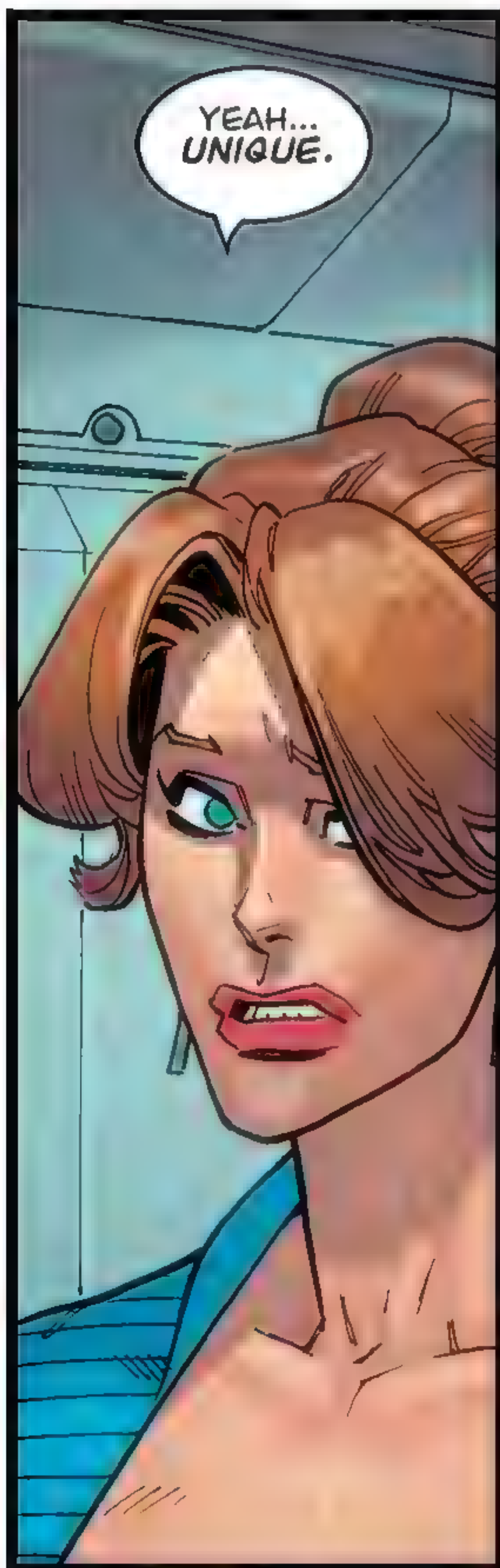
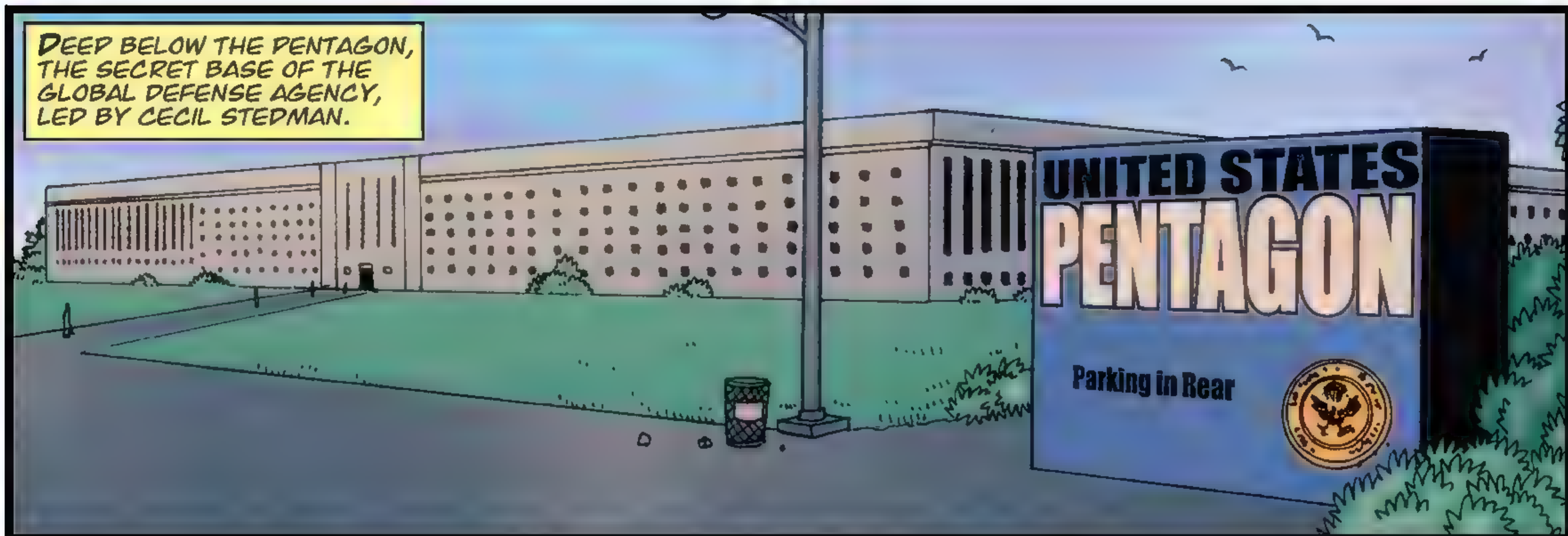
I HAVE TRANSFORMED
YOU... GIVEN YOU POWER
THAT **DWARFS** WHAT
WAS ONCE AT YOUR
COMMAND.

NOW YOU
ARE ONE OF US...
THE EARTH
SPEAKS TO
YOU AS IT DOES
TO US.



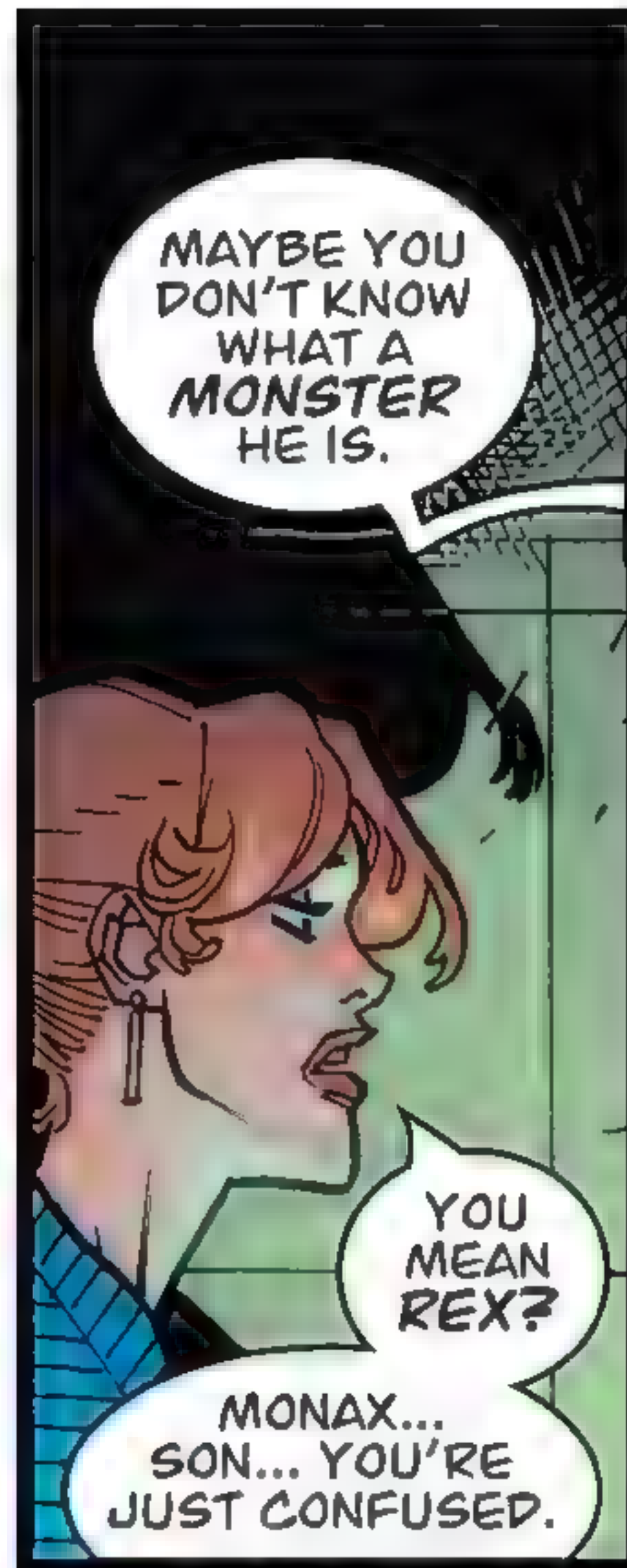
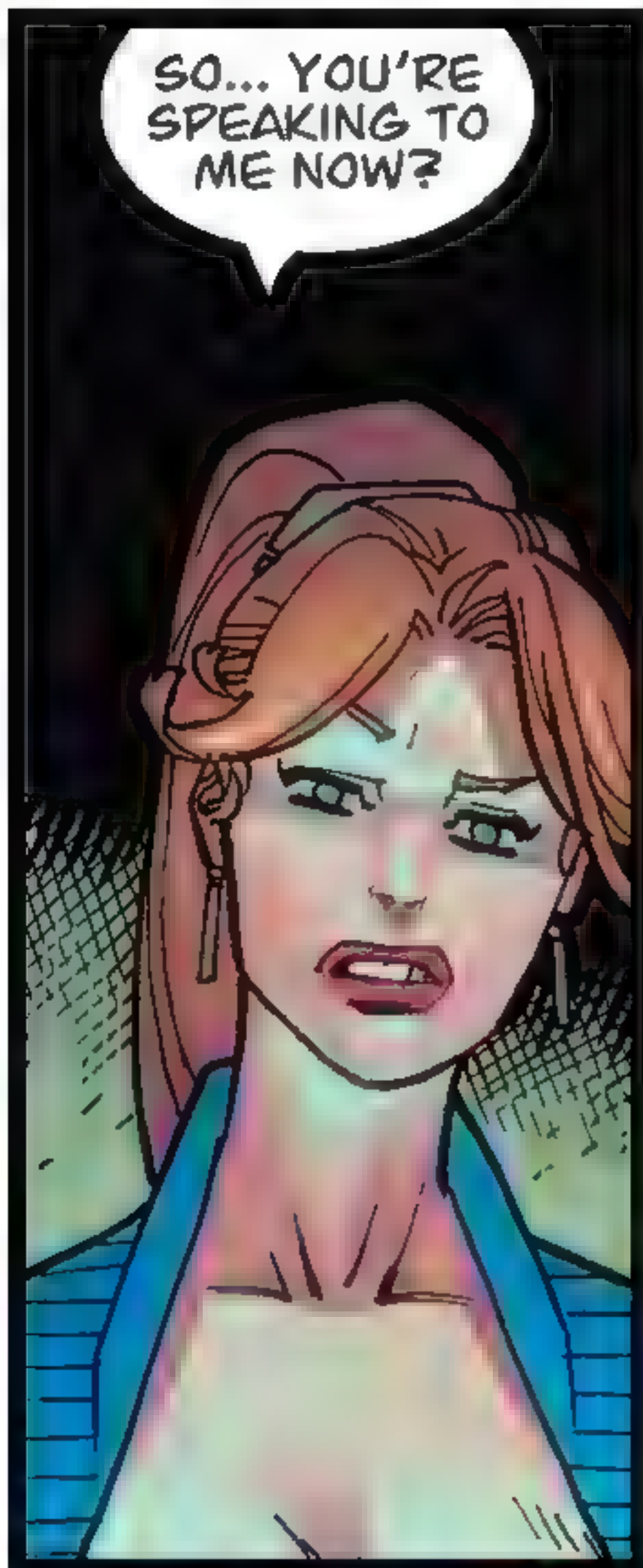
YOU HAVE
BUT TO SAY
HER NAME TO
MAKE HER
TREMBLE.







HELLO...
FATHER.



WHO ARE WE TALKING ABOUT HERE?
THE MAN WHO CONQUERED THE
FLAXAN WORLD, **ENSLAVED** THE
ZAXAL ROYALS, AND RULED MY
HOME WITH AN **IRON FIST**...
WHO DROVE YOU TO REBEL...
DROVE YOU INTO MY
MOTHER'S ARMS AFTER
YOU HELPED
OVERTHROW HIM?

OR THIS
INNOCENT
MAN YOU'VE
FALLEN IN LOVE
WITH ALL OVER
AGAIN?

FATHER,
PLEASE. THEY
SIMPLY **CAN'T**
BE ONE AND
THE SAME.



YOU'RE
LYING.



WHAT REASON
WOULD I HAVE
TO DO
THAT?



IF YOU TRULY DIDN'T
KNOW... IF HE KNEW OF
MY EXISTENCE... AND
KEPT IT FROM YOU...
YOU'RE AS MUCH A
VICTIM OF HIM AS
ANY OF US.

NO. YOU ARE A **LIAR**. YOU'RE MAD
AT ME OVER A SITUATION I HAD
NO CONTROL OVER... YOU'D
SAY ANYTHING TO
HURT ME... TO
HURT REX.



REX WAS OVERWHELMED WITH THE
BURDEN OF **FIXING** YOUR CIVILIZATION.
YOUR PEOPLE WERE **INVADING** OUR
WORLD... GETTING STRONGER AND
STRONGER. YOU WOULD
HAVE EVENTUALLY
TAKEN OVER.

WHAT REX...
WHAT WE **BOTH**
SACRIFICED TO
SAVE THIS WORLD
FROM YOUR
PEOPLE... WE CAN
NEVER GET THAT
BACK.



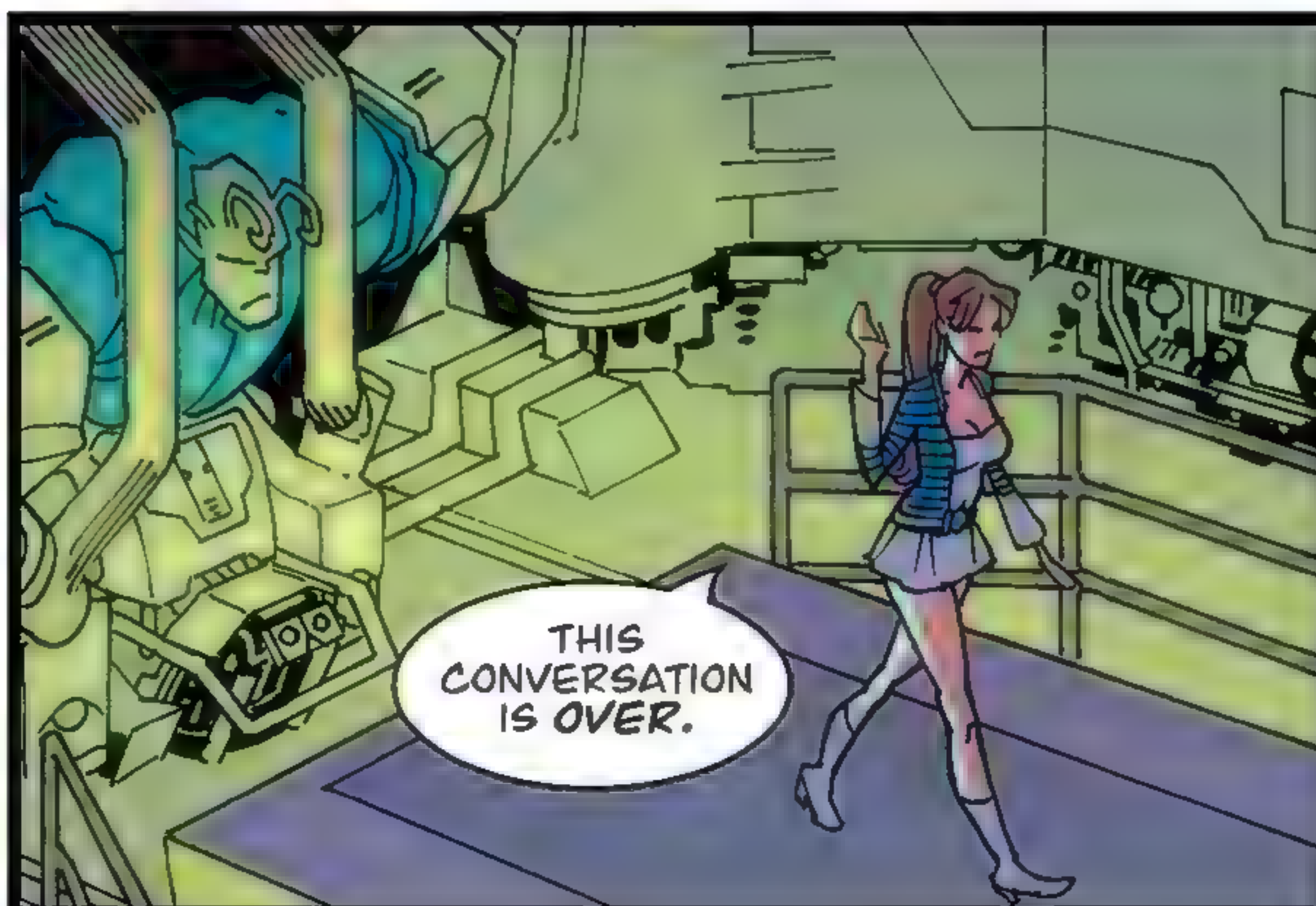
REX LOST
HIMSELF... GOT
CARRIED AWAY WITH
CHANGING YOUR
PEOPLE... MAKING THEM
A PEACEFUL PEOPLE... HE
CROSSED A LINE OR TWO
ALONG THE WAY, BUT IN
THE END... HE GAVE
ALL THAT UP.

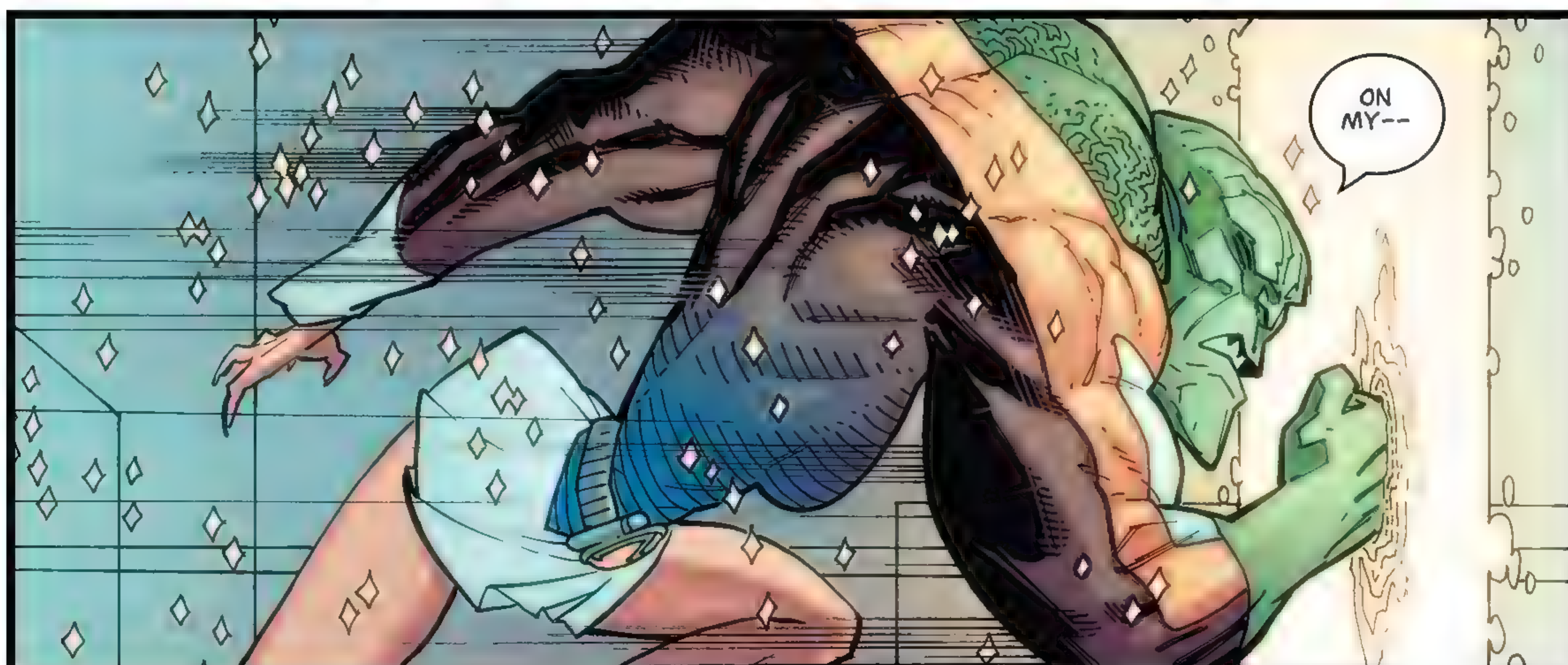
WHERE
HE WENT...
THE THINGS
HE DID.

IS THAT
REALLY
SOMETHING
YOU COME
BACK
FROM?



THIS
CONVERSATION
IS OVER.







--WAY...



THE FEMALE REFERRED TO HERSELF AS **VOLCANIKKA**. THE MALE HAS REFERRED TO HIMSELF AS **SEISMIC** AND HE'S REFERENCED SOME KIND OF TRANSFORMATION... AND THAT WE'VE FACED HIM BEFORE.

THAT LEADS ME TO BELIEVE THAT WE ARE SOMEHOW FACING A NEW AND IMPROVED **DOC SEISMIC**.

WELL, THAT EXPLAINS THE GIANT MONSTER!

SO HE'S BACK TO HIS OLD TRICKS...

YOU'RE OUR HEAVY HITTER, INVINCIBLE. I NEED YOU TO FOCUS ON THAT MONSTER-- SHUT IT DOWN!

THE STRUCTURAL INTEGRITY OF THOSE BUILDINGS IS COMPROMISED! THEY COULD COLLAPSE AT ANY SECOND--WE NEED TO STOP ITS RAMPAGE NOW IF WE HAVE ANY HOPE OF GETTING THOSE PEOPLE EVACUATED!

ON IT!







QUICK,
WHILE THEY
ARE DISTRACTED,
WE MUST MAKE
OUR EXIT!

NO--
WHAT?!
WE CAN
DEFEAT
THEM!

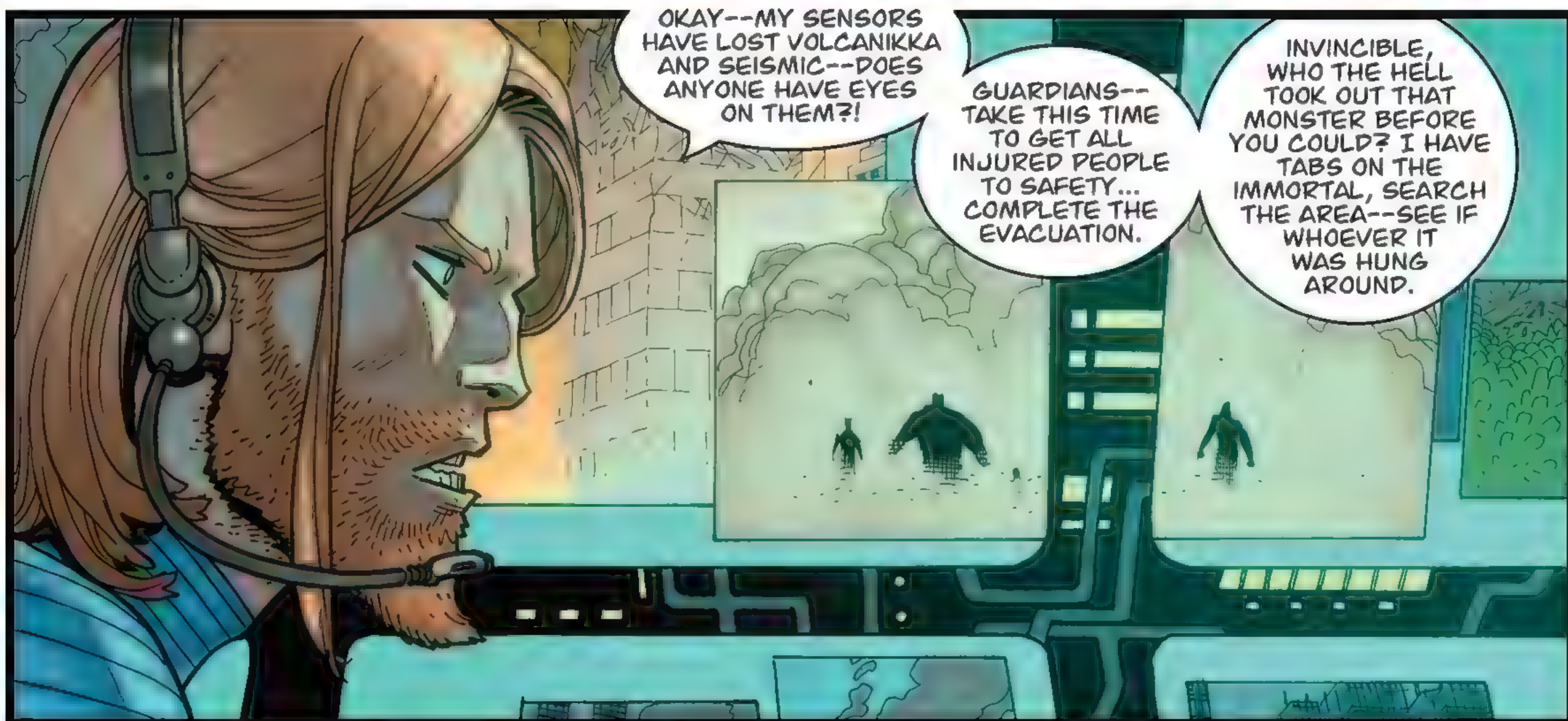


WE HAVE
LOST A
CREATURE
ALREADY--BUT
GAINED VALUABLE
KNOWLEDGE.

WE DON'T
WANT TO
DEFEAT THEM,
WE WANT TO
DEFEAT ALL
OF THEM.



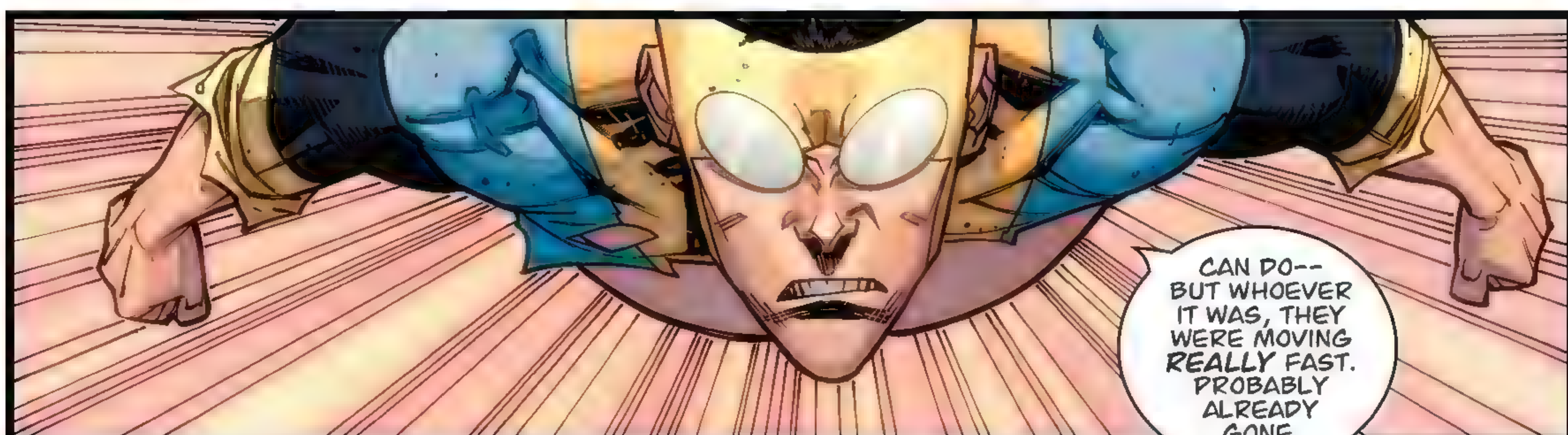
AS YOU
WISH.



OKAY--MY SENSORS
HAVE LOST VOLCANIKKA
AND SEISMIC--DOES
ANYONE HAVE EYES
ON THEM?!

GUARDIANS--
TAKE THIS TIME
TO GET ALL
INJURED PEOPLE
TO SAFETY...
COMPLETE THE
EVACUATION.

INVINCIBLE,
WHO THE HELL
TOOK OUT THAT
MONSTER BEFORE
YOU COULD? I HAVE
TABS ON THE
IMMORTAL, SEARCH
THE AREA--SEE IF
WHOEVER IT
WAS HUNG
AROUND.



CAN DO--
BUT WHOEVER
IT WAS, THEY
WERE MOVING
REALLY FAST.
PROBABLY
ALREADY
GONE.



UH...

SO...
THAT
WAS YOU,
THEN?

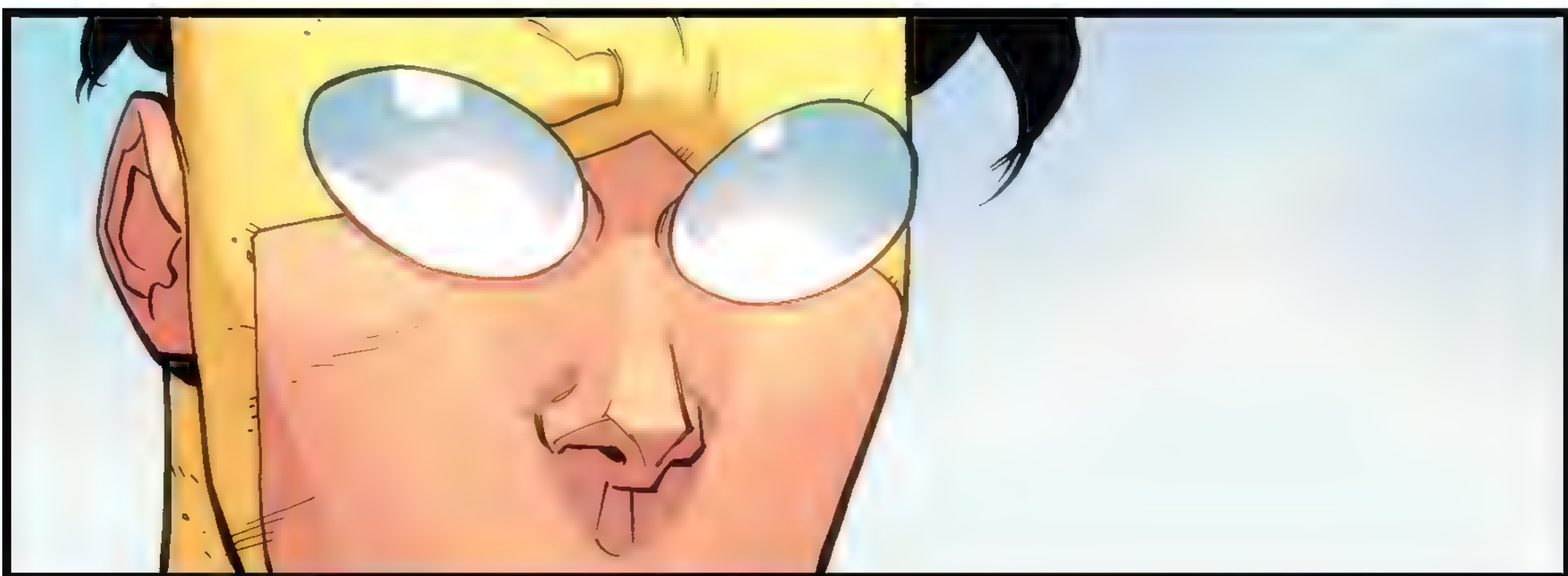
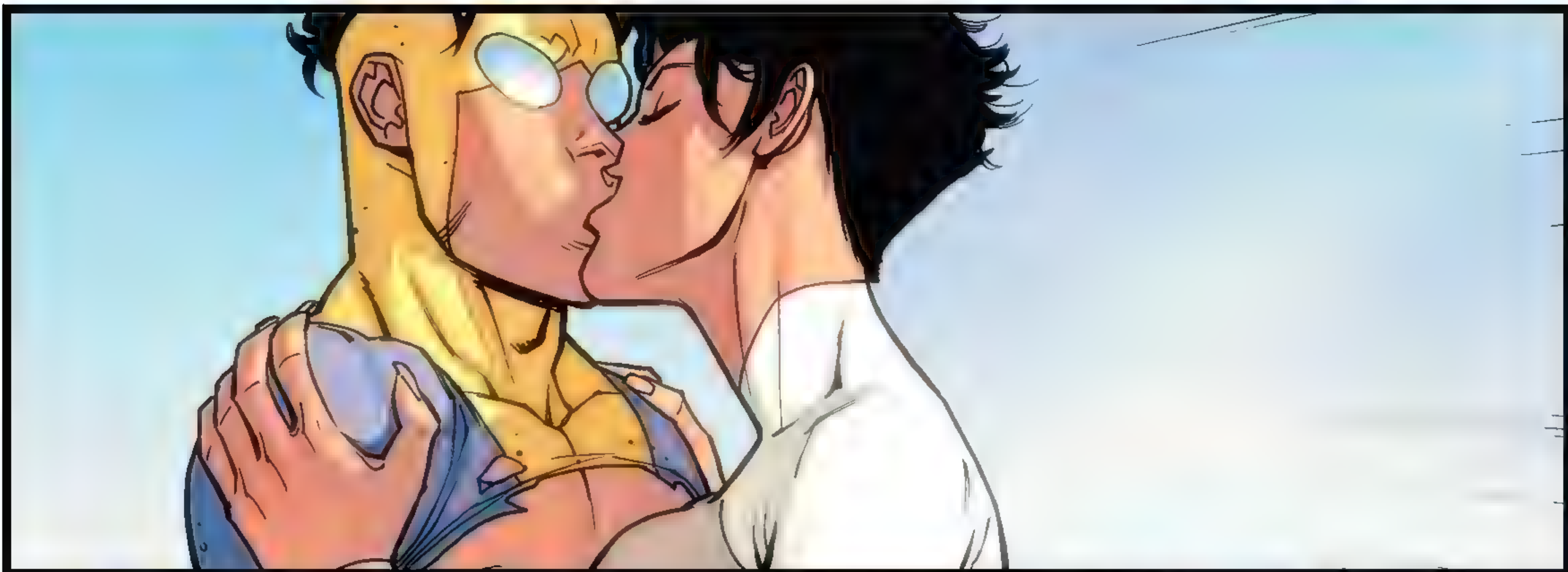
YES.

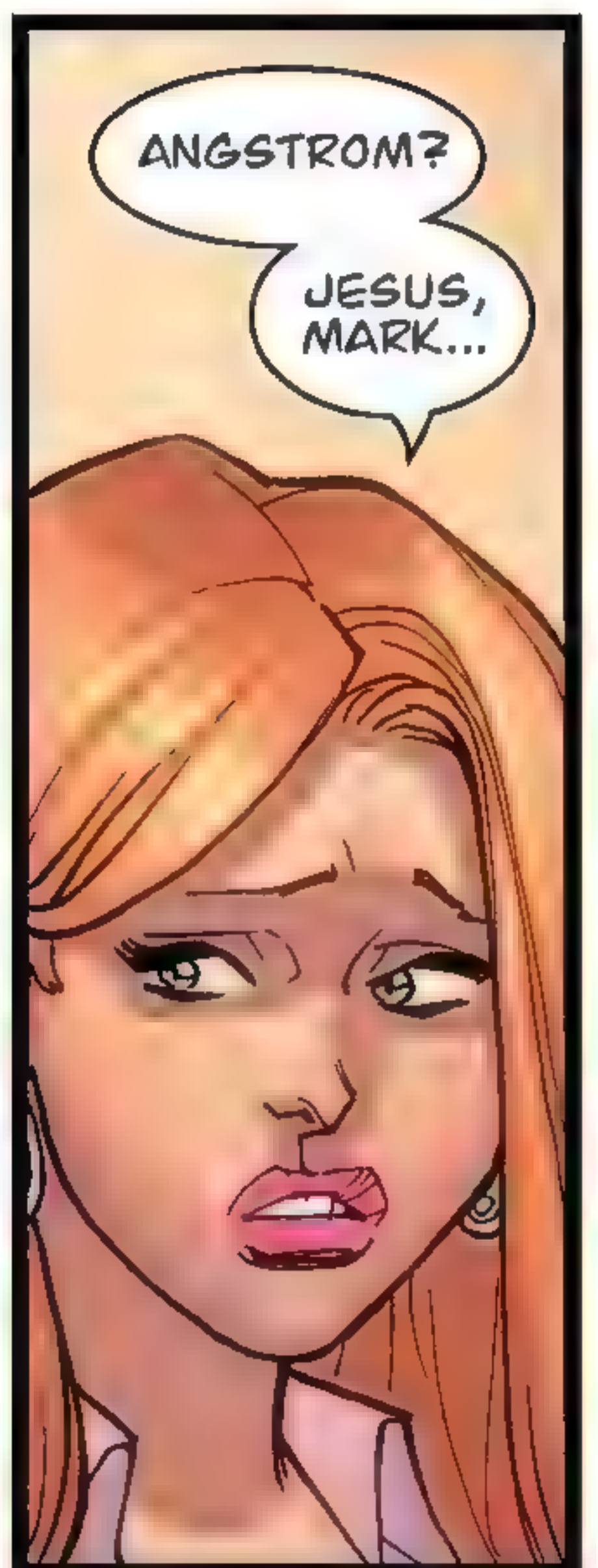
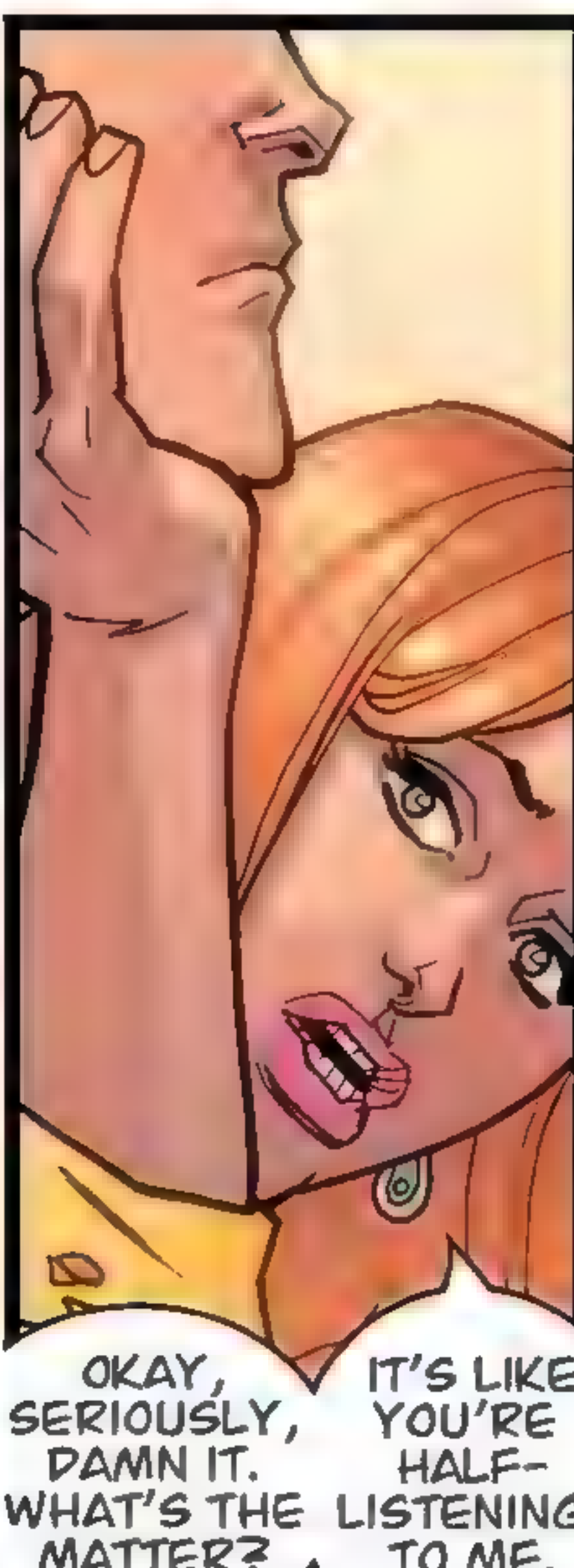
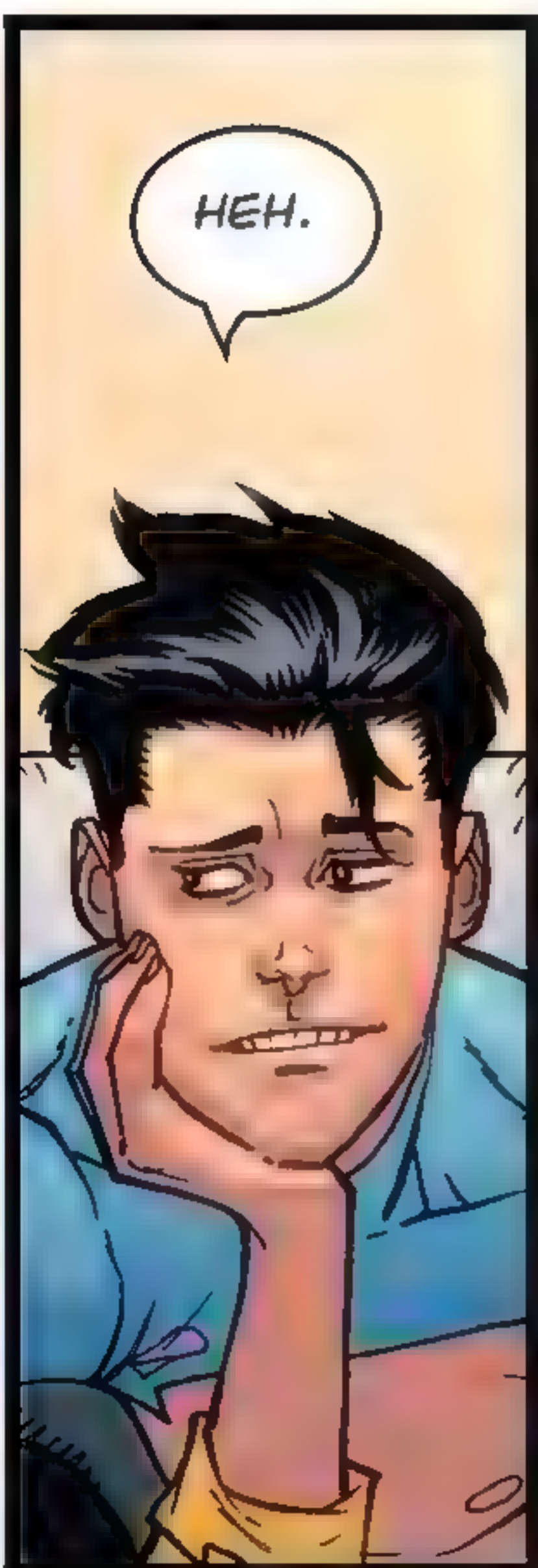
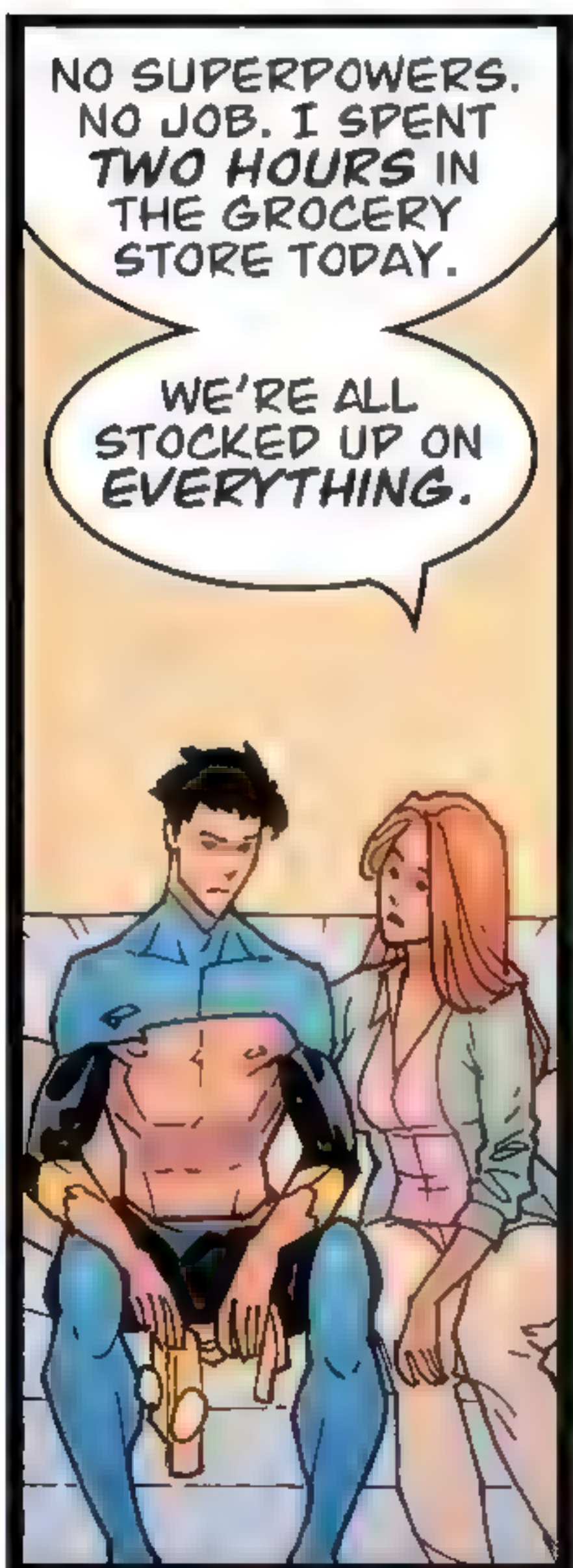
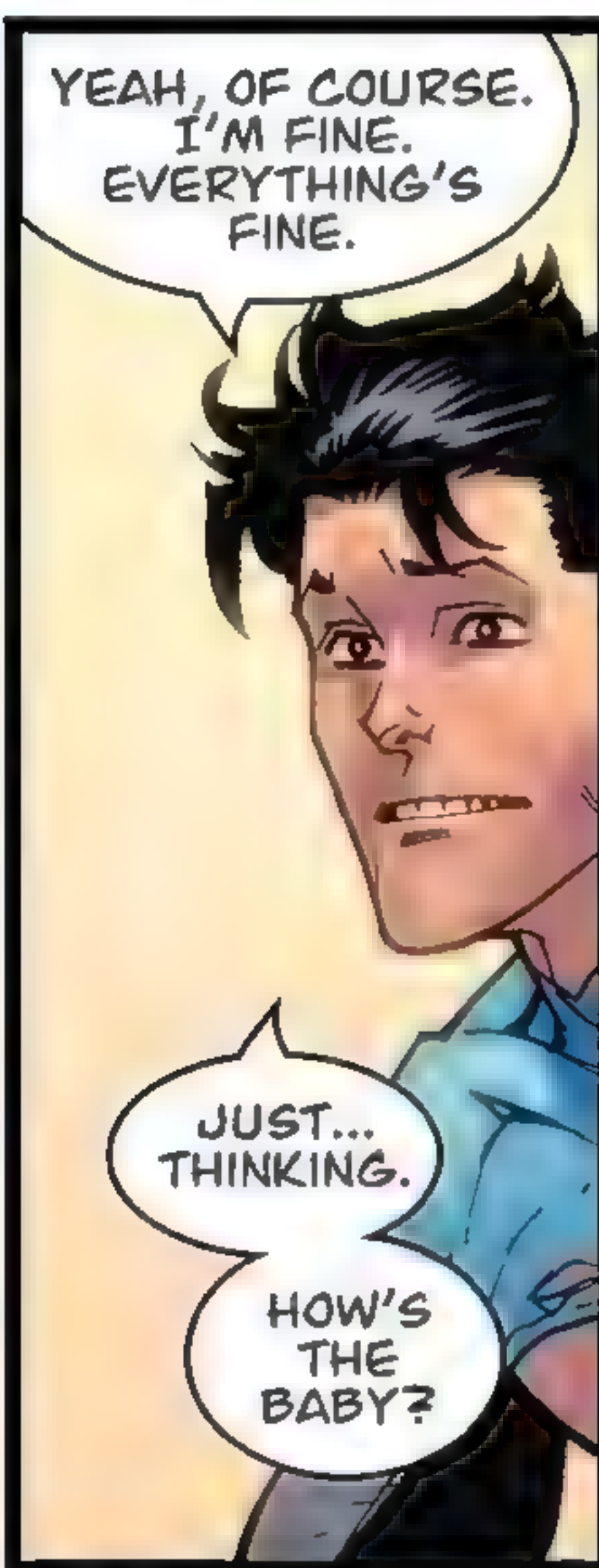
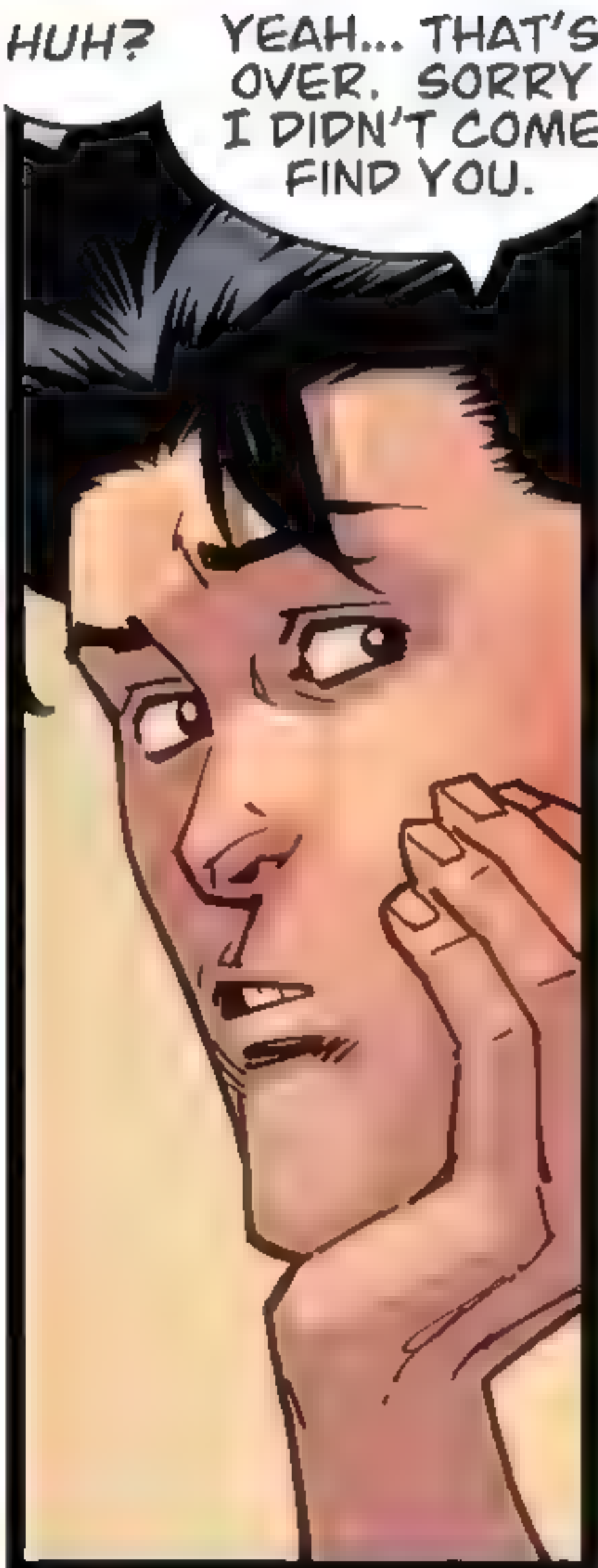
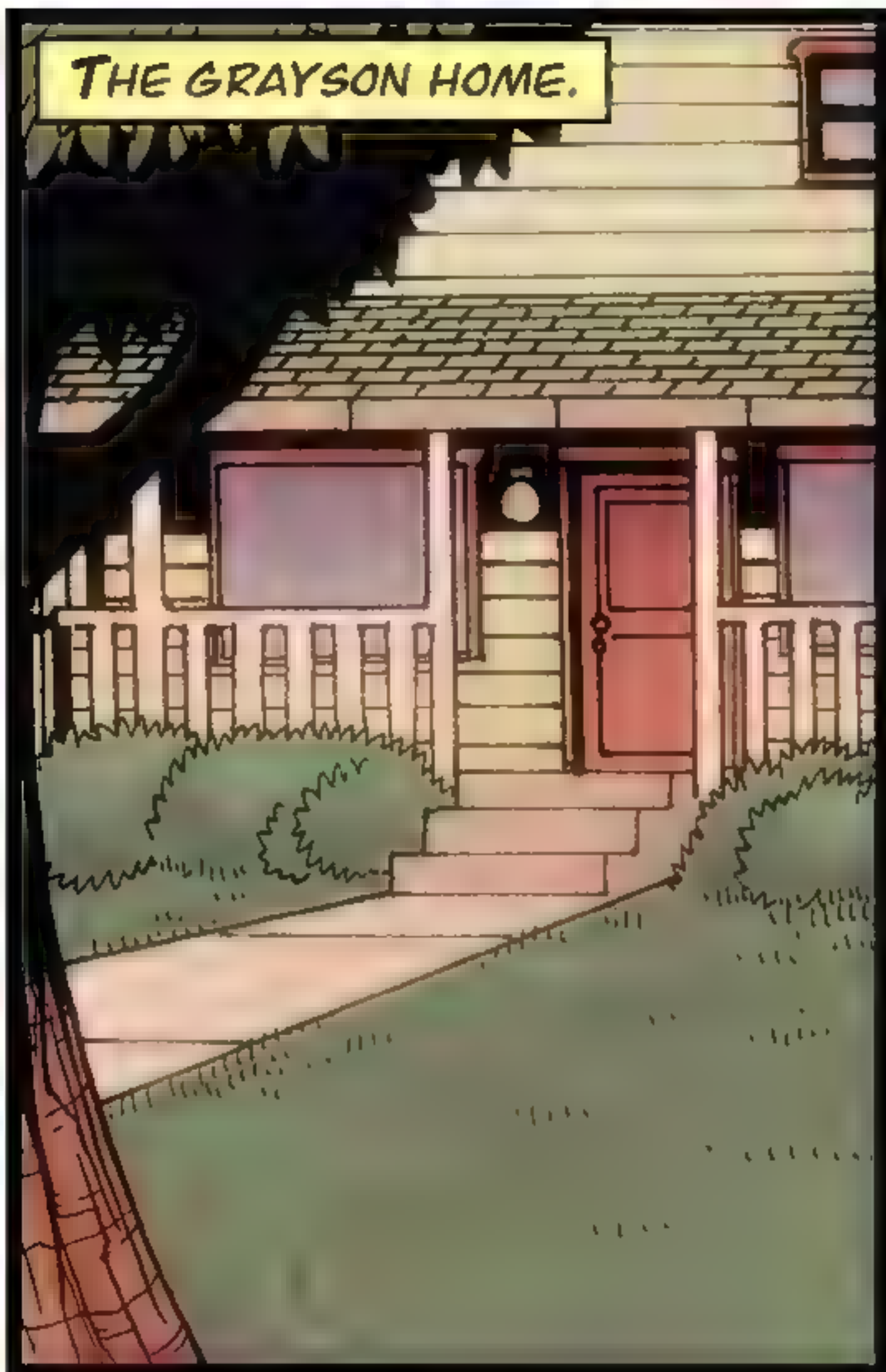
WHAT ARE
YOU DOING?
ARE YOU
TRYING TO
UNDERMINE
MY
FATHER?

I SAW
YOU
SPYING
ON HIM.

I WAS
NEVER
SPYING
ON YOUR
FATHER.

I WAS
WATCHING
YOU.





YES, **ANGSTROM LEVY**.
THE GUY WHO WILL DO
ANYTHING TO HURT ME...
WHO WANTS TO MURDER
EVERYONE I LOVE.
WHO KNOWS WHO I AM,
WHO KNOWS WHERE
WE LIVE... AND WHO
COULD STRIKE
AT ANY
MOMENT.

IS THE
PICTURE
STARTING TO
CLEAR UP
FOR YOU?

ONE, HE'S IN A
WHOLE OTHER
DIMENSION--AND TWO,
THAT OTHER VERSION OF
YOU WAS GOING TO KILL
HIM AND PROBABLY
ALREADY HAS.

EVE, I KILLED
HIM ONCE ALREADY
MYSELF. HE CAME
BACK... HE FIGURED
OUT A WAY
TO LIVE.

HE'S GOT
RESOURCES
FROM OTHER
DIMENSIONS...
HE ALWAYS
HAS A
CONTINGENCY
PLAN.

I WAKE
UP THINKING...
IS THIS THE
DAY?

I CAN'T
HAVE THAT
HANGING OVER
MY HEAD FOR
THE REST OF
MY LIFE!

IT SEEMED
LIKE I TALKED
SOME SENSE
INTO HIM.

HE MAY
NOT EVEN
WANT
YOU DEAD
ANYMORE.

YOU
BOUGHT
THAT?

MARK... PLEASE.
TELL ROBOT TO
STOP WORKING ON
THAT GATEWAY
OR PORTAL OR
WHATEVER.

JUST LET IT
GO. FOR ME. I
DON'T WANT TO
SEE YOU GO
DOWN THE SAME
ROAD HE DID...
DON'T LET THIS
DRIVE YOU
CRAZY.



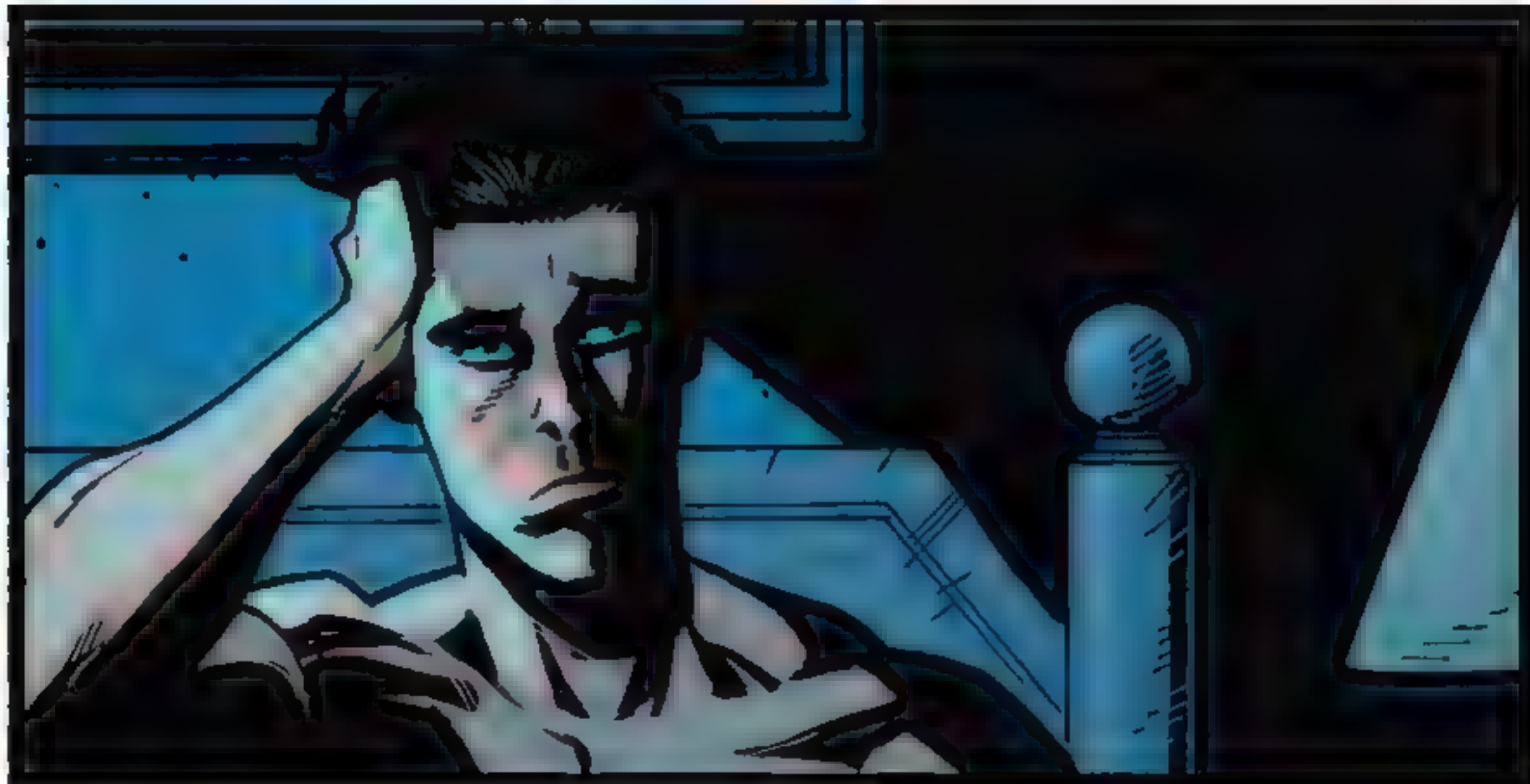
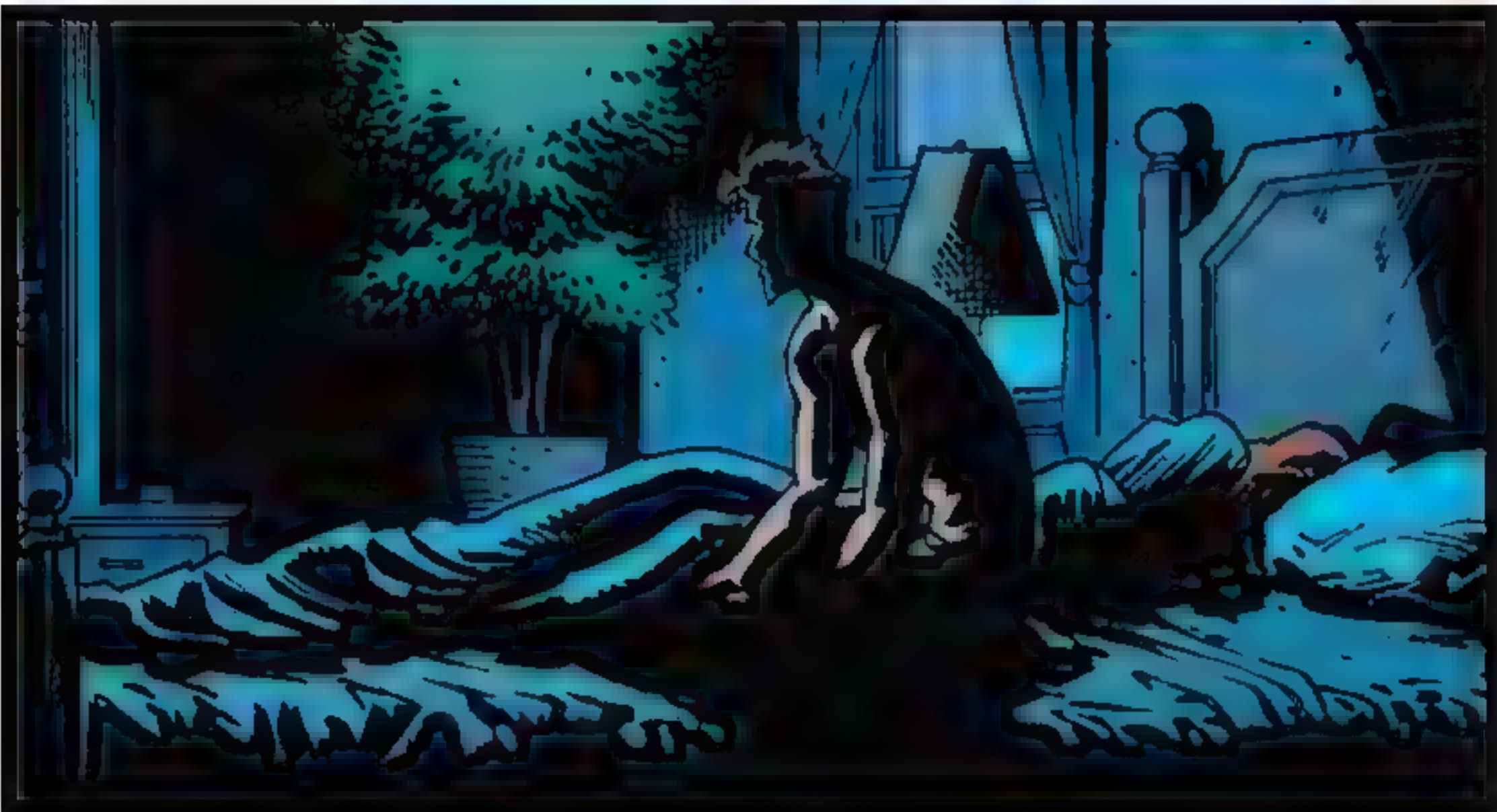
OUR KIND DO NOT TREAD LIGHTLY, AND WE DO NOT VENTURE INTO REALMS WE DO NOT FULLY UNDERSTAND.

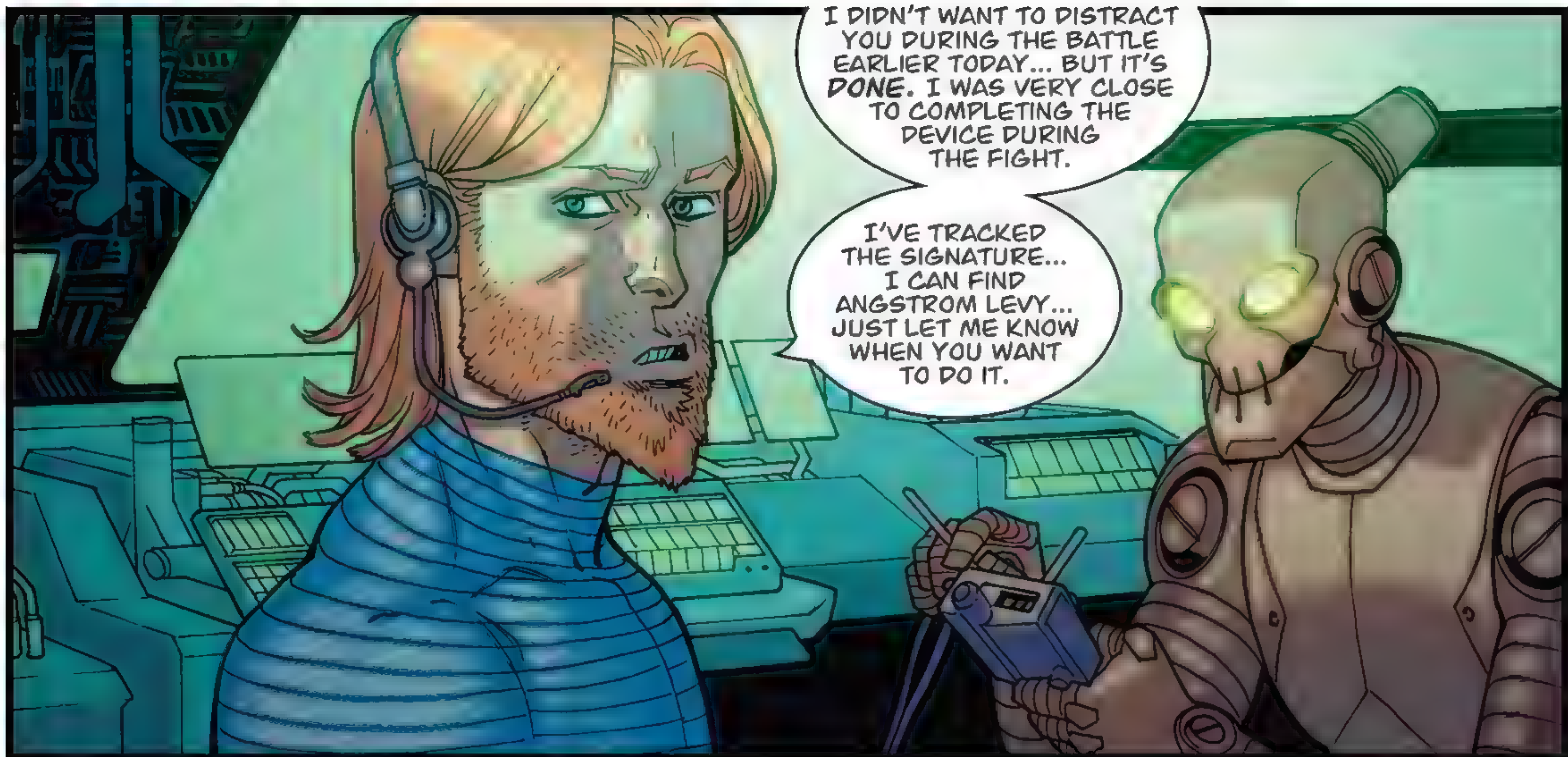
WE KNOW THEIR RESPONSE TIME AND THE FORCE OF THEIR RESPONSE... WE KNOW WHAT THEY CAN WITHSTAND... AND WHAT THEY CAN'T.

WITH YOUR KNOWLEDGE OF THEIR WORLD-- AND WHAT WE JUST LEARNED...



NEXT TIME WE'LL BE READY FOR THEM.



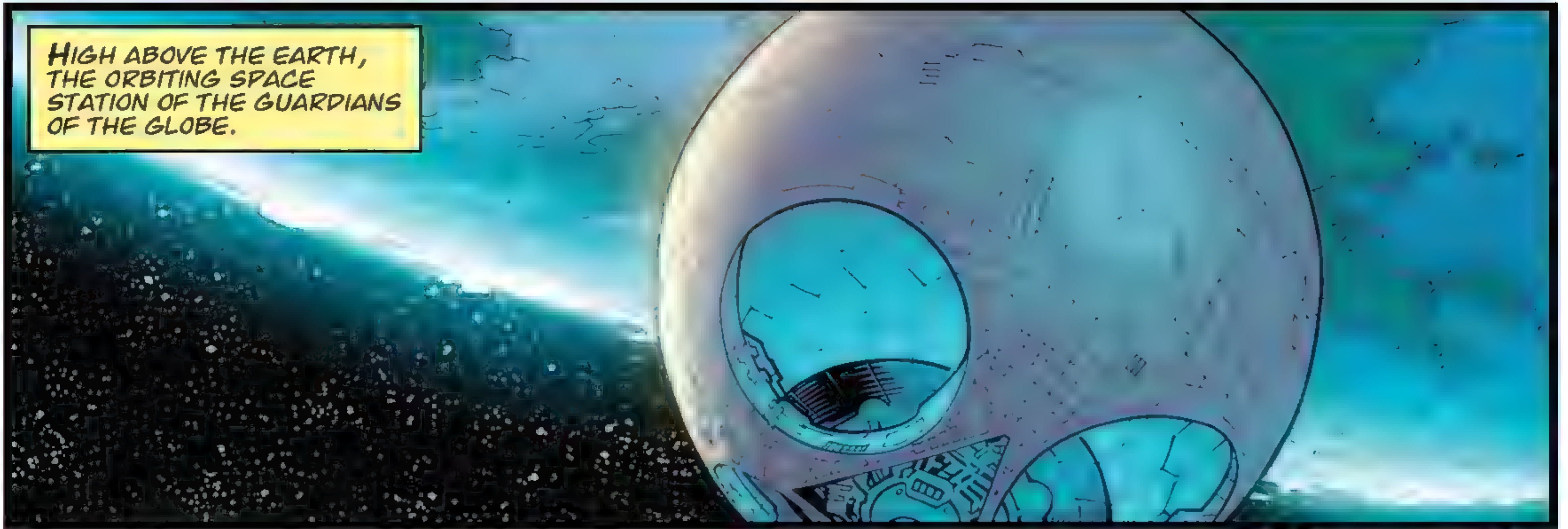




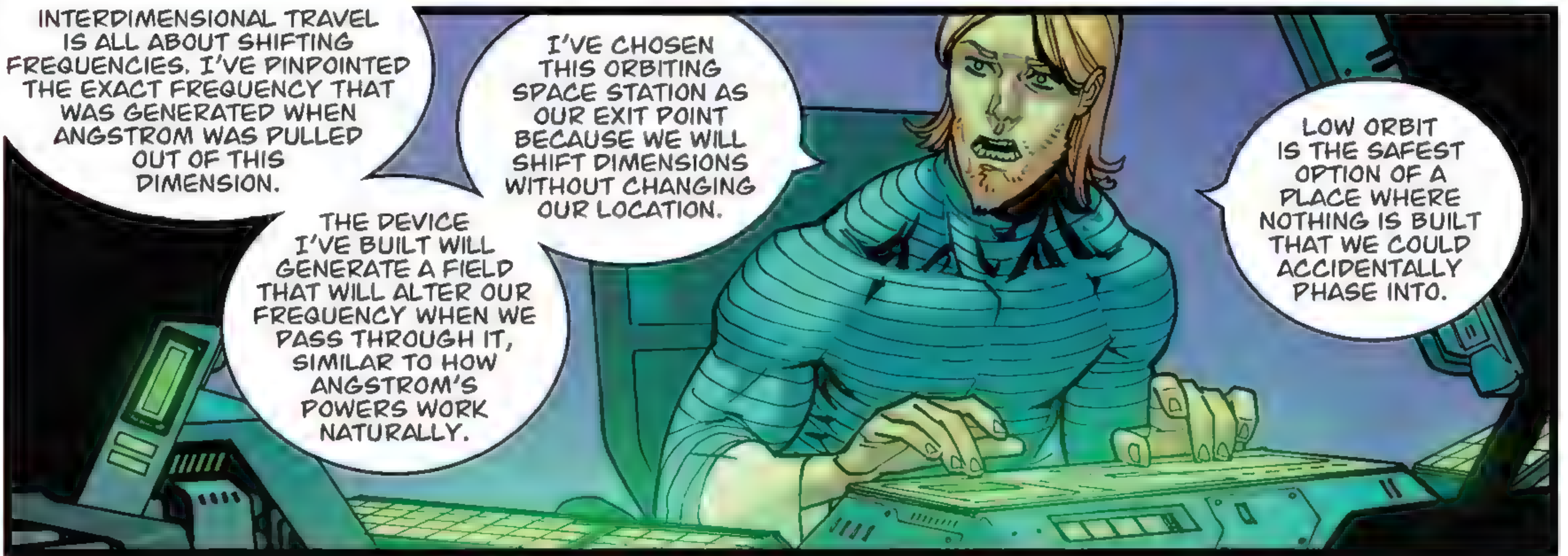
CHAPTER 108



RYAN
RAUCH



HIGH ABOVE THE EARTH,
THE ORBITING SPACE
STATION OF THE GUARDIANS
OF THE GLOBE.



INTERDIMENSIONAL TRAVEL
IS ALL ABOUT SHIFTING
FREQUENCIES. I'VE PINPOINTED
THE EXACT FREQUENCY THAT
WAS GENERATED WHEN
ANGSTROM WAS PULLED
OUT OF THIS
DIMENSION.

I'VE CHOSEN
THIS ORBITING
SPACE STATION AS
OUR EXIT POINT
BECAUSE WE WILL
SHIFT DIMENSIONS
WITHOUT CHANGING
OUR LOCATION.

THE DEVICE
I'VE BUILT WILL
GENERATE A FIELD
THAT WILL ALTER OUR
FREQUENCY WHEN WE
PASS THROUGH IT,
SIMILAR TO HOW
ANGSTROM'S
POWERS WORK
NATURALLY.

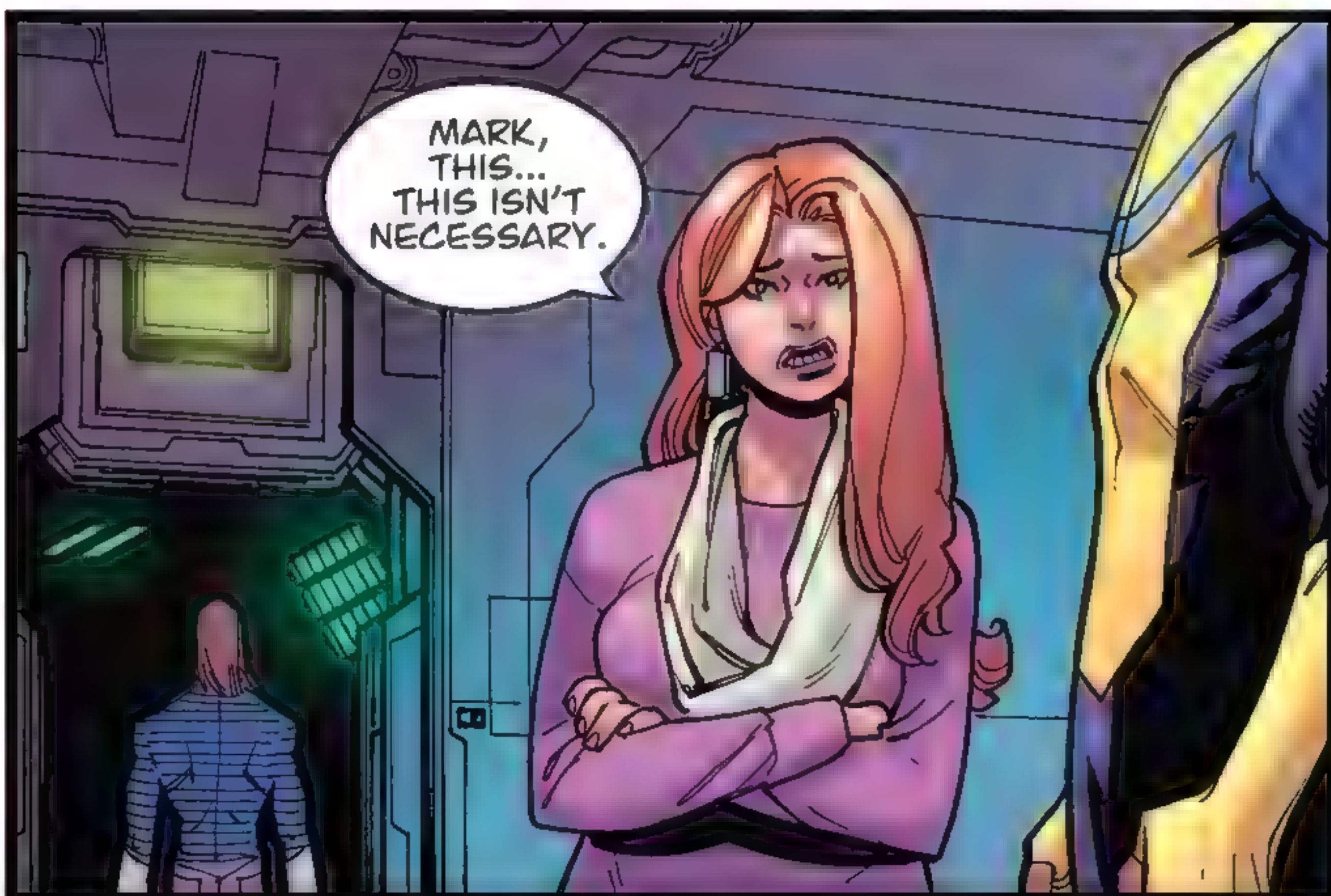
LOW ORBIT
IS THE SAFEST
OPTION OF A
PLACE WHERE
NOTHING IS BUILT
THAT WE COULD
ACCIDENTALLY
PHASE INTO.



ALL THAT IS A LONG-WINDED
WAY OF SAYING... I'M READY
WHEN YOU ARE. JUST LET
ME GET SUITED UP AND
WE CAN GO.

THANKS.
THANKS SO
MUCH FOR
AGREEING TO COME
WITH ME. I REALLY
APPRECIATE
THIS, REX.

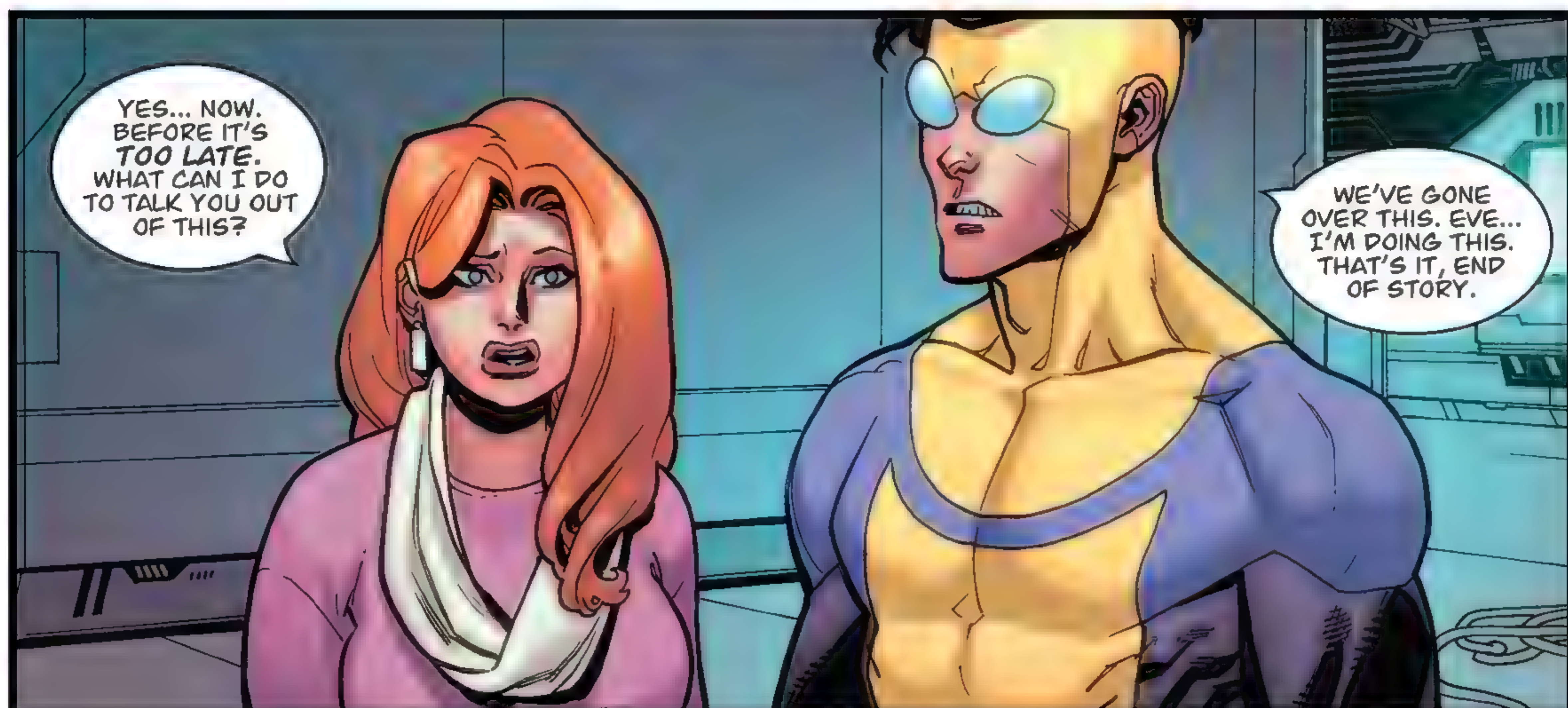
I KNOW
WE'VE HAD OUR
DIFFERENCES,
AND... WELL...
JUST
THANKS.



MARK,
THIS...
THIS ISN'T
NECESSARY.

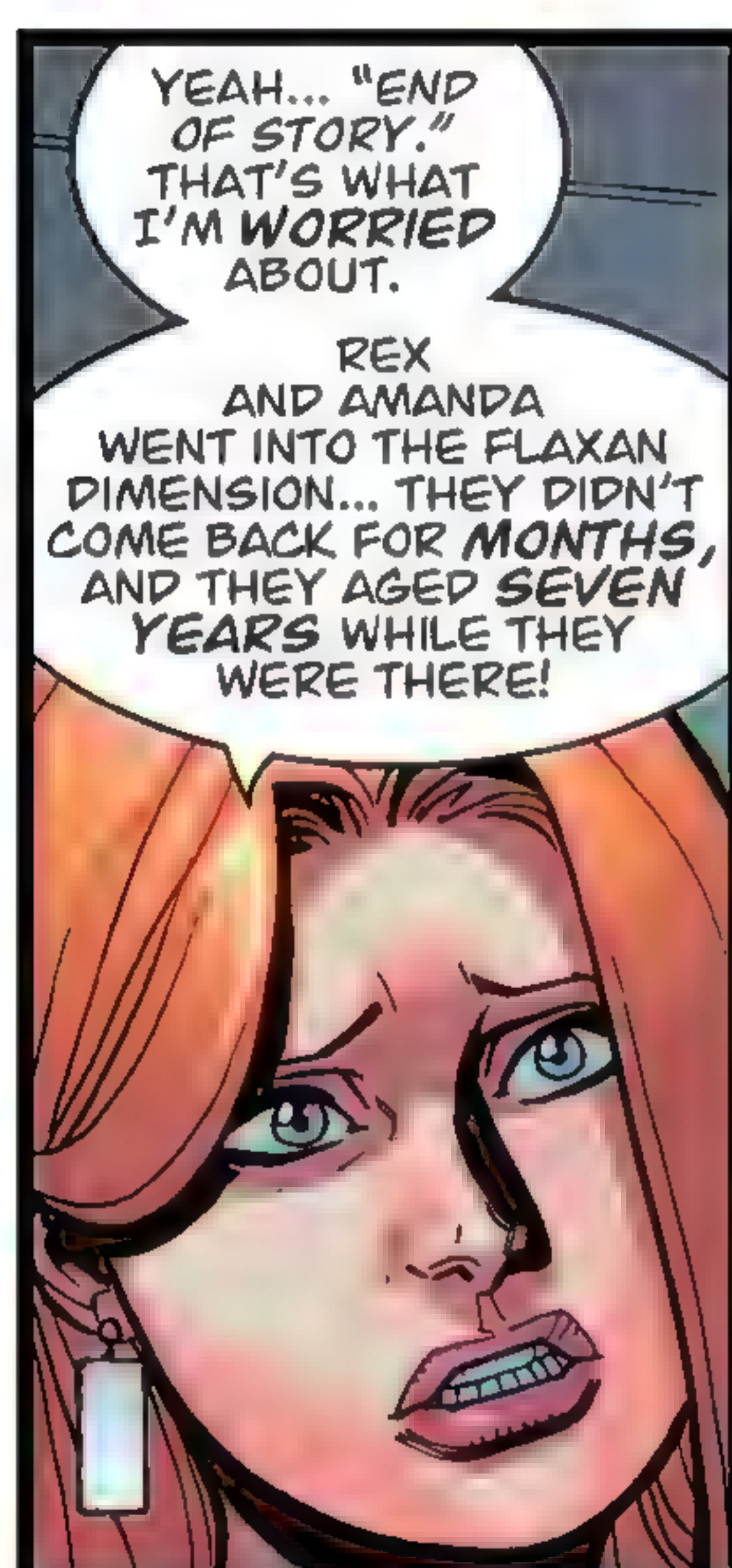


EVE,
PLEASE.
NOT AGAIN.
NOT NOW.



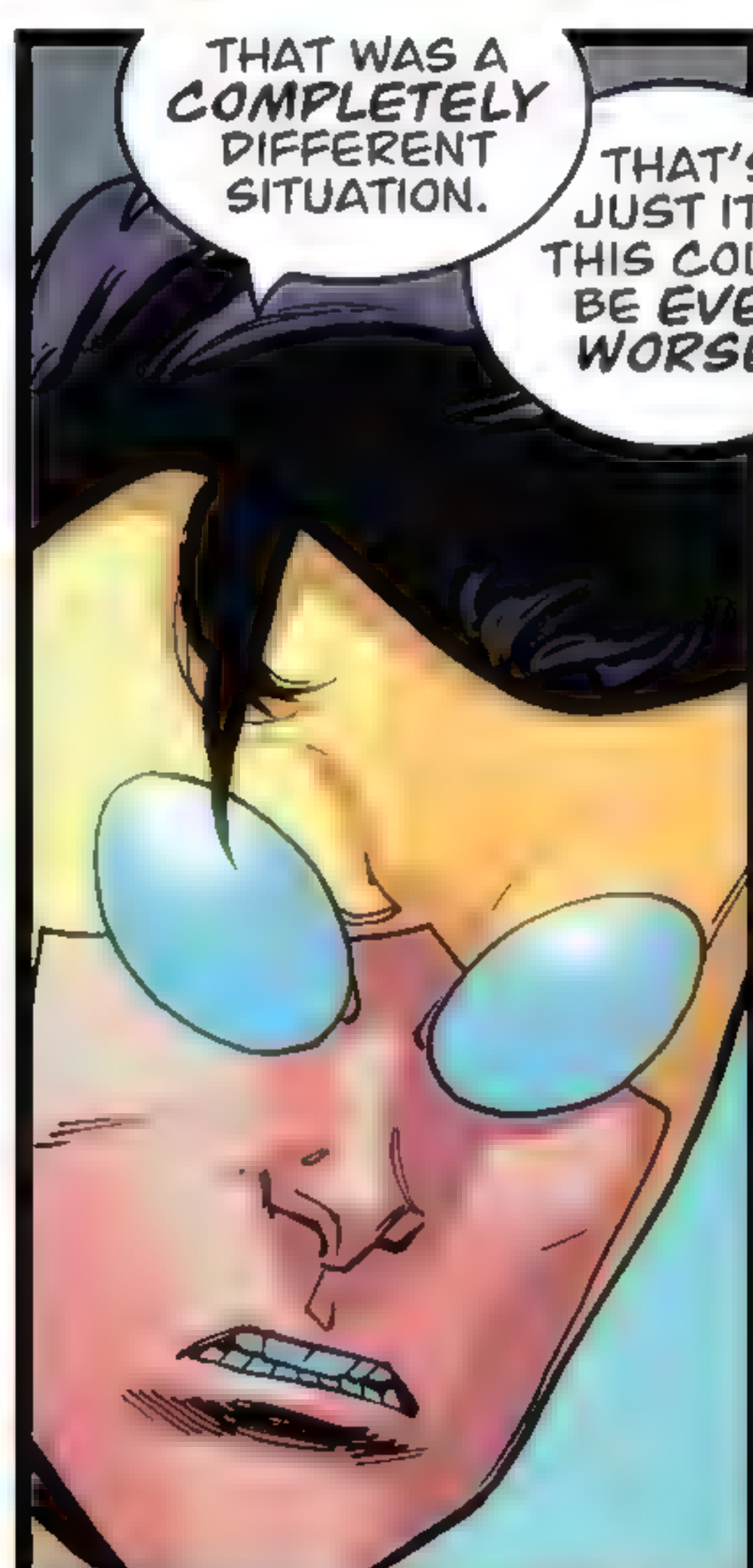
YES... NOW.
BEFORE IT'S
TOO LATE.
WHAT CAN I DO
TO TALK YOU OUT
OF THIS?

WE'VE GONE
OVER THIS. EVE...
I'M DOING THIS.
THAT'S IT, END
OF STORY.



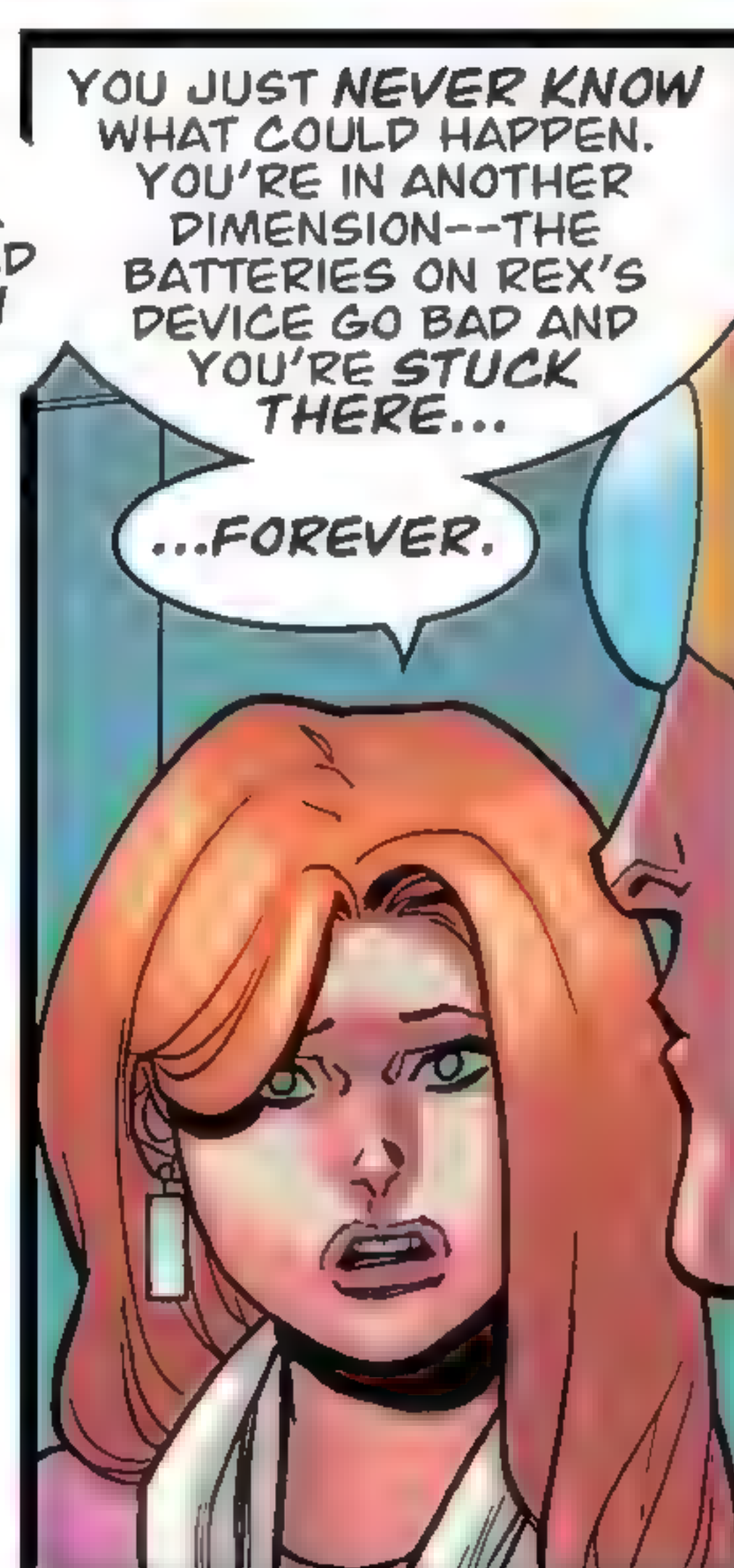
YEAH... "END
OF STORY."
THAT'S WHAT
I'M WORRIED
ABOUT.

REX
AND AMANDA
WENT INTO THE FLAXAN
DIMENSION... THEY DIDN'T
COME BACK FOR MONTHS,
AND THEY AGED SEVEN
YEARS WHILE THEY
WERE THERE!



THAT WAS A
COMPLETELY
DIFFERENT
SITUATION.

THAT'S
JUST IT...
THIS COULD
BE EVEN
WORSE.



YOU JUST NEVER KNOW
WHAT COULD HAPPEN.
YOU'RE IN ANOTHER
DIMENSION--THE
BATTERIES ON REX'S
DEVICE GO BAD AND
YOU'RE STUCK
THERE...

...FOREVER.



ONE, THAT'S NOT GOING TO
HAPPEN. TWO, I HAVE TO
DO THIS. ANGSTROM LEVY
COULD ATTACK AT ANY TIME.
HE KNOWS WHO I AM,
WHERE WE LIVE, HATES ME,
WANTS TO HURT THOSE
CLOSEST TO ME...
REMEMBER?

WE HAVE
BEEN OVER
THIS.



I KNOW,
BUT...

LOOK, I
HAVE A
REALLY BAD...
FEELING...

OKAY?



A BAD FEELING?
AM I REALLY
SUPPOSED TO PUT
A LOT OF STOCK
INTO THAT?

HAVE YOU
SUDDENLY GAINED
SOME KIND OF
CLAIRVOYANT
POWERS?



DON'T
MAKE FUN
OF ME.

I'M SCARED
TO DEATH
THAT I'M GOING
TO LOSE
YOU.



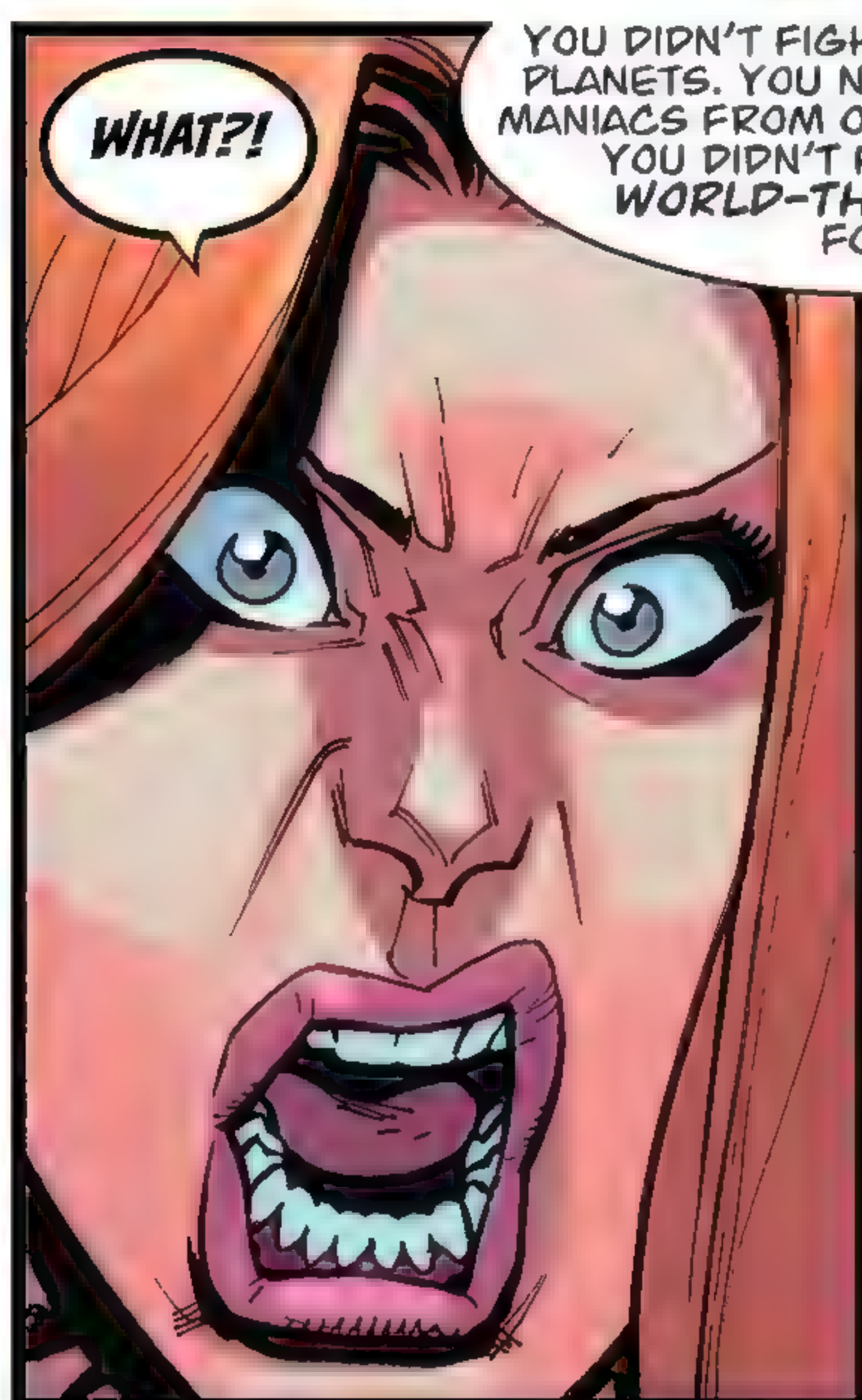
I'M PREGNANT.
WE'RE STARTING
A FAMILY.

OR HAVE YOU
FORGOTTEN?!



THAT'S LITERALLY ALL I'M THINKING ABOUT HERE! GETTING THIS TAKEN CARE OF BEFORE IT CAN DISRUPT... EVEN DESTROY OUR FAMILY.

LOOK, WE'VE HAD THIS ARGUMENT NOW, OVER AND OVER... SO MANY TIMES. I THINK THE PROBLEM HERE IS THAT WHEN YOU WERE RUNNING AROUND IN COSTUME--YOU NEVER DEALT WITH ANYTHING ON THE SAME SCALE AS I DO... EVERY SINGLE DAY.



WHAT?!

YOU DIDN'T FIGHT WARS ON ALIEN PLANETS. YOU NEVER DEALT WITH MANIACS FROM OTHER DIMENSIONS. YOU DIDN'T FACE A LOT OF WORLD-THREATENING FOES.



I CAN SEE HOW SOMETHING LIKE THIS COULD SCARE YOU.



OH, BULLSHIT, MARK. I NEVER FOUGHT THE SEQUIDS?!

DID YOU FORGET CONQUEST? I'VE BEEN AROUND, OKAY? THIS ISN'T A CASE OF ME BEING NAIVE.

IT'S A CASE OF YOU BEING OBSESSED... AND BECOMING BLINDED BY THAT.



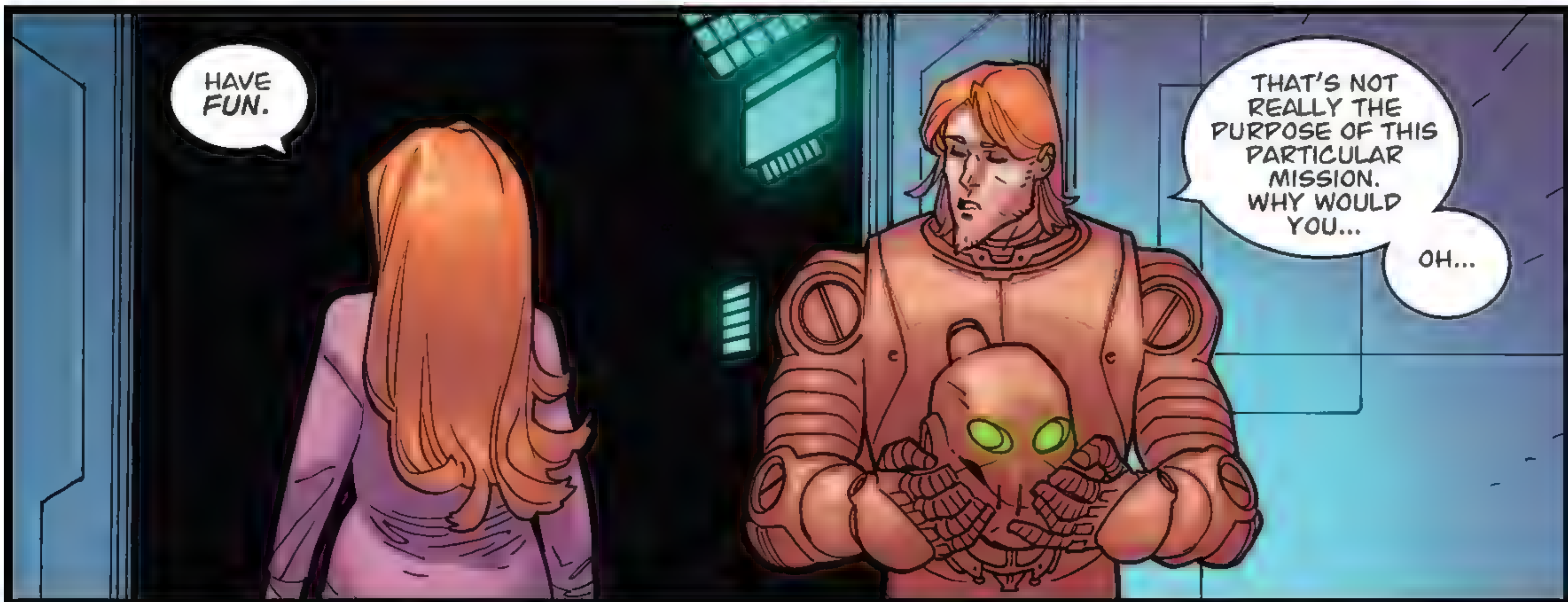
YES! I'M OBSESSED WITH KEEPING YOU SAFE! OBSESSED WITH STOPPING PEOPLE WHO WANT TO KILL YOU--OUR BABY--OUR FAMILIES!

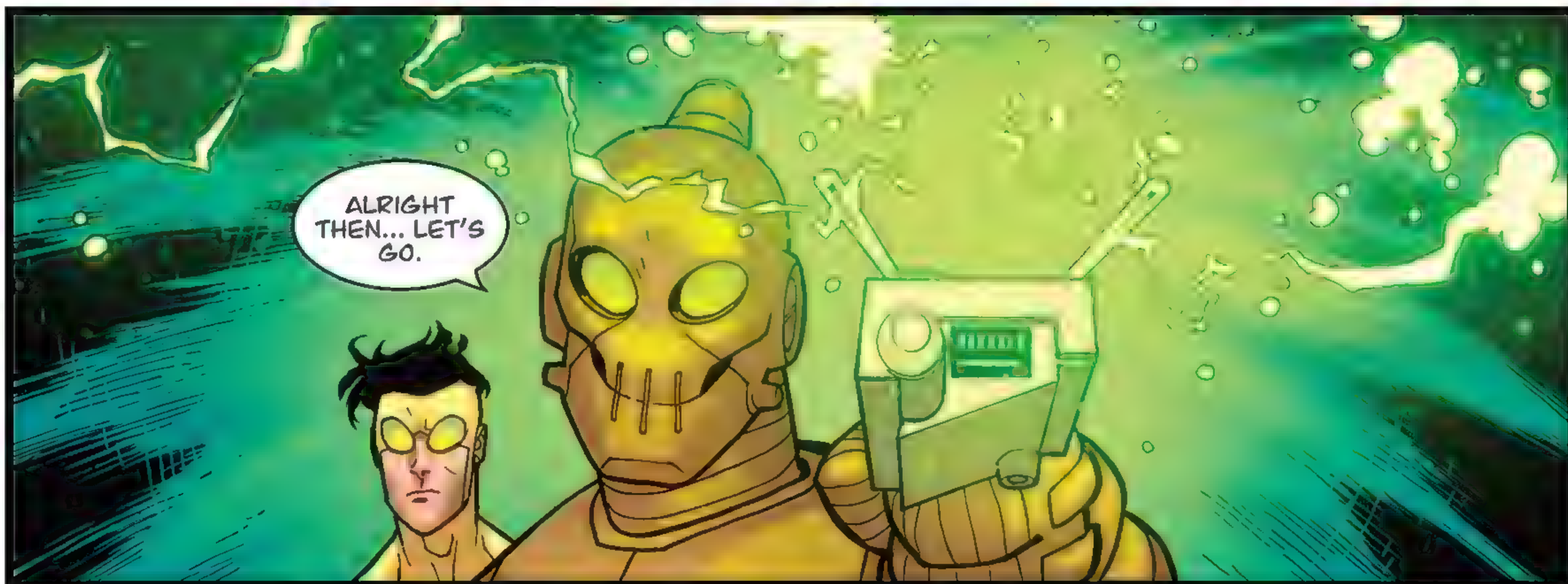
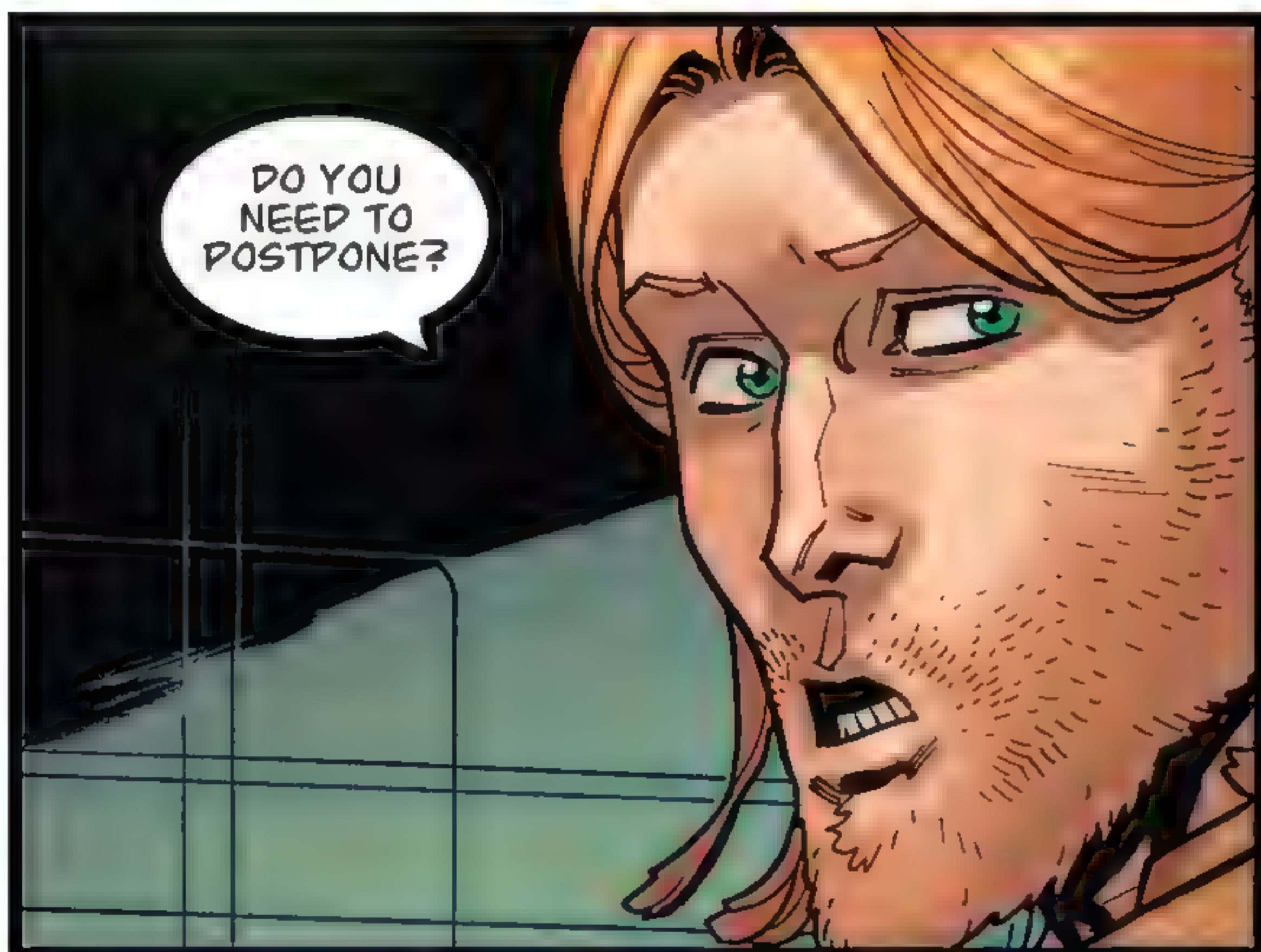
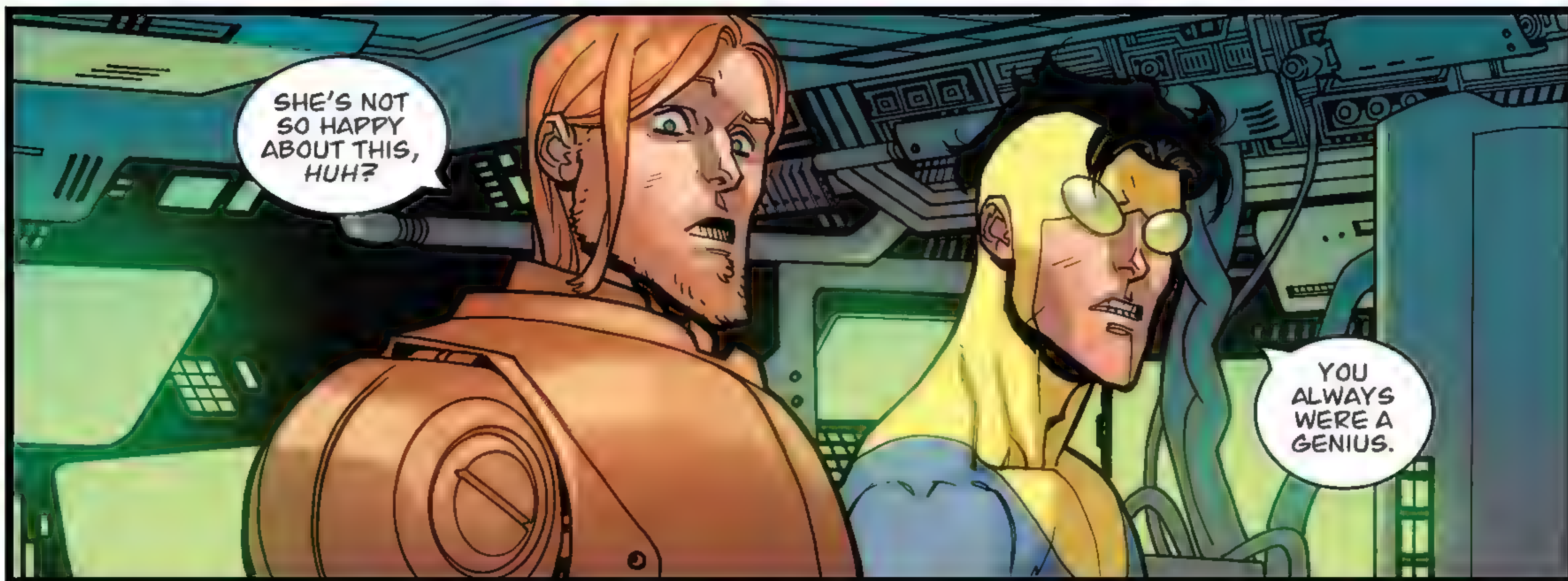
YOU'RE SO GODDAMN SCARED OF ME SCREWING UP AND GETTING STRANDED THAT YOU'RE WILLING TO LEAVE A SWORD HANGING OVER OUR HEADS FOR THE REST OF OUR LIVES?!

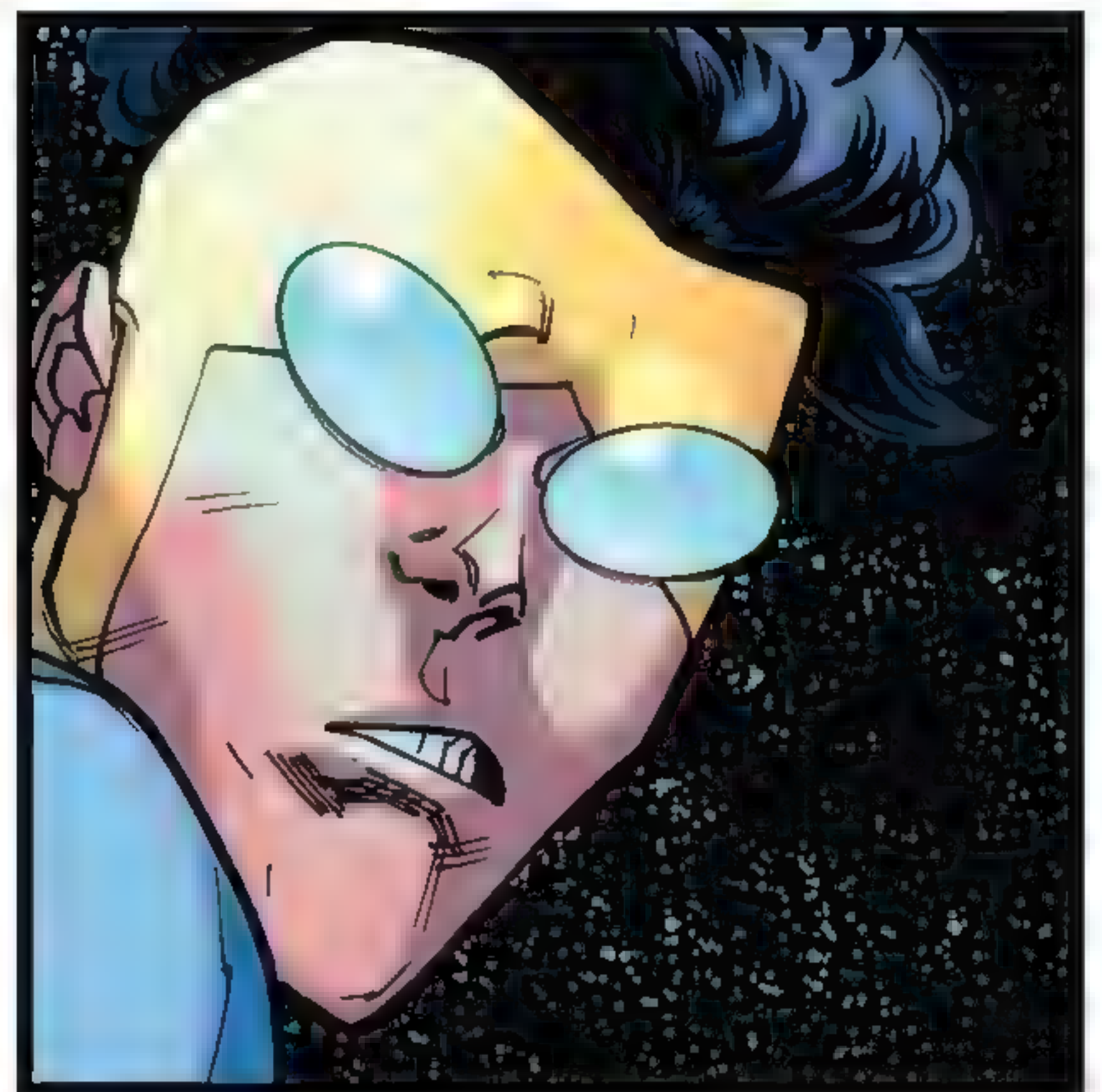
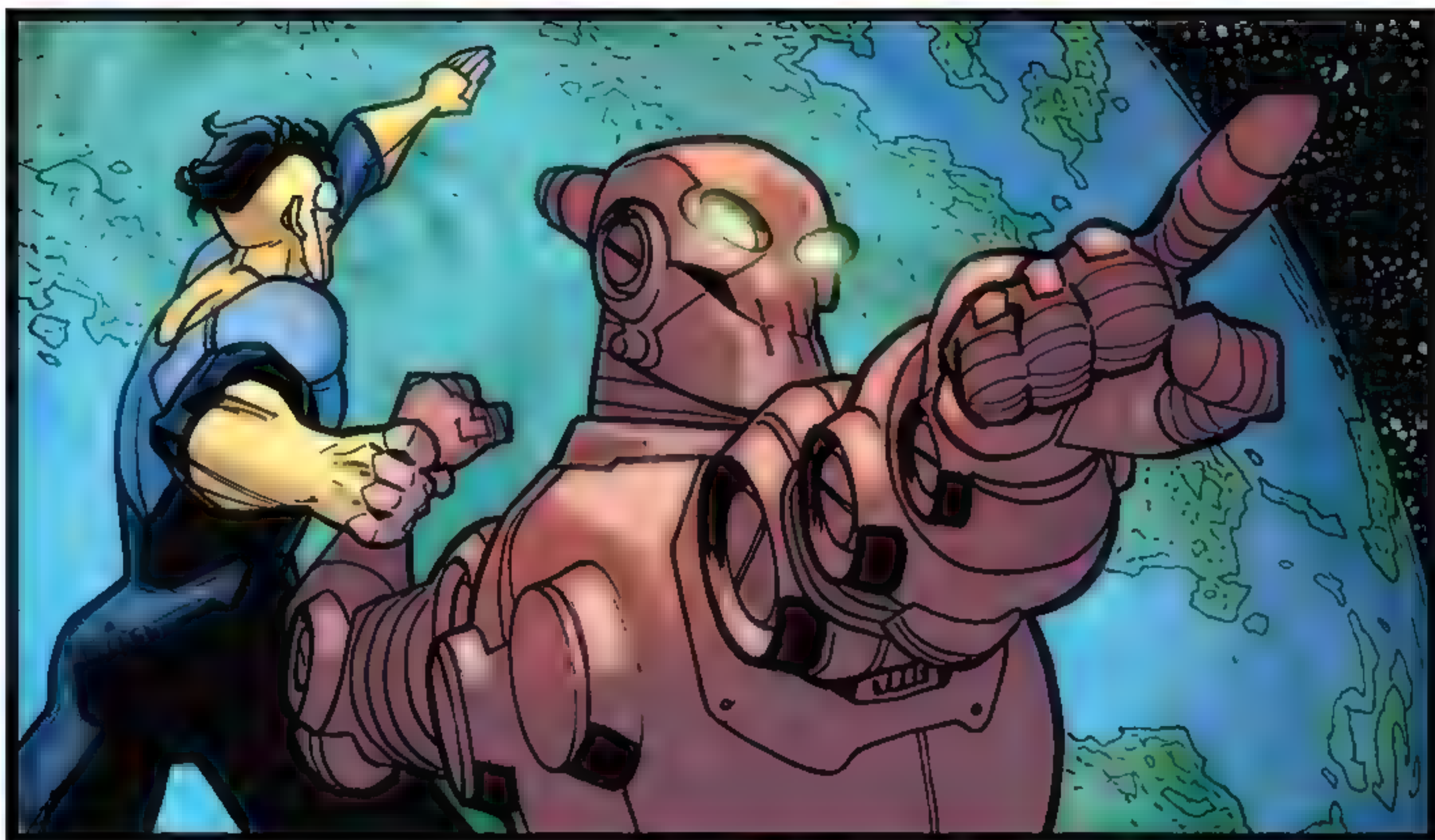
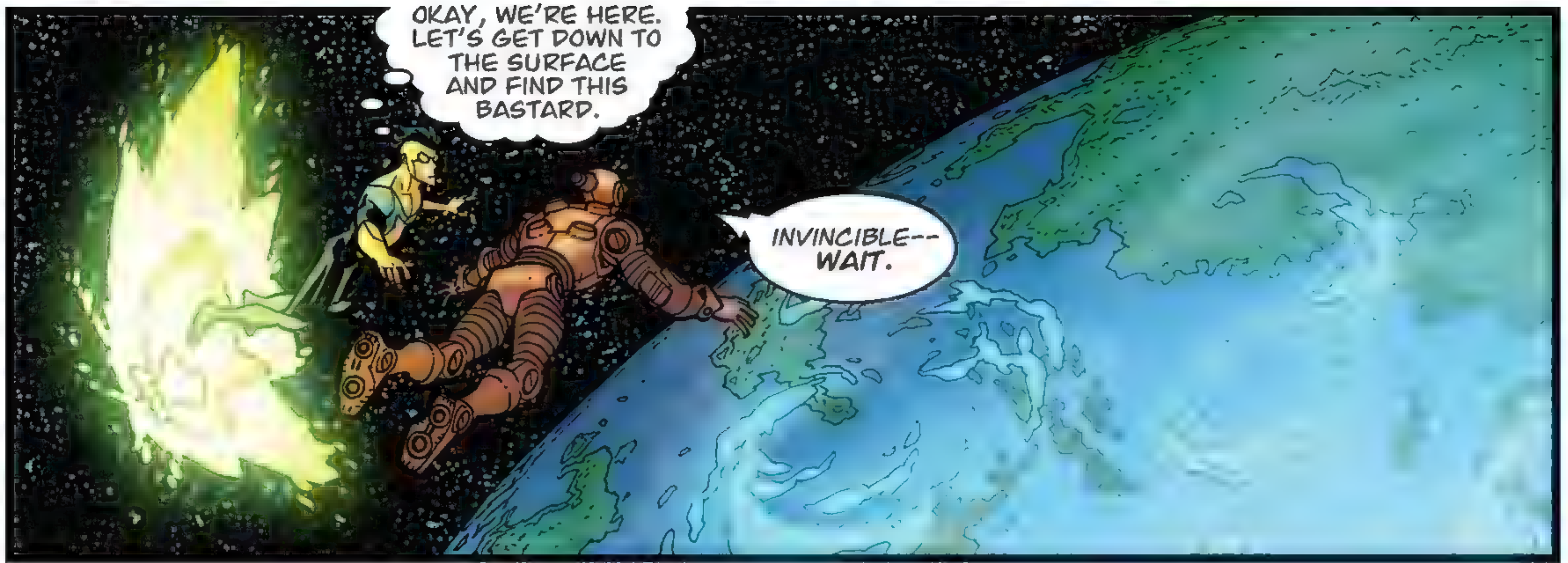
ARE YOU CRAZY? BACK THE HELL UP AND THINK ABOUT THE DANGER THAT IS OUT THERE... AND HOW CLOSE I AM TO BEING ABLE TO STOP IT.

WHAT THE HELL HAS GOTTEN INTO YOU? IS THIS HORMONES?!


I PROMISE YOU THIS-- YOU'LL THANK ME FOR DOING THIS WHEN I'M DONE! YOU'LL SEE!





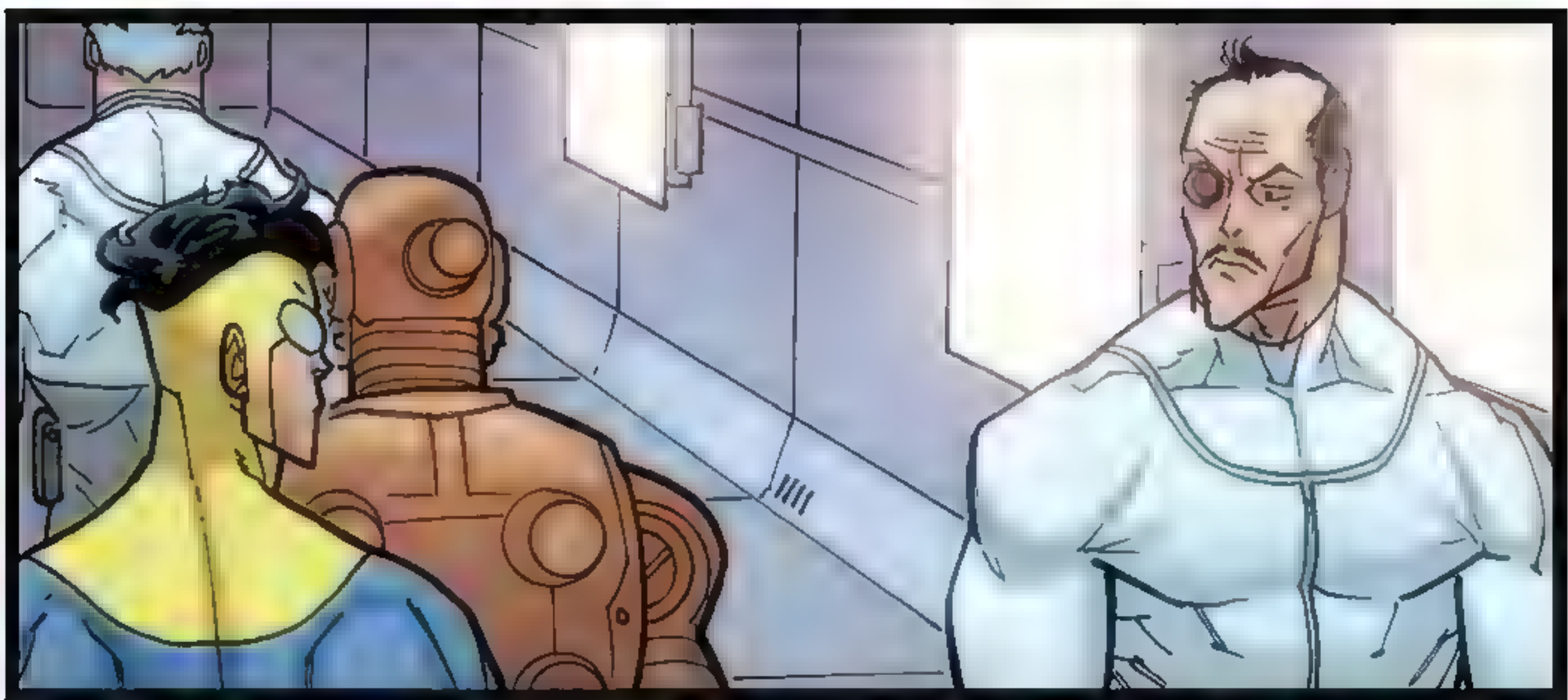
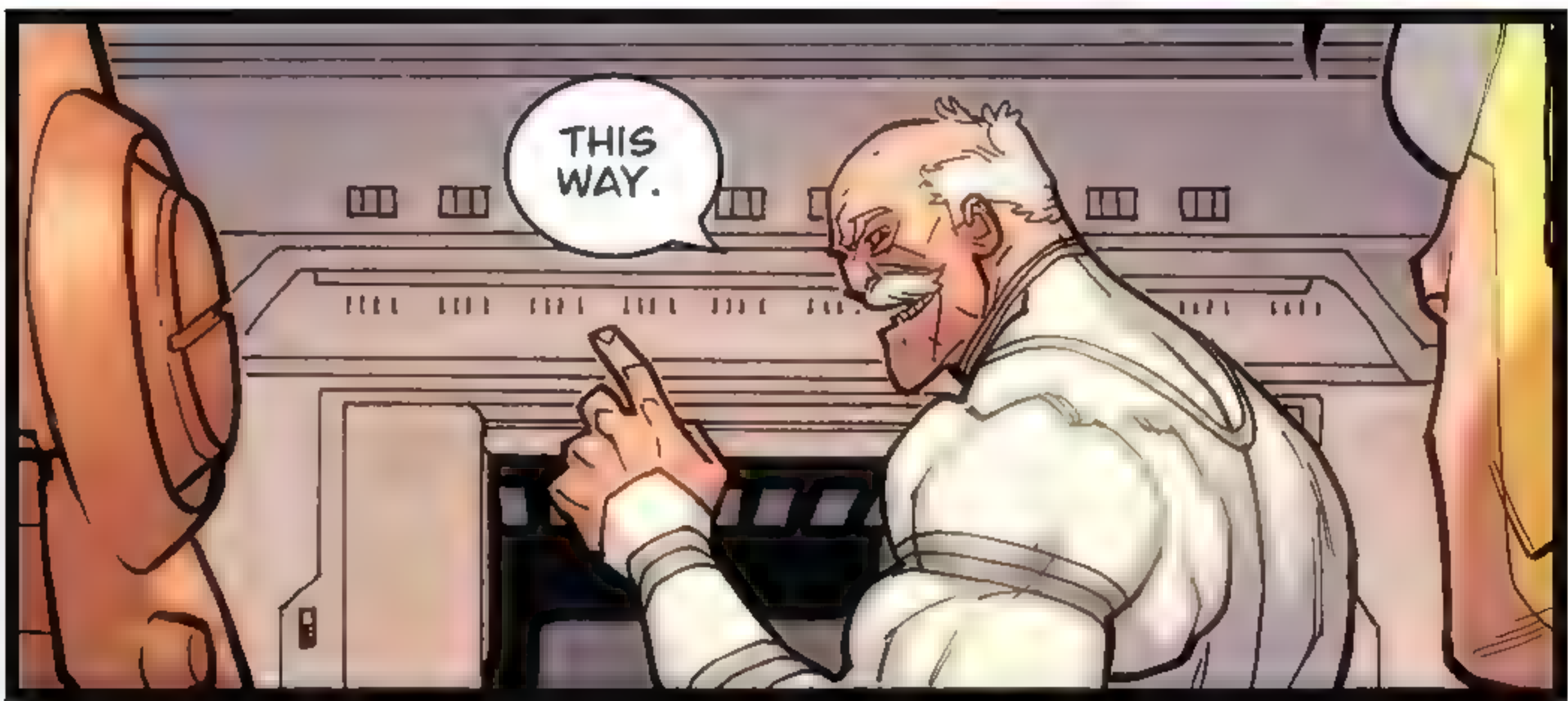
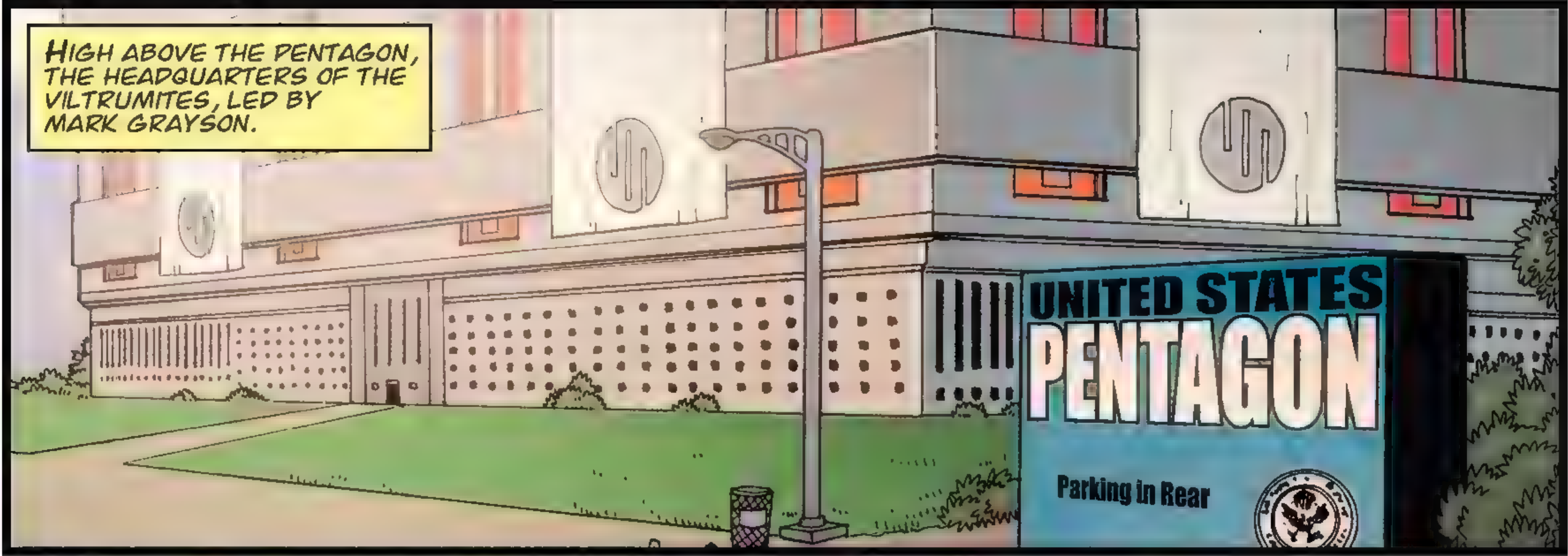






ACCOMPANY
ME BACK TO
THE CITADEL OR
I WILL KILL
YOU BOTH.

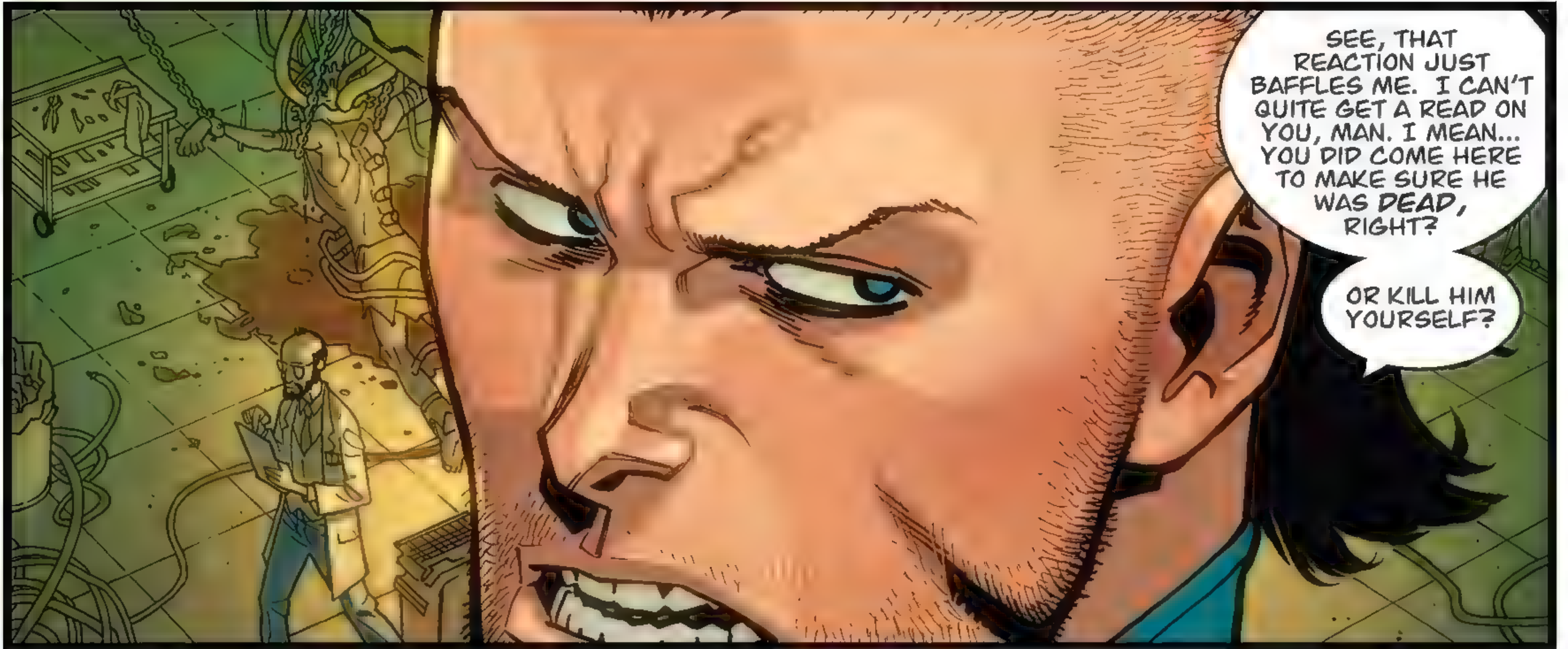
PLEASE
RESIST...











SEE, THAT REACTION JUST Baffles ME. I CAN'T QUITE GET A READ ON YOU, MAN. I MEAN... YOU DID COME HERE TO MAKE SURE HE WAS DEAD, RIGHT?

OR KILL HIM YOURSELF?



I WASN'T GOING TO TORTURE HIM...



YOU KNOW... WE TALKED A LOT, THE OTHER VERSIONS OF US, WHEN WE WERE STRANDED IN THAT DIMENSION ALONE... BEFORE WE STARTED EATING EACH OTHER.



WE TALKED A LOT ABOUT WHAT TURNED US. A FEW OF US... OUR FATHERS ALWAYS RAISED US TO TAKE OVER. THE REST... THERE WAS SOMETHING ELSE THAT TURNED US... OPENED OUR EYES TO WHO WE REALLY WERE.

YOU HAVEN'T YET REALIZED HOW DIFFERENT YOU ARE FROM THE PEOPLE OF THIS PLANET. HOW STUPID IT IS FOR YOU TO WASTE ANY TIME PROTECTING THEM, FIGHTING FOR THEM... WITHOUT GETTING ANYTHING IN RETURN.

I'M GUESSING THAT HASN'T HAPPENED TO YOU YET.

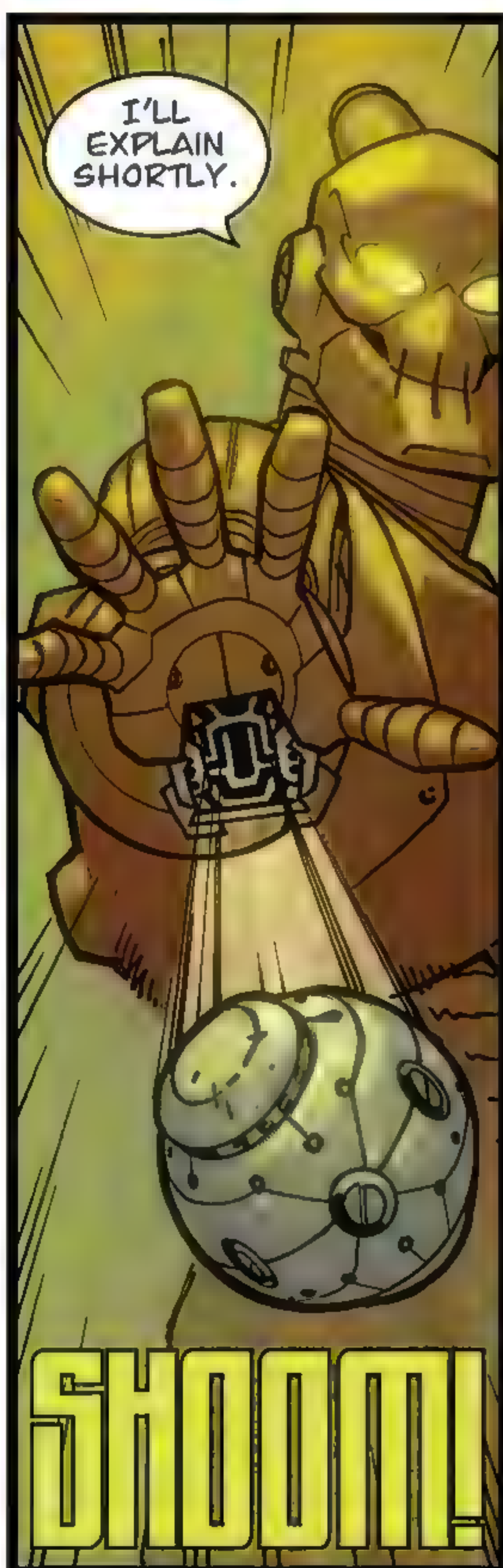
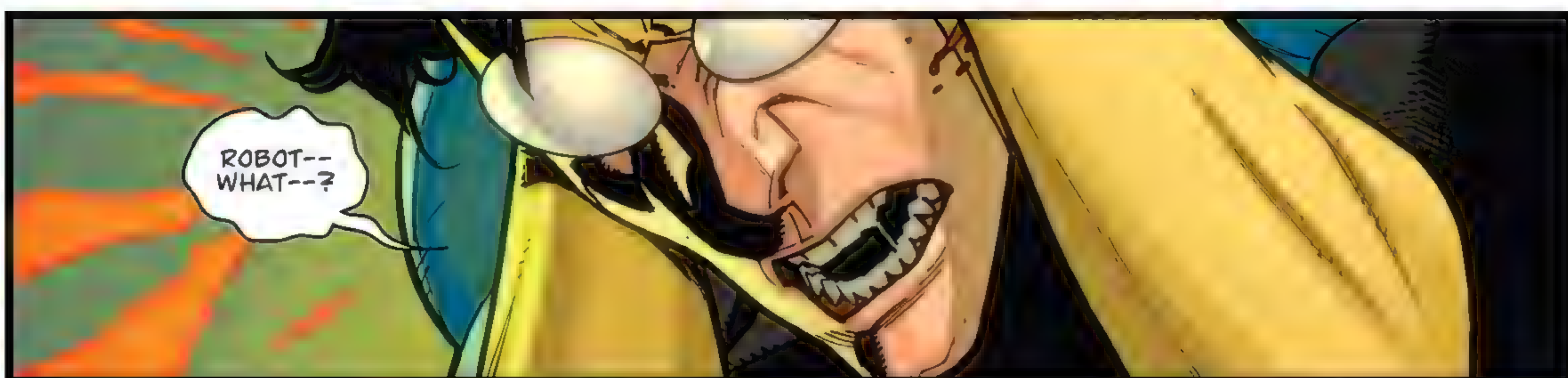
WHEN THEY COULD BE WORSHIPPING YOU.



WHAT WAS IT ANGSTROM SAID? THAT HE WAS SURPRISED HOW FEW OF US WERE... "GOOD."



I'M REALLY
SORRY, BUT I
SEE NOW THAT
I HAVE TO
DO THIS.







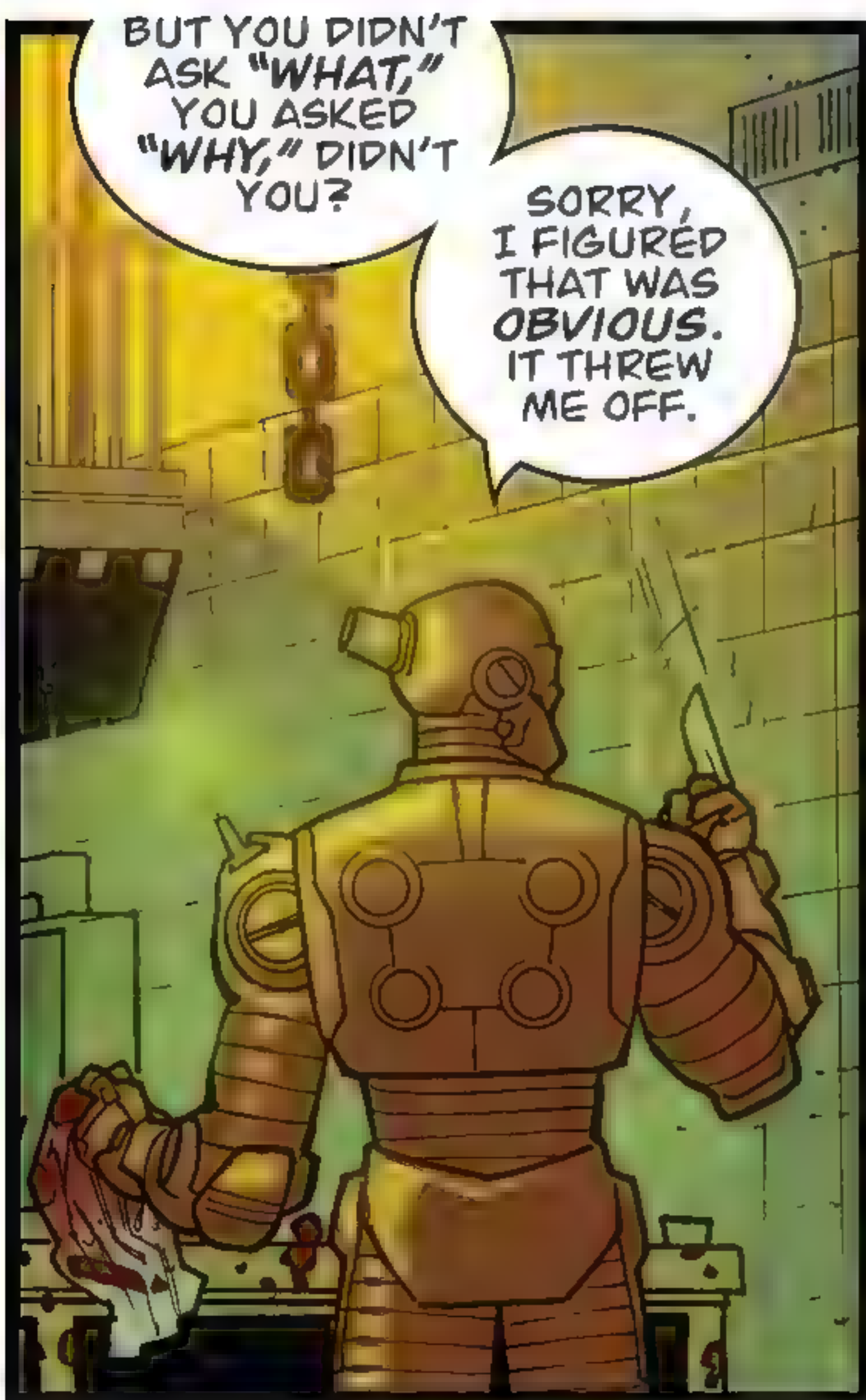
OKAY...
THERE.
THAT'S
DONE.



WHAT YOU'RE EXPERIENCING
IS A SONIC PULSE, VERY LOW
LEVEL, *INAUDIBLE*...
PROBABLY EVEN TO YOU...
BUT IT HURTS
LIKE HELL.

IT'S AN
ENHANCED
VERSION OF
THE DEVICE
CECIL HAD IN YOUR
EARPIECE ALL
THAT TIME
AGO.

VILTRUMITE
EQUILIBRIUM IS SO
ADVANCED TO AID IN
FLIGHT, THAT YOUR
KIND IS EXTREMELY
SUSCEPTIBLE TO
ANYTHING THAT
DISRUPTS INNER
EAR FUNCTION.



BUT YOU DIDN'T
ASK "WHAT,"
YOU ASKED
"WHY," DIDN'T
YOU?

SORRY,
I FIGURED
THAT WAS
OBVIOUS.
IT THREW
ME OFF.

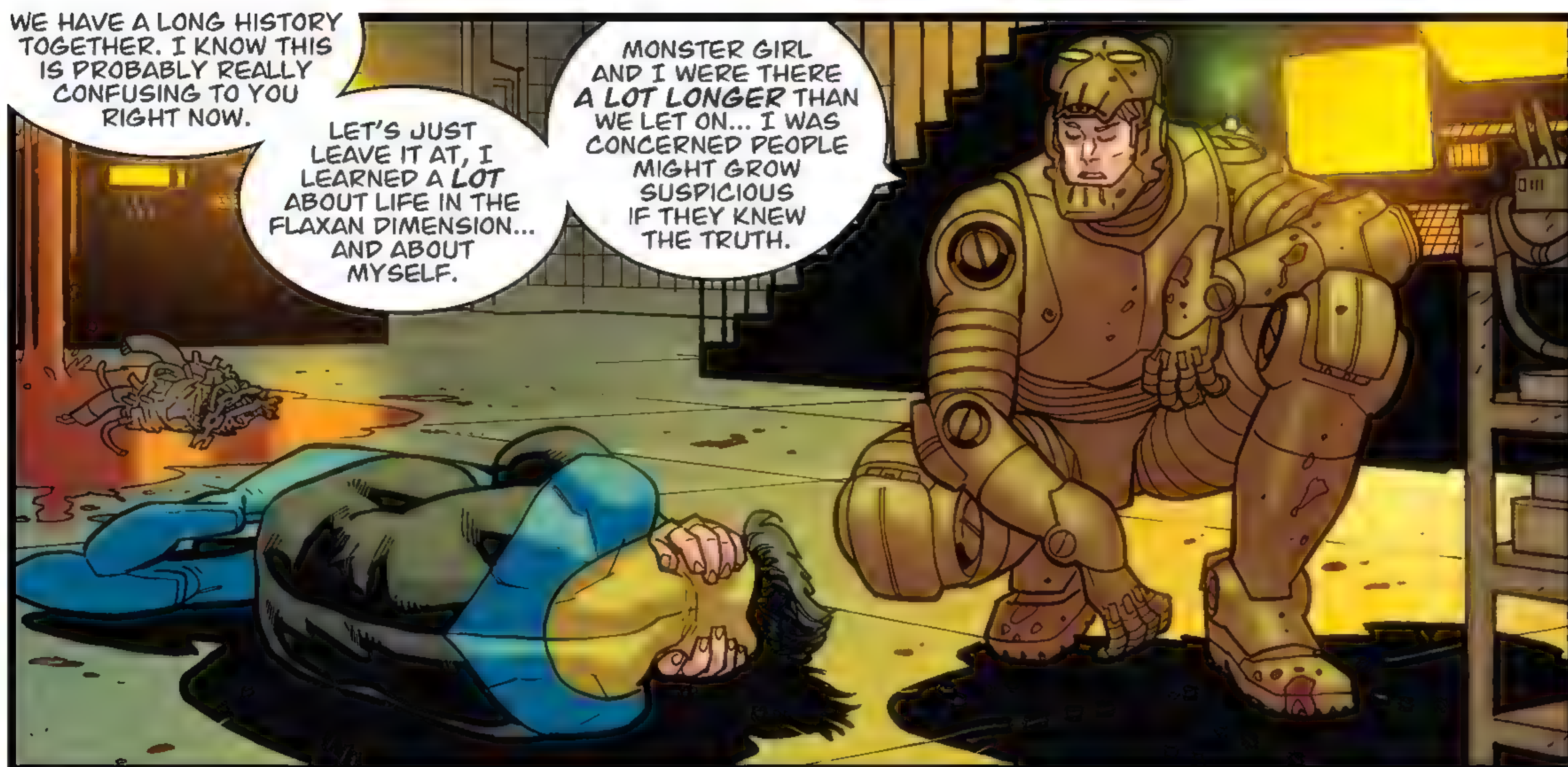


JUST--
TURN IT
OFF--
WE--

--CAN
TALK--



YOU REALLY
THINK I'M THAT
STUPID? YOU'VE
KNOWN ME TOO
LONG TO THINK
THAT.



WE HAVE A LONG HISTORY TOGETHER. I KNOW THIS IS PROBABLY REALLY CONFUSING TO YOU RIGHT NOW.

LET'S JUST LEAVE IT AT, I LEARNED A LOT ABOUT LIFE IN THE FLAXAN DIMENSION... AND ABOUT MYSELF.

MONSTER GIRL AND I WERE THERE A LOT LONGER THAN WE LET ON... I WAS CONCERNED PEOPLE MIGHT GROW SUSPICIOUS IF THEY KNEW THE TRUTH.



SIMPLY PUT, I HAVE **BIG PLANS**, AND YOU SIMPLY DON'T FIT INTO THEM.

I WAS WORRIED I'D HAVE TO **KILL** YOU... BUT I DON'T WANT TO HAVE TO DO THAT. LEAVING YOU HERE SEEMS LIKE SUCH A BETTER OPTION.

BECAUSE YOU'LL NEVER ALLOW ME TO DO WHAT I HAVE TO DO.



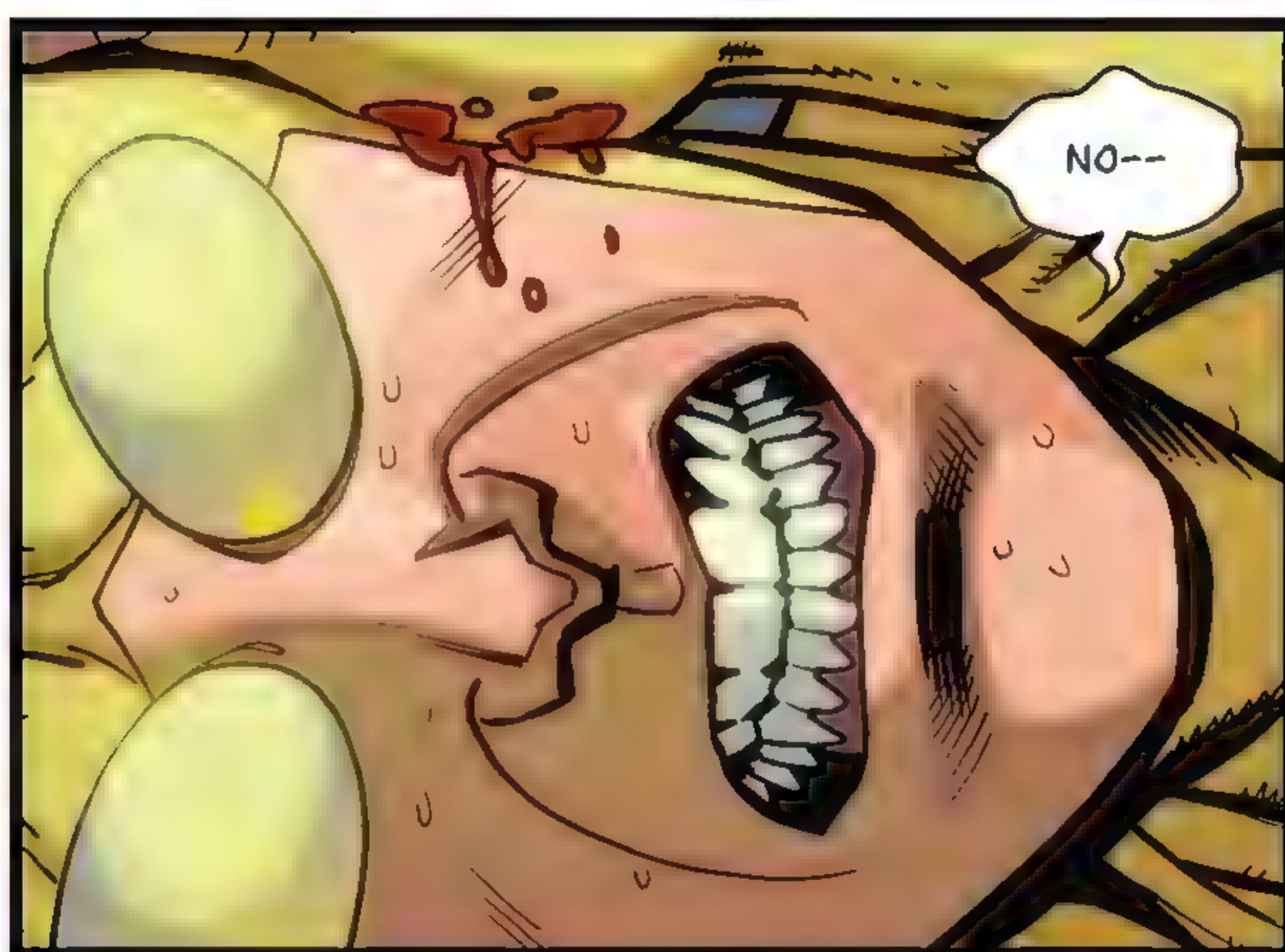
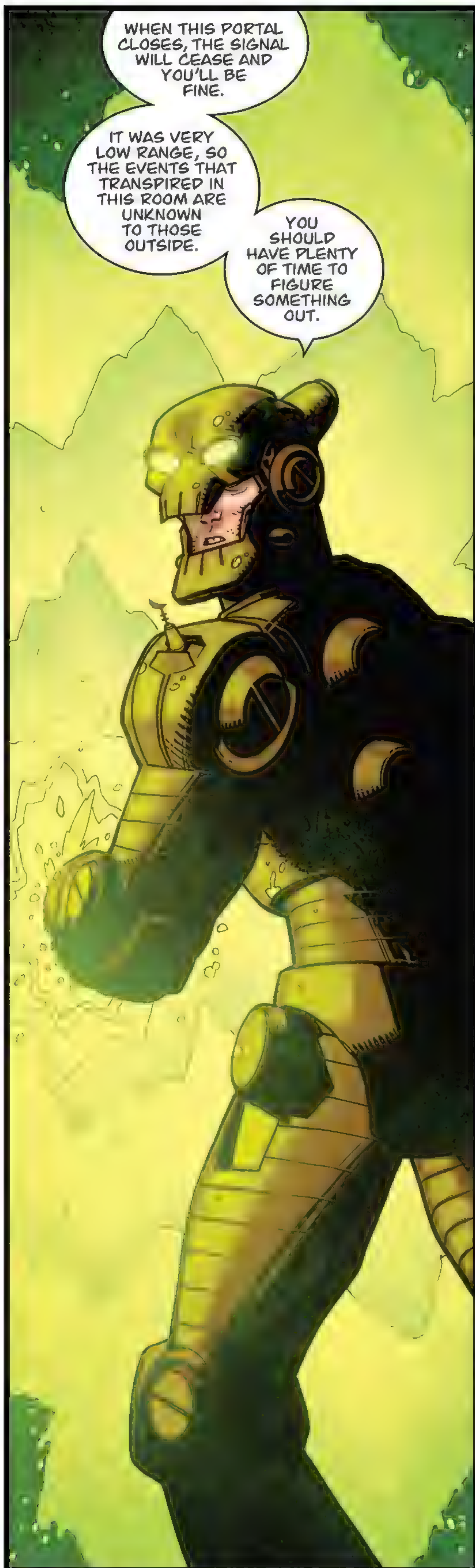
IT'S FUNNY, THOUGH... AS AGAINST WHAT YOU WERE DOING WITH DINOSAURUS I WAS... IT WAS MOSTLY BECAUSE IT CONFLICTED WITH MY PLANS.

IT REALLY WAS THE MOST **FORWARD-THINKING** YOU'D EVER BEEN. IT **IMPRESSED** ME. MADE ME THINK YOU MIGHT EVEN BE A GOOD ALLY.



BUT SEEING YOUR POTENTIAL HERE, NO.

ONLY **ONE** OF US CAN **RULE**.



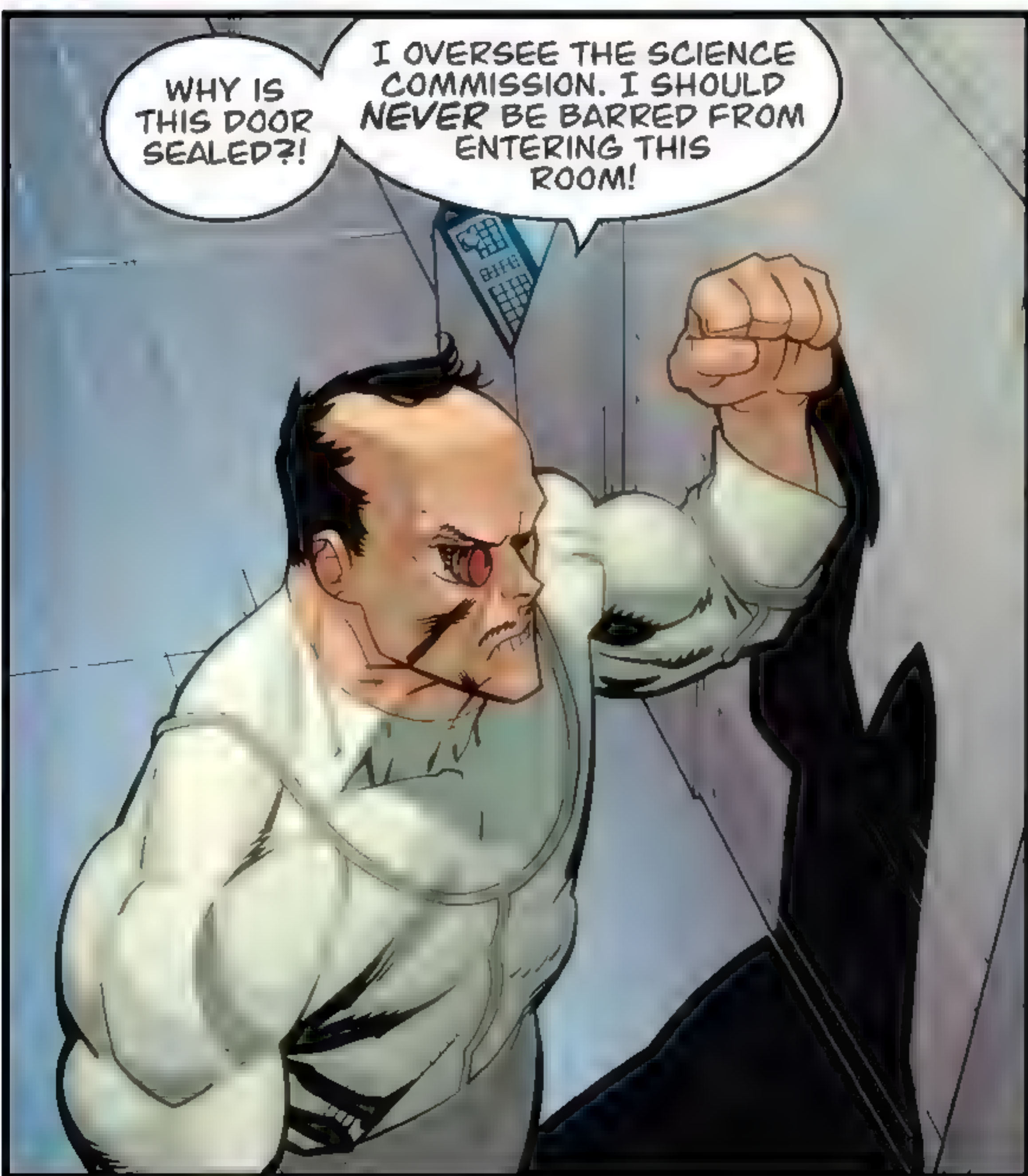
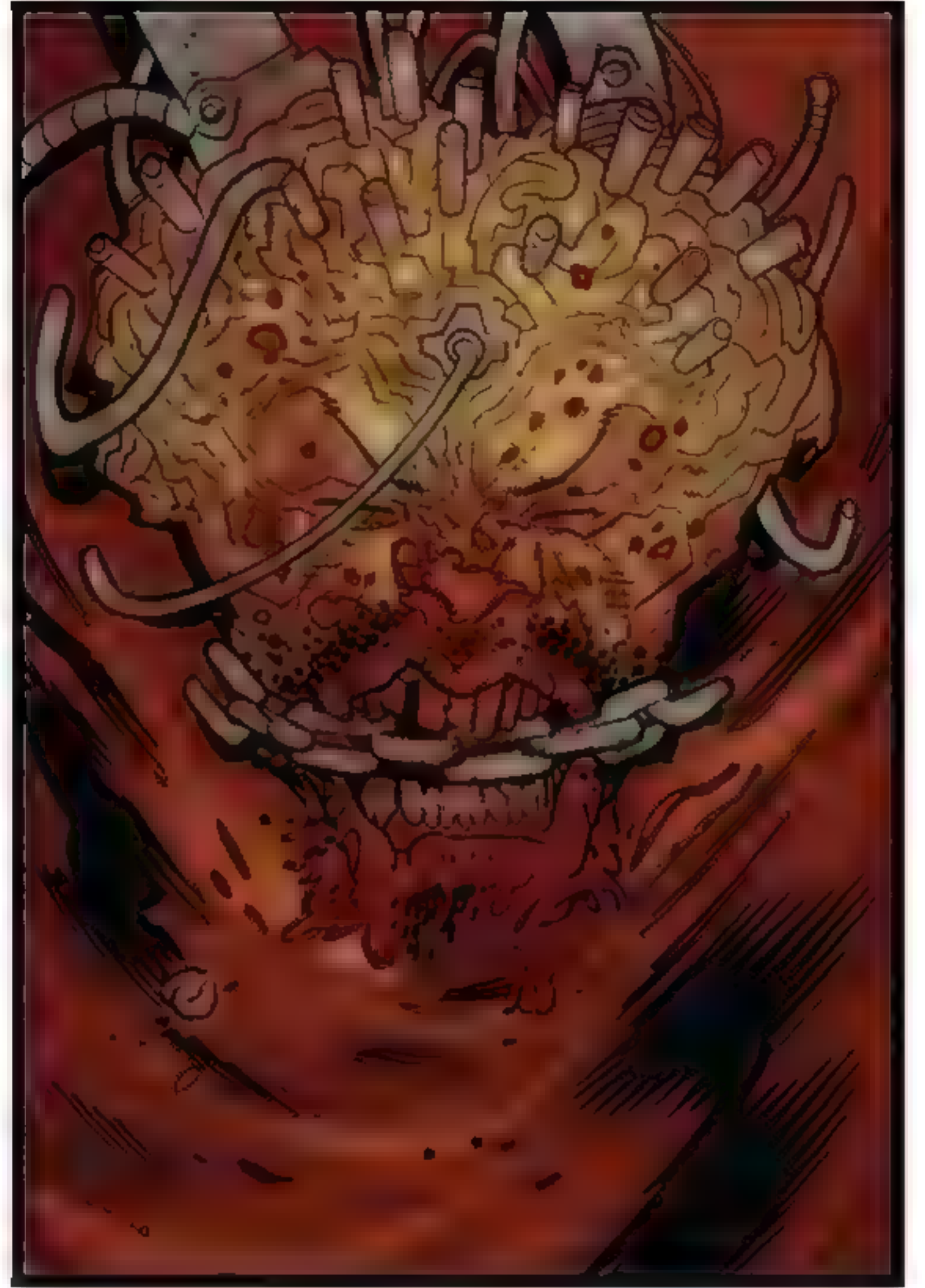
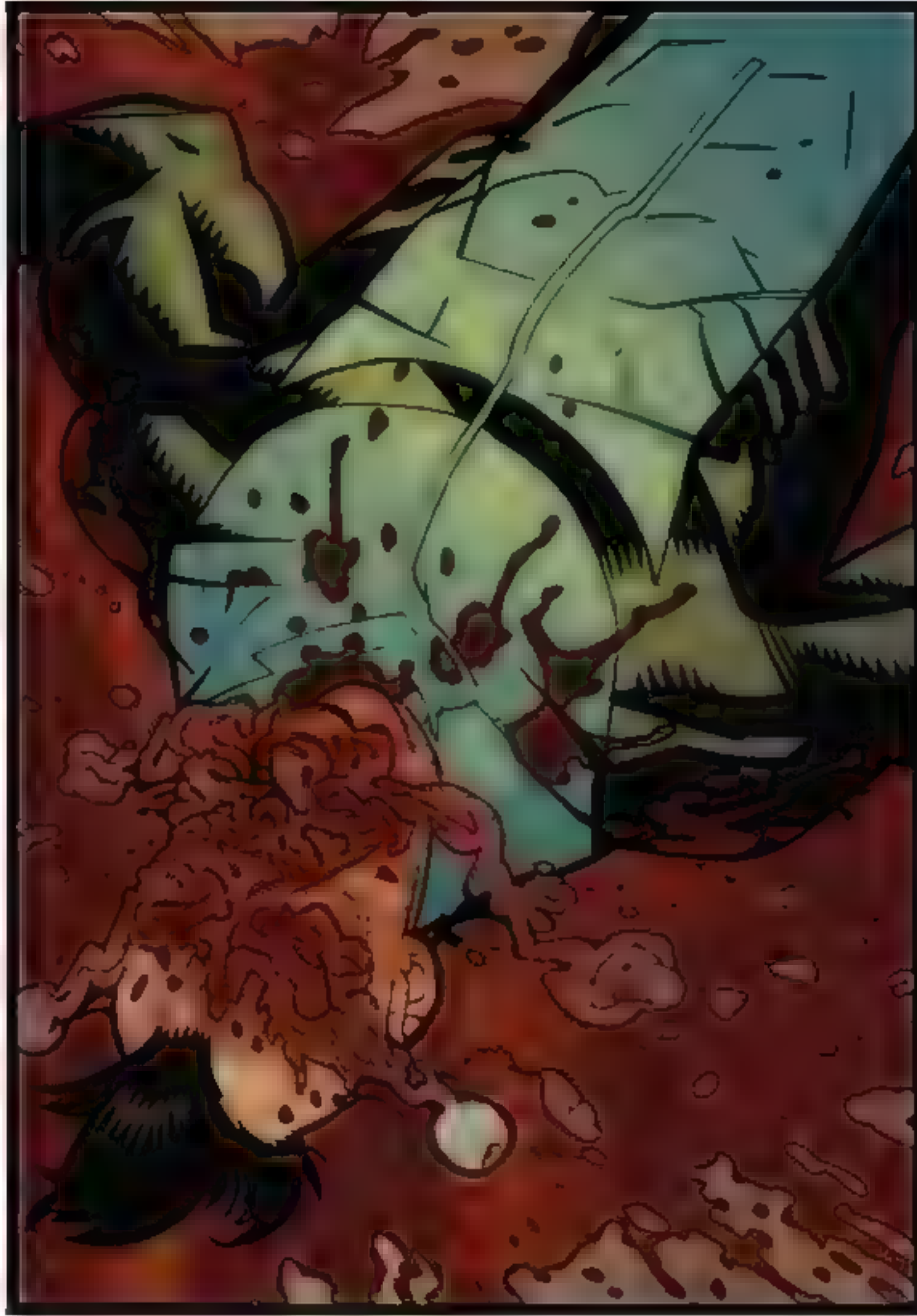


HOLY
FUCK.



CHAPTER 109







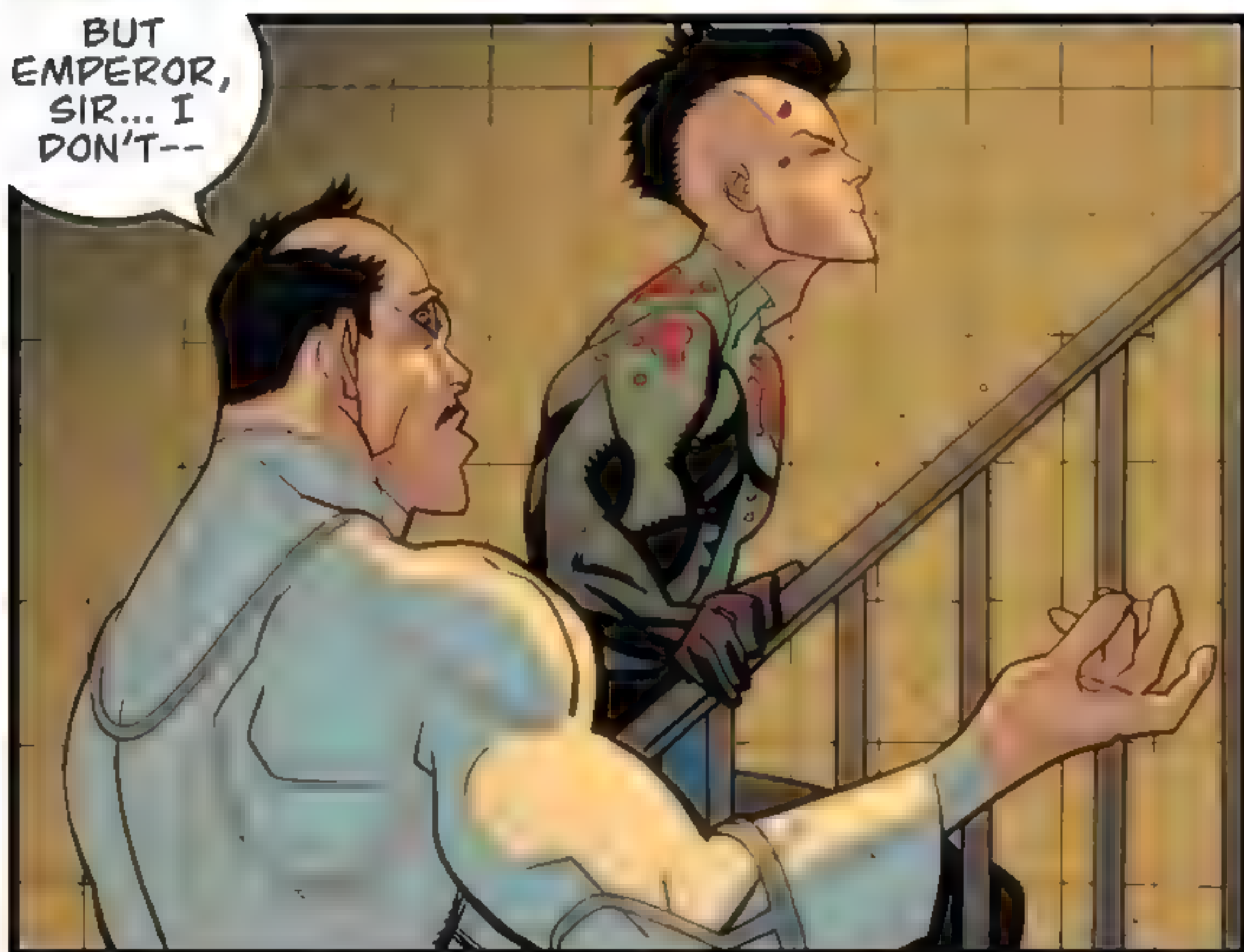
THE VERY PEOPLE WHO PROVIDED MY ESCAPE FROM ANGSTROM LEVY'S DIMENSION AND ALLOWED ME TO BRING HIM HERE TO HARNESS HIS POWER--HAVE KILLED HIM AND TRIED TO HALT OUR PROGRESS!

ONE OF THEM ESCAPED WITH THE TECHNOLOGY INTO ANOTHER DIMENSION. THIS PROJECT IS NOW PRIORITY ONE!

YOU WILL HANDLE ALL OF MY DUTIES UNTIL THIS PROJECT IS COMPLETE. I WILL GO NOW, TO SEEK ANOTHER WHO CAN PROVIDE US WITH THE MEANS OF EXPANDING OUR GLORIOUS VILTRUM EMPIRE INTO COUNTLESS OTHER DIMENSIONS.

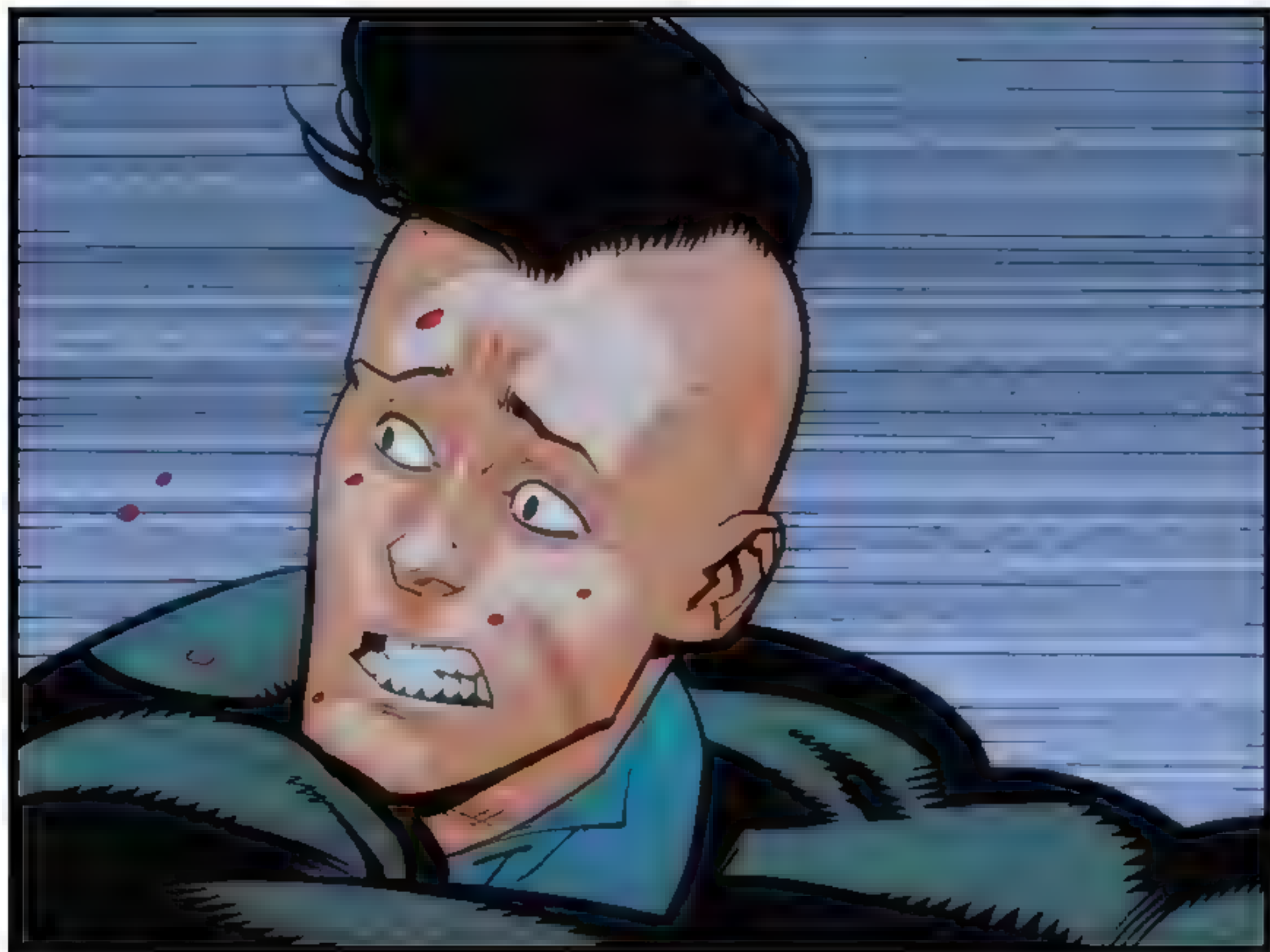
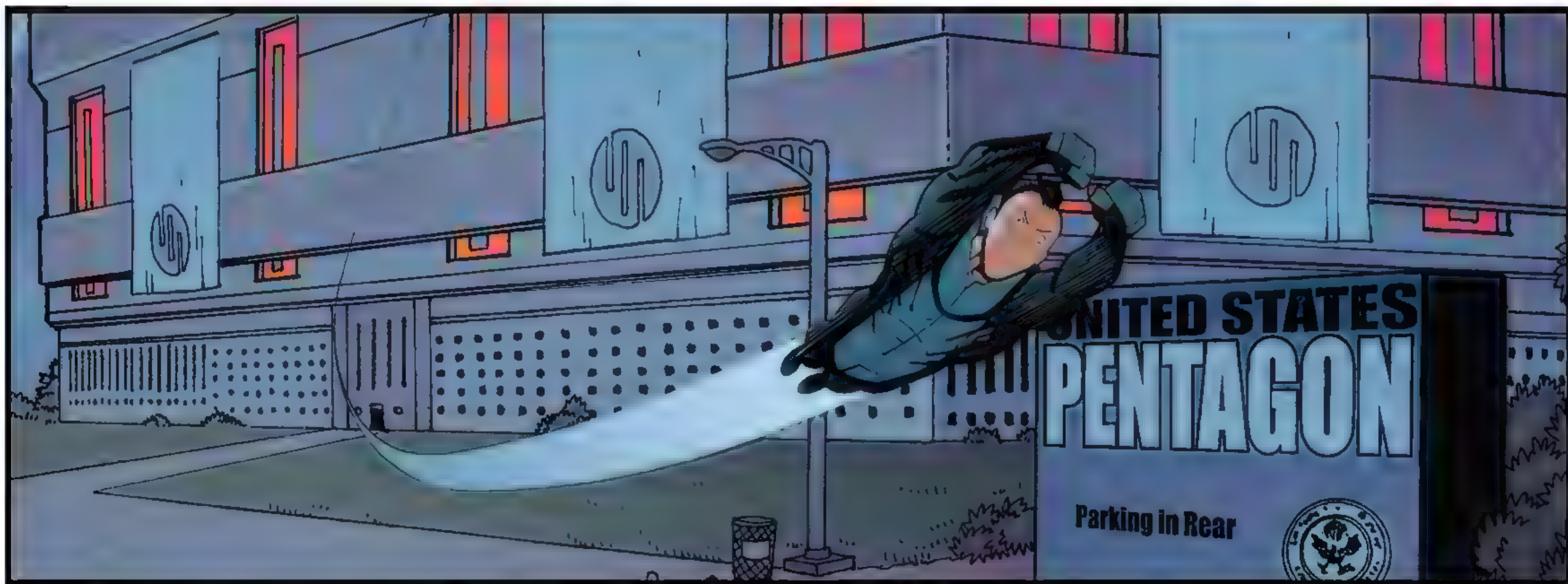


BUT EMPEROR, SIR... I DON'T--



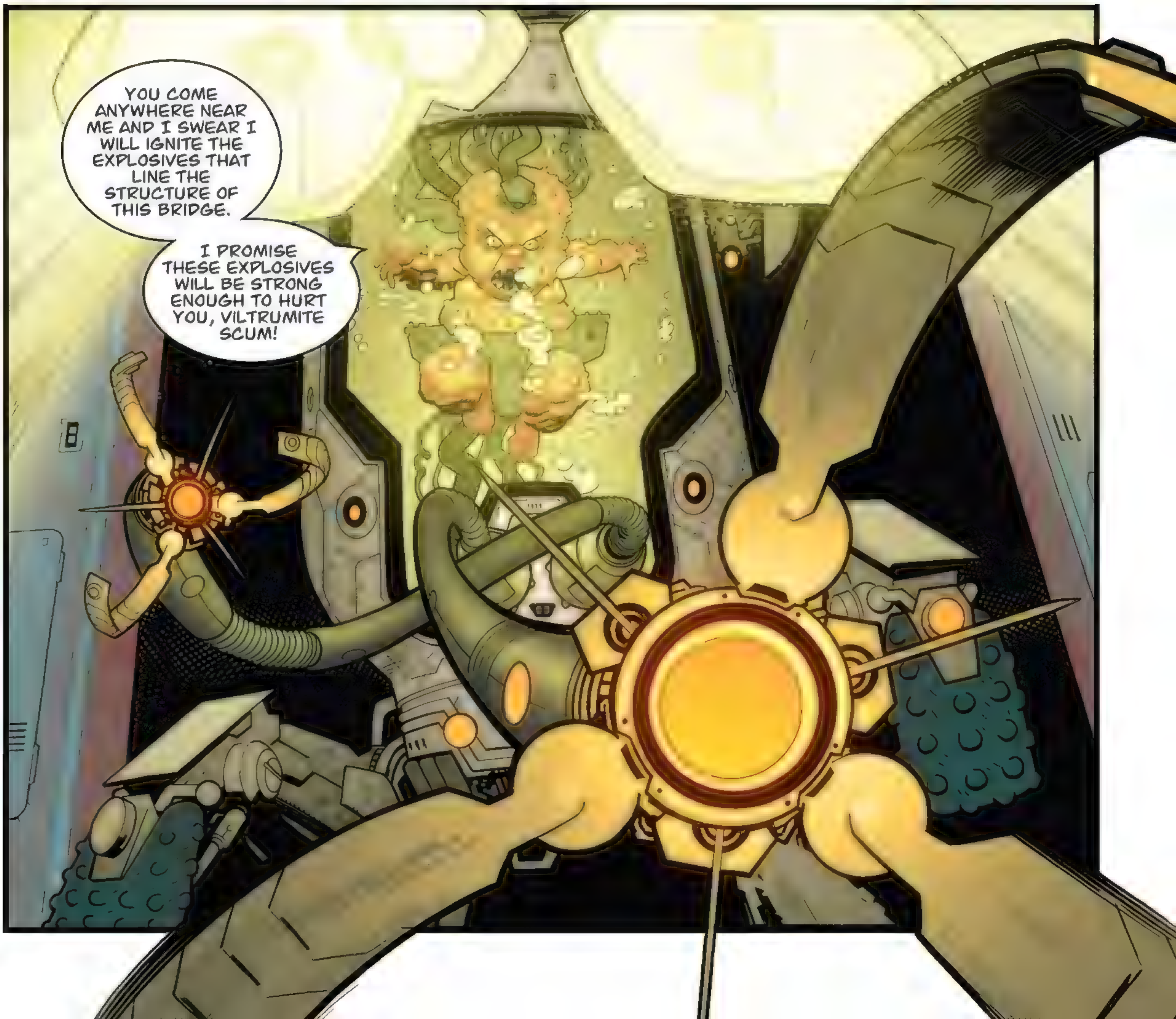
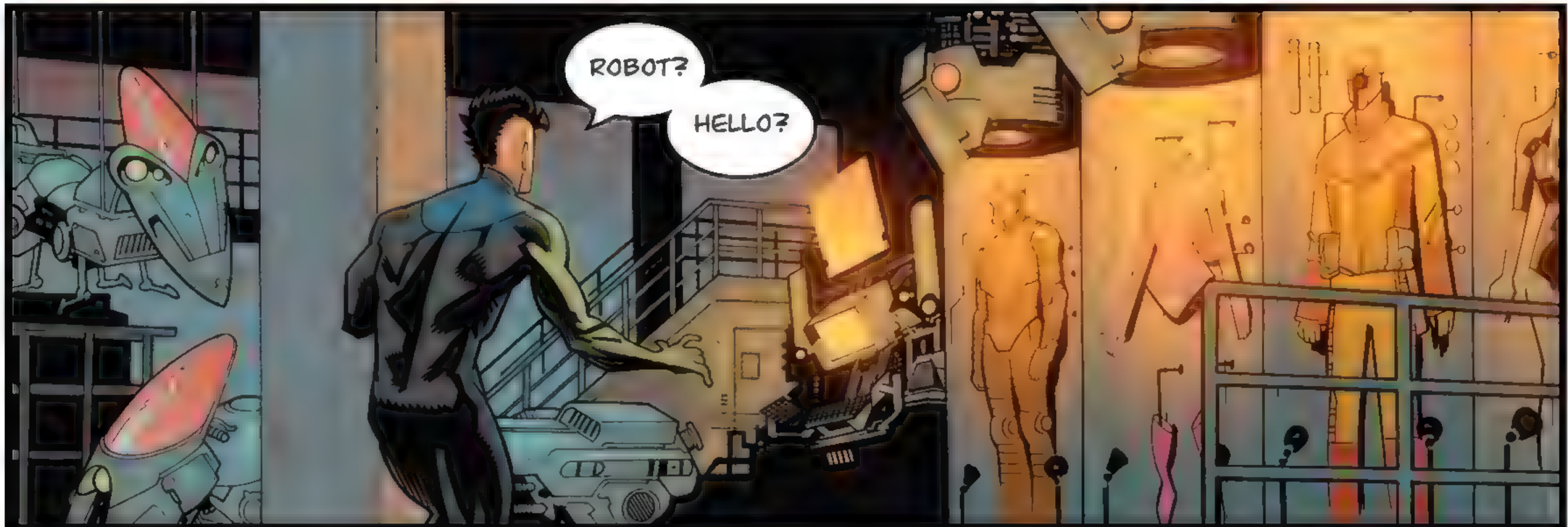
SILENCE!

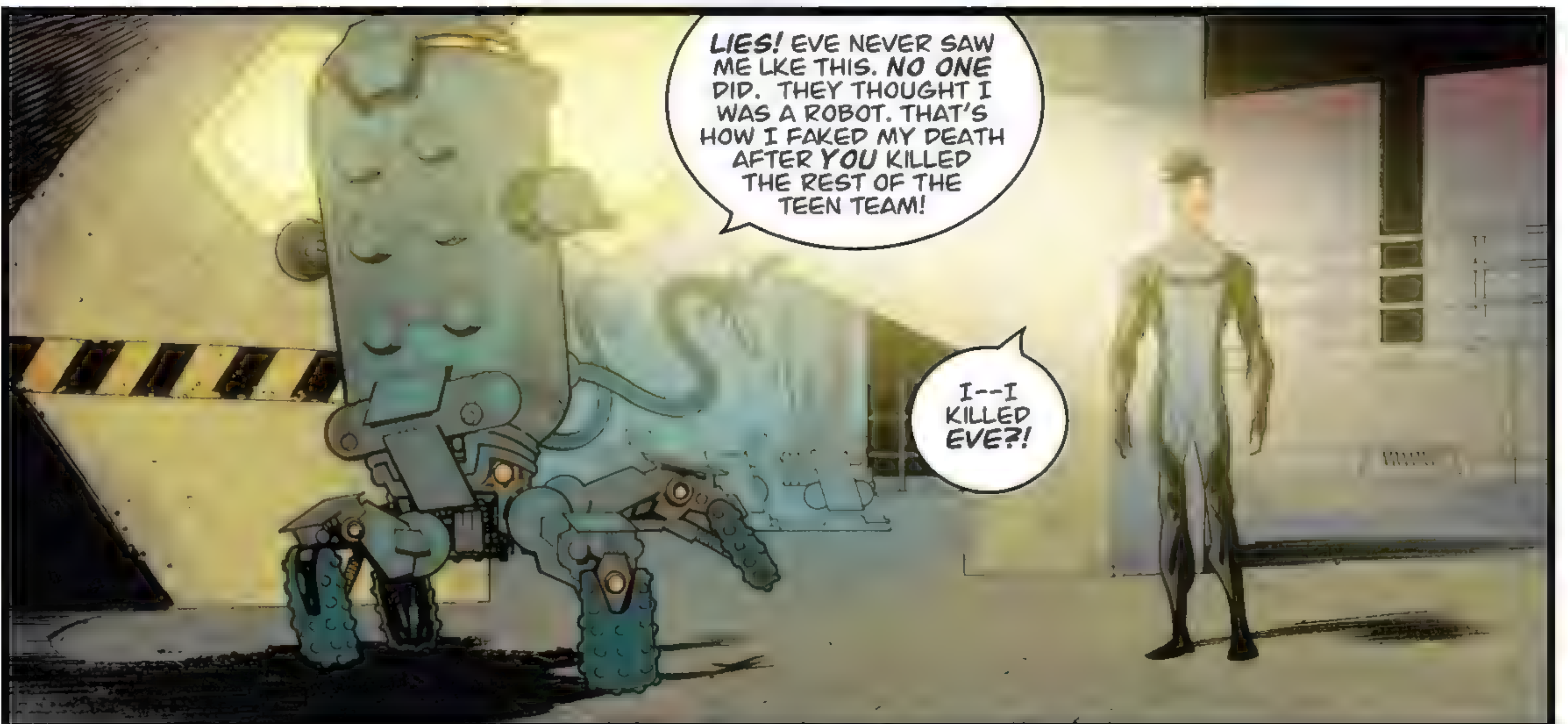
I EXPECT THIS MESS TO BE GONE UPON MY RETURN!

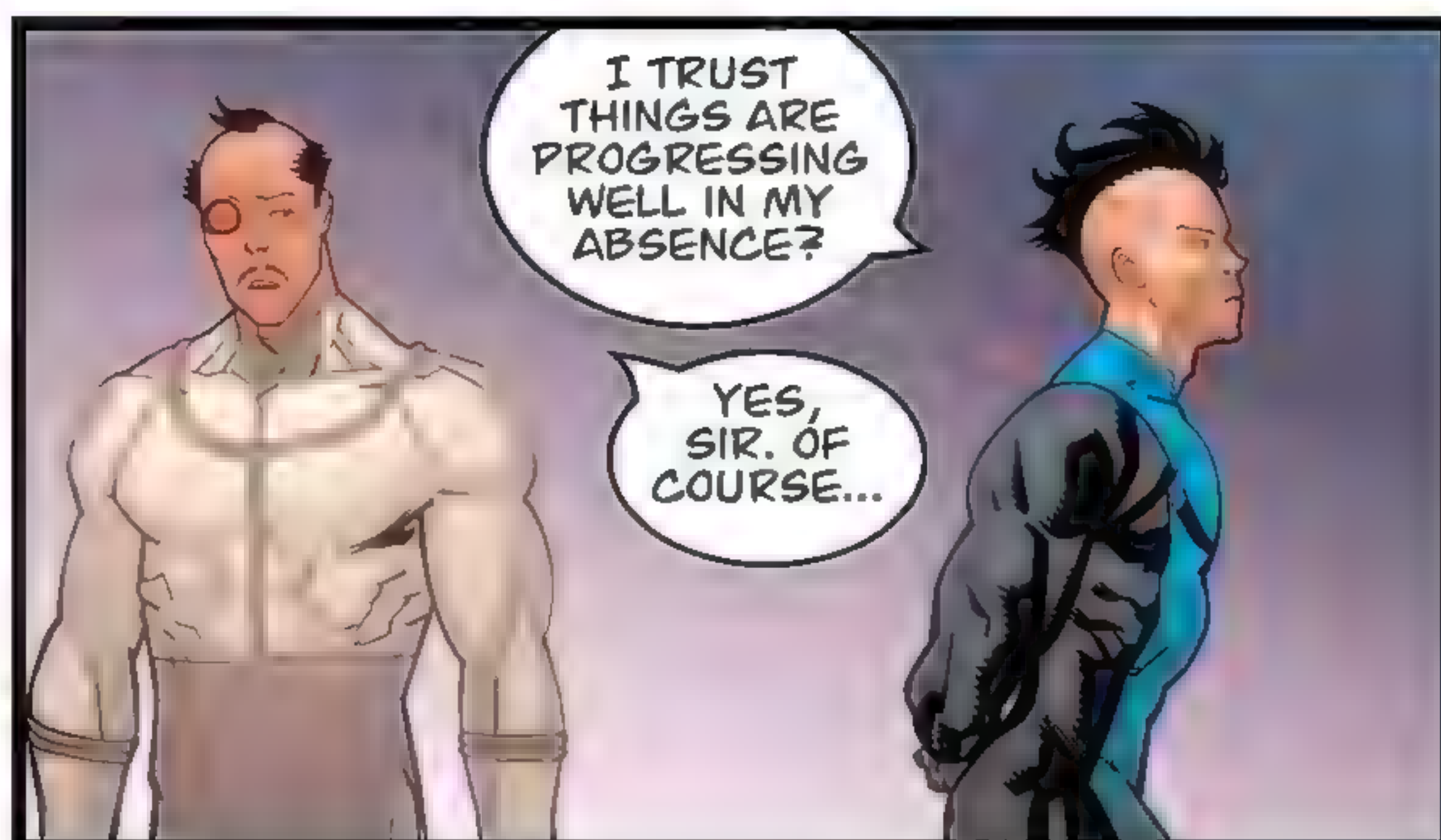
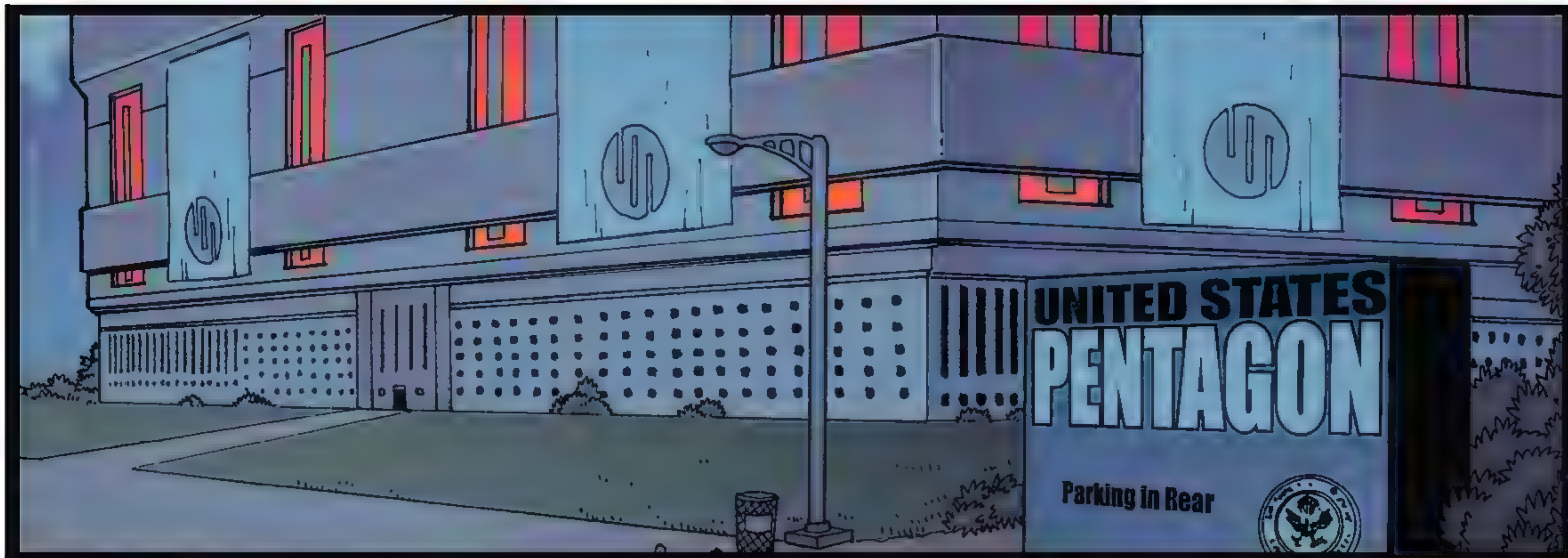


⇒WHEW.⇐











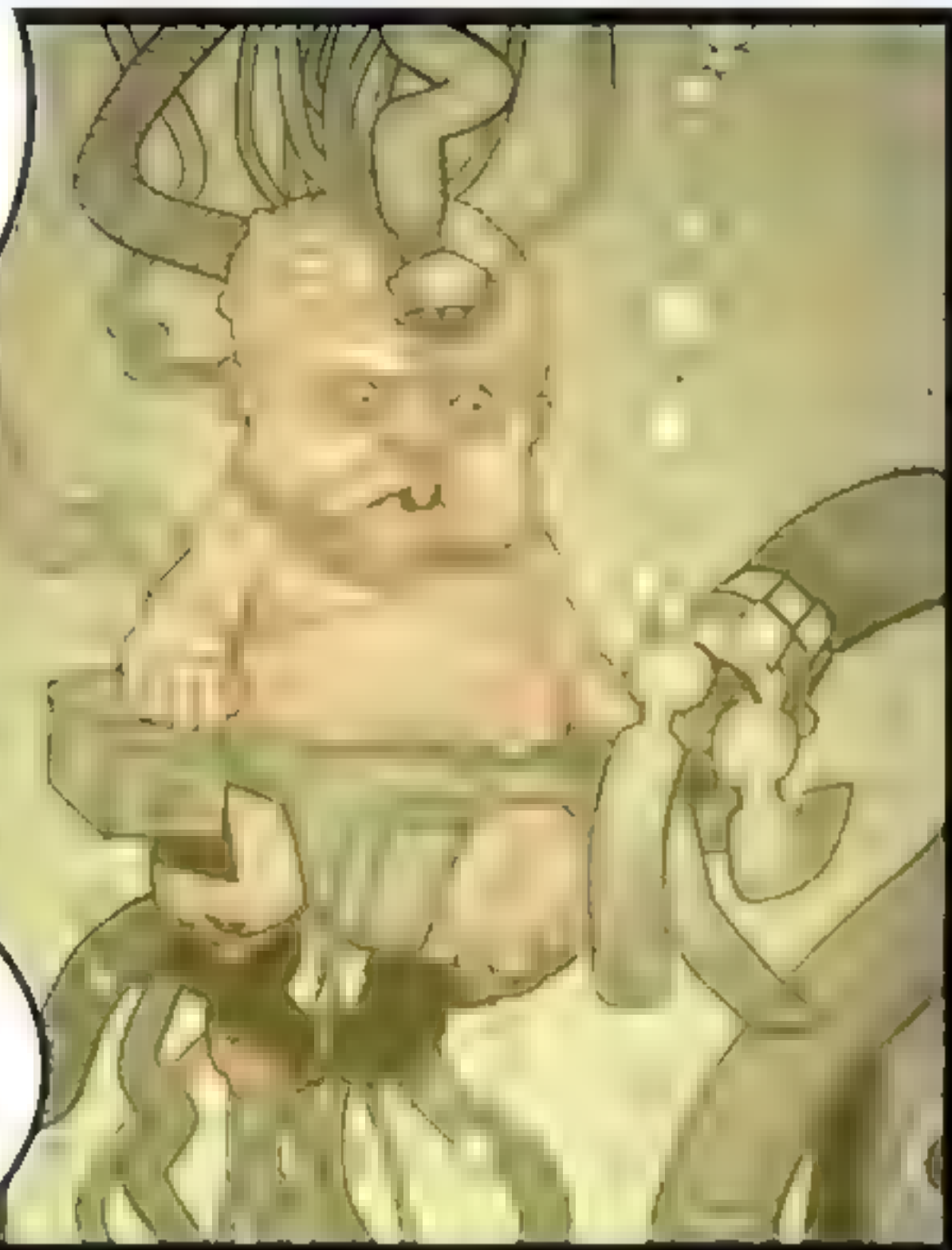
I'M WORRIED I MAY BE LAYING IT ON A LITTLE THICK WITH THEM. I FIGURE IF I'M JUST A STERN JERK ALL THE TIME THEY WON'T QUESTION WHAT I'M DOING.

EITHER WAY, WE NEED TO DO THIS AS FAST AS POSSIBLE. THEY'RE GOING TO FIGURE ME OUT AT SOME POINT.

I'VE ALREADY DOWNLOADED ALL THE WORK THAT WAS PREVIOUSLY DONE ON THIS PROJECT. AT A GLANCE, IT SEEMS LIKE THEY WERE CLOSE... SO THIS SHOULDN'T BE TOO HARD.

I'D FEEL SAFER WORKING OFF-SITE... I HAVE EVERYTHING I'LL NEED.

JUST LET ME CHECK A FEW THINGS BEFORE WE GO.



ROBOT, LET ME ASK YOU...

ARE YOU SURE I KILLED EVE?



I TOLD YOU TO CALL ME RUDY. I CAN'T ALLOW YOU TO REVEAL MY IDENTITY.

BUT YES. I SAW IT WITH MY OWN EYES. THE TWO OF YOU HAD GROWN CLOSE, BUT YOU JUST WEREN'T HUMAN. YOU DIDN'T SEE THINGS THE SAME WAY... SOMETHING WAS OFF. THERE WERE LITTLE THINGS, BUT WE MOSTLY IGNORED THEM.

ONCE YOUR FATHER ENLISTED YOU... YOU ACTUALLY THOUGHT WE WOULD HELP YOU TAKE OVER THE PLANET. I'M SURE EVE ACTUALLY CONSIDERED IT... BUT AFTER YOU KILLED REX...

SHE DIDN'T LOVE HIM LIKE SHE USED TO... BUT THE TWO OF THEM WERE VERY CLOSE.



HELL...

WE ALL WERE.

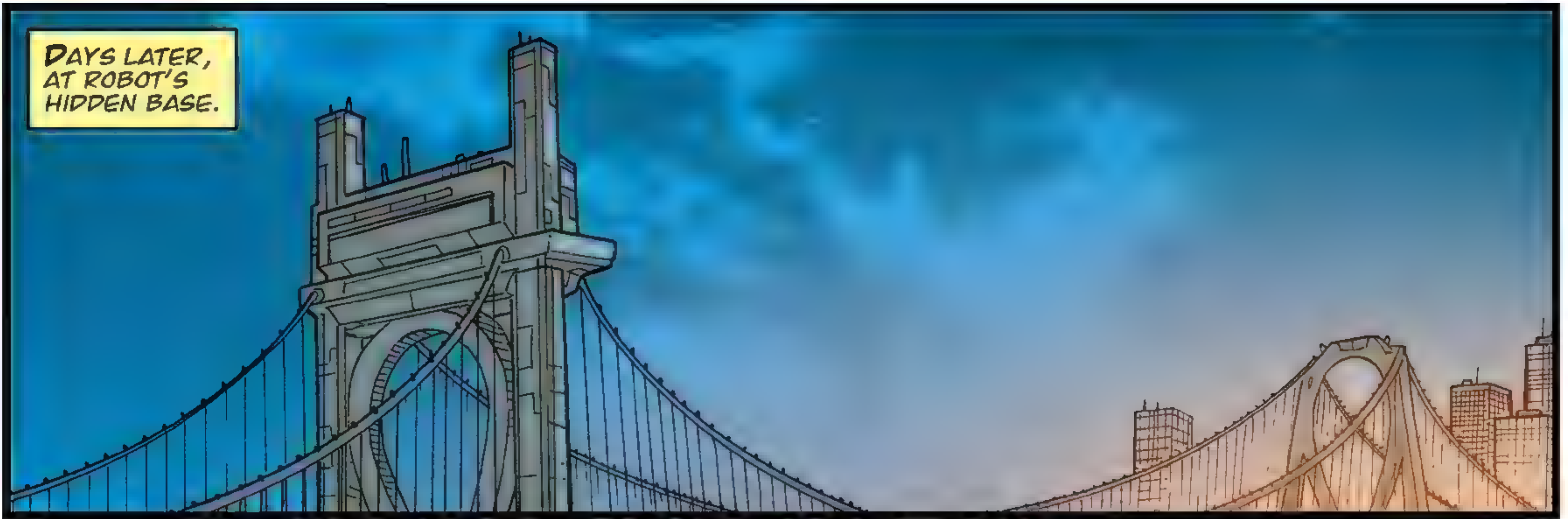


IT'S HARD... TALKING TO YOU LIKE THIS. SEEING YOU...

EVEN THOUGH YOU'RE NOT REALLY YOU.



I UNDERSTAND.



DAYS LATER,
AT ROBOT'S
HIDDEN BASE.



SO...
IS THERE
ANYTHING I
CAN DO?

Y'KNOW...
TO HELP.

YES,
ACTUALLY...
I'M GLAD YOU
BROUGHT
THAT UP.

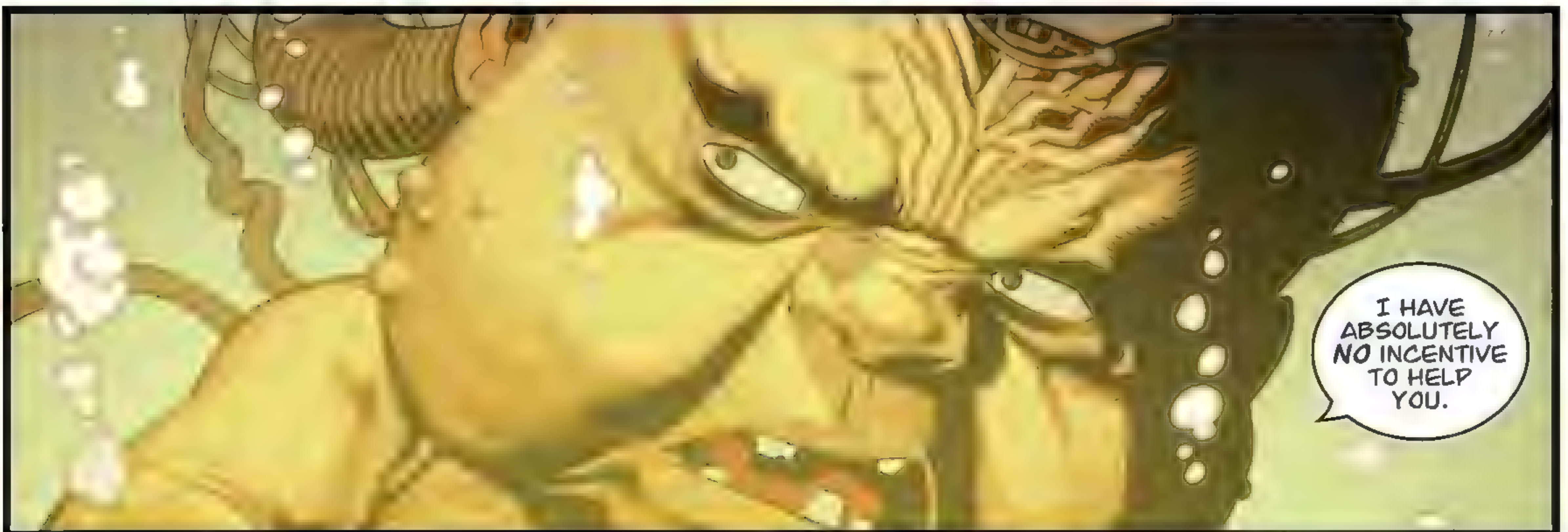
THINGS ARE
MOVING REALLY
WELL, THERE ARE
CONCEPTS AT WORK
HERE THAT ARE NEW--
ALIEN TO ME, BUT I AM
GRASPING THEM MUCH
BETTER THAN I HAD
ORIGINALLY THOUGHT
I WOULD.

SO THIS IS
GOING TO GO
MORE QUICKLY
NOW. IT WILL
DEFINITELY
TAKE LESS THAN
A YEAR.

LESS
THAN
A--!

LET ME FINISH.
ALL THIS SAID,
THERE IS ONE
PROBLEM THAT YOU
COULD HELP ME WITH,
THAT IS OTHERWISE
INSURMOUNTABLE AND
WILL DEFINITELY
PREVENT ME FROM
COMPLETING THIS
TASK.

WHAT IS
THAT?



I HAVE
ABSOLUTELY
NO INCENTIVE
TO HELP
YOU.

YOU MEAN OTHER THAN THE FACT THAT YOU'RE MY FRIEND AND I NEED HELP?

OR REALLY... WERE MY FRIEND. I NEED TO GET BACK HOME SO I CAN SORT THIS CRAP OUT.

WHATEVER RELATIONSHIP MY OTHERDIMENSIONAL COUNTERPART HAS OR HAD WITH YOU IS INCONSEQUENTIAL.

NOT ONLY DO I HAVE NO INCENTIVE TO COMPLETE THIS TASK, IT'S ACTUALLY IN MY BEST INTERESTS AND THE BEST INTERESTS OF EVERYONE ON THIS PLANET FOR ME NOT TO DO SO.

I THINK I SEE WHERE YOU'RE GOING WITH THIS.

THAT'S A TOUGH ONE.

SO YOU REALIZE THAT WE HAVE BEEN INVAPED BY THE VILTRUM EMPIRE, AND YOU ARE CURRENTLY PASSING FOR THE EMPEROR OF SAID EMPIRE.

YOUR PRESENCE HERE IS OF TREMENDOUS VALUE TO ME. TO PROVIDE YOU WITH THE ABILITY TO ESCAPE THIS DIMENSION COULD WELL MEAN THE DEATH OF MYSELF AND MANY OF MY ASSOCIATES, AND IT WOULD ALSO MEAN LOSING THE BEST OPPORTUNITY OF AVENGING THOSE ALREADY FALLEN.

THE ONLY SOLUTION I CAN CONCEIVE OF IS THAT YOU OVERTHROW THE VILTRUM EMPIRE FROM WITHIN, CAUSING THEM TO LEAVE THIS PLANET.

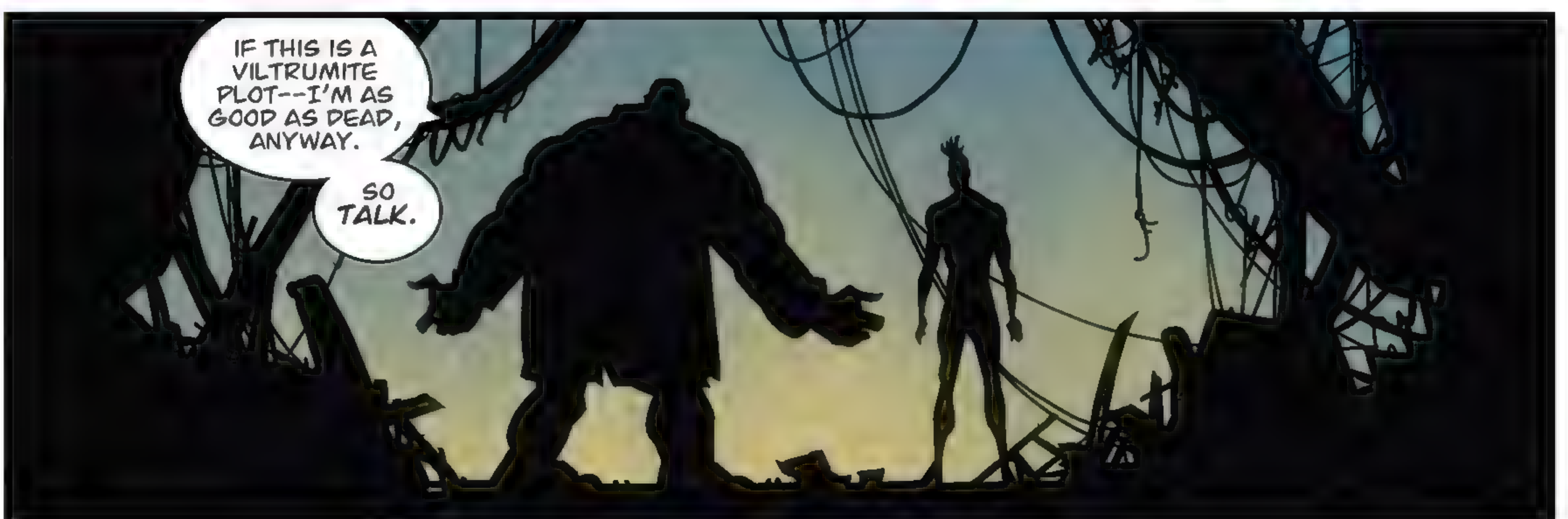
I ESTIMATE IT WILL TAKE ME AT LEAST FIVE MONTHS TO COMPLETE THIS DEVICE. DO YOU FEEL YOU COULD ACCOMPLISH WHAT I REQUIRE OF YOU IN THAT TIME?

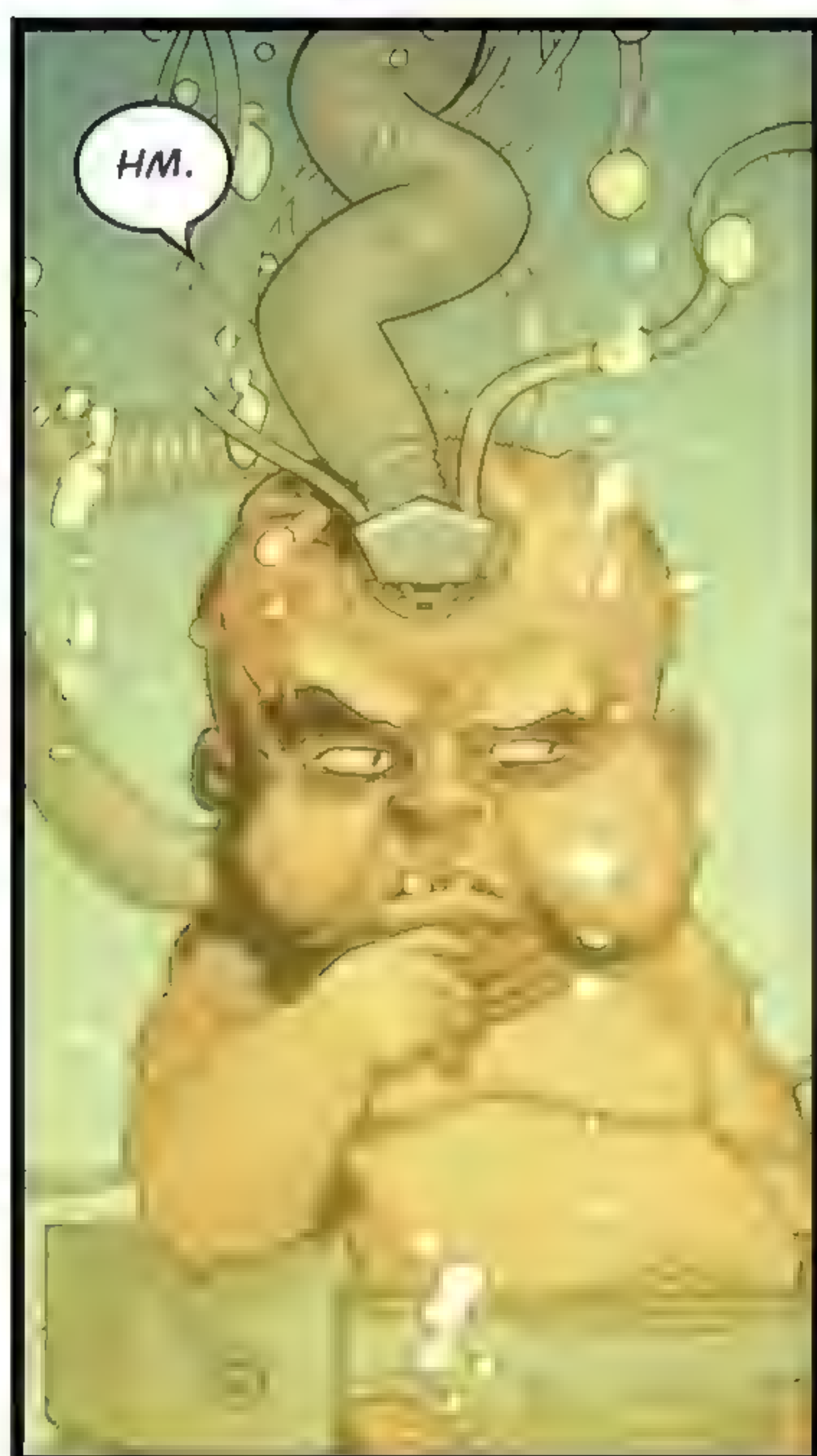
PROBABLY NOT... BUT I THINK I HAVE A BETTER IDEA.

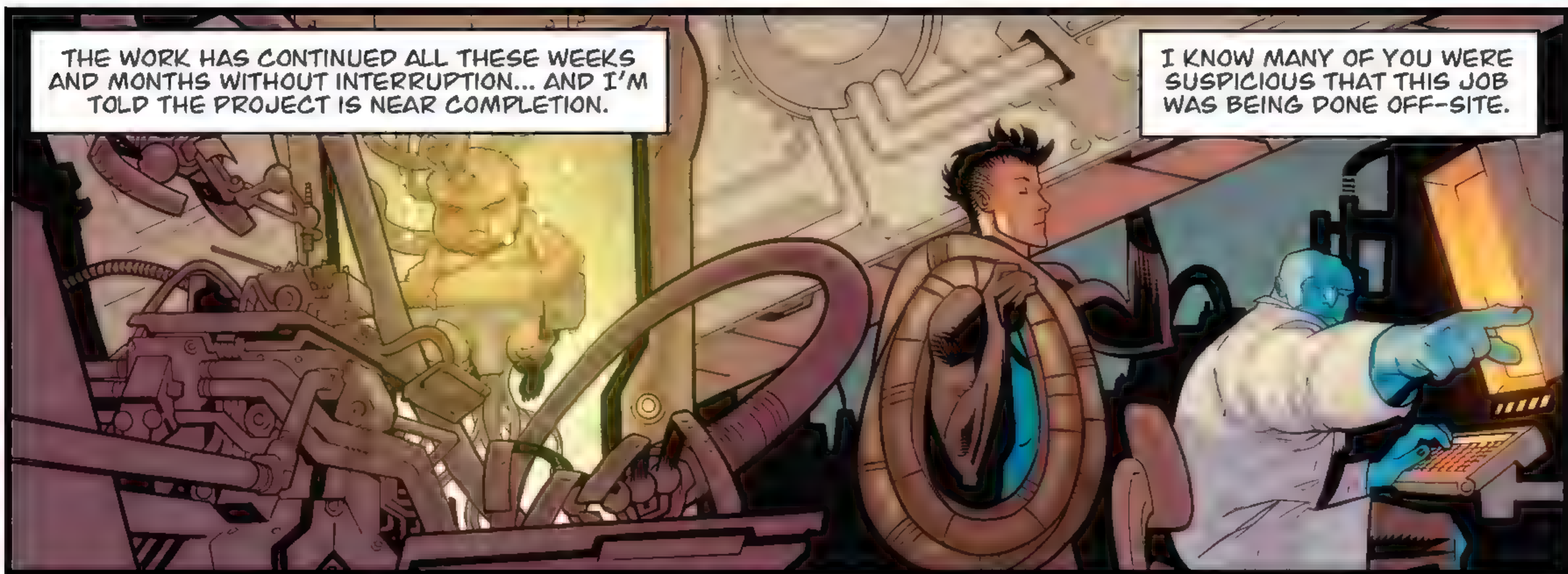
DO YOU HAVE MAULER TWINS IN THIS DIMENSION?

I SWEAR
I JUST
WANT TO
TALK!

BRONK
OOOM!!!

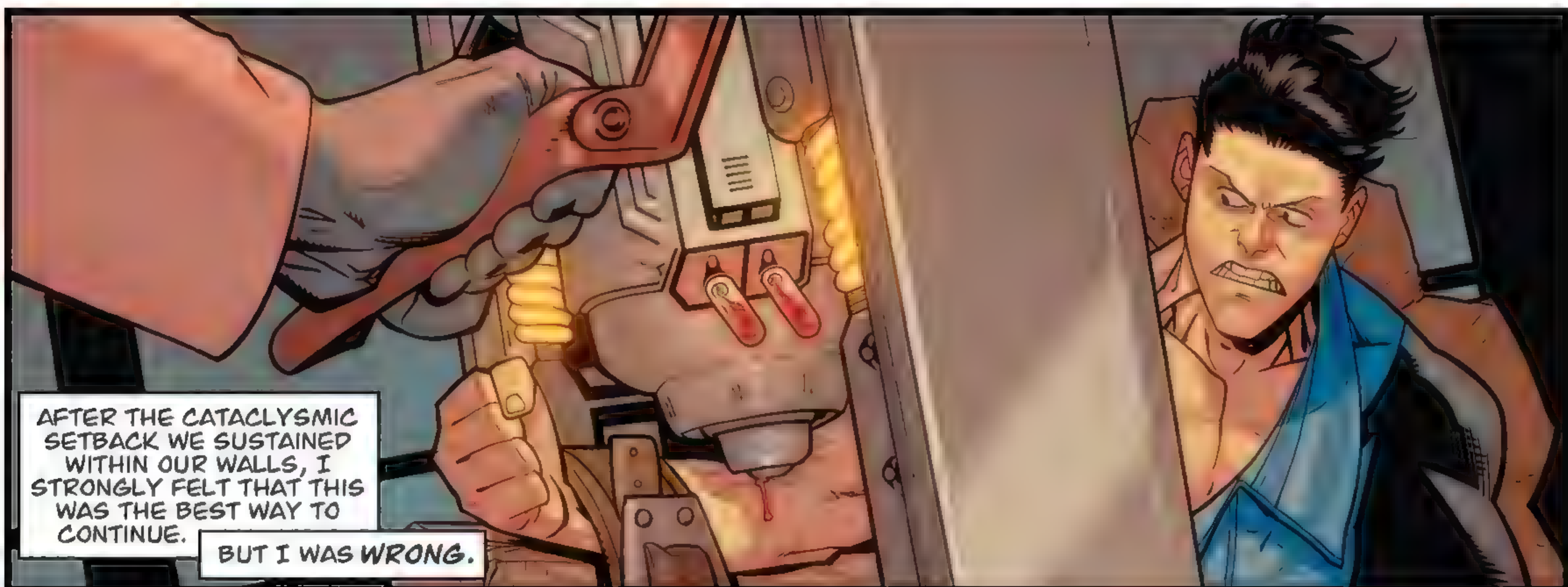






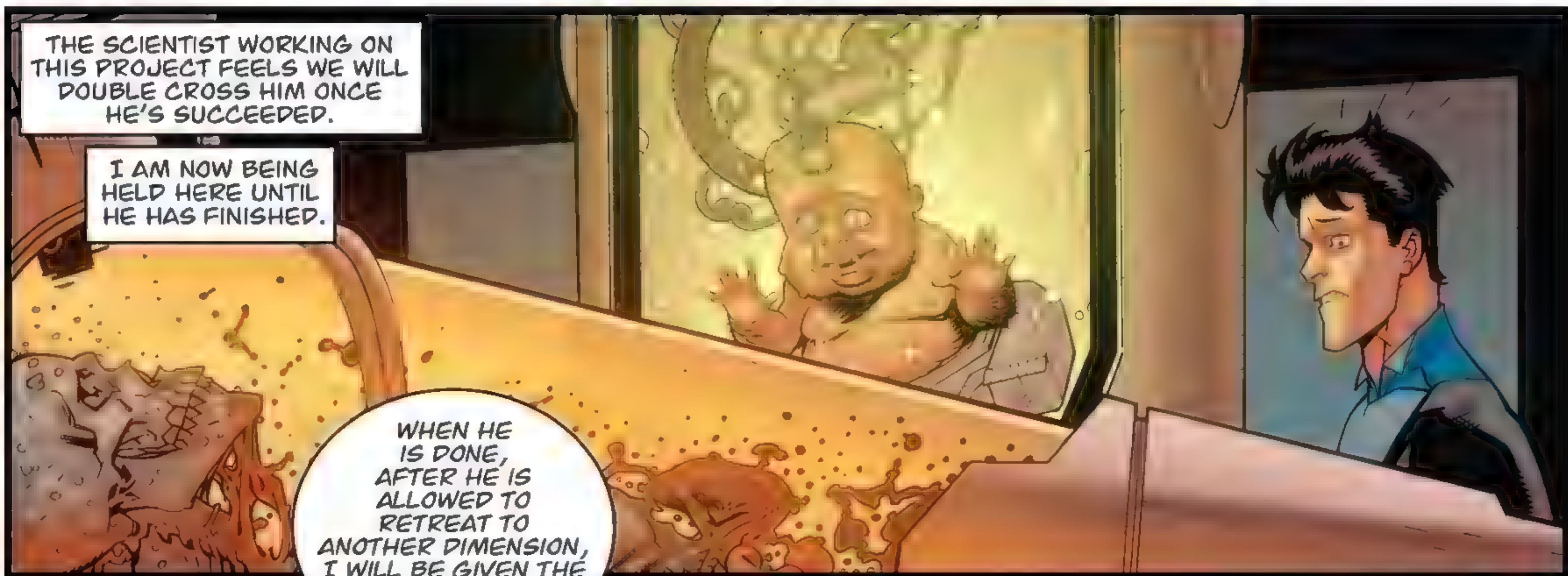
THE WORK HAS CONTINUED ALL THESE WEEKS AND MONTHS WITHOUT INTERRUPTION... AND I'M TOLD THE PROJECT IS NEAR COMPLETION.

I KNOW MANY OF YOU WERE SUSPICIOUS THAT THIS JOB WAS BEING DONE OFF-SITE.



AFTER THE CATAclySMIC SETBACK WE SUSTAINED WITHIN OUR WALLS, I STRONGLY FELT THAT THIS WAS THE BEST WAY TO CONTINUE.

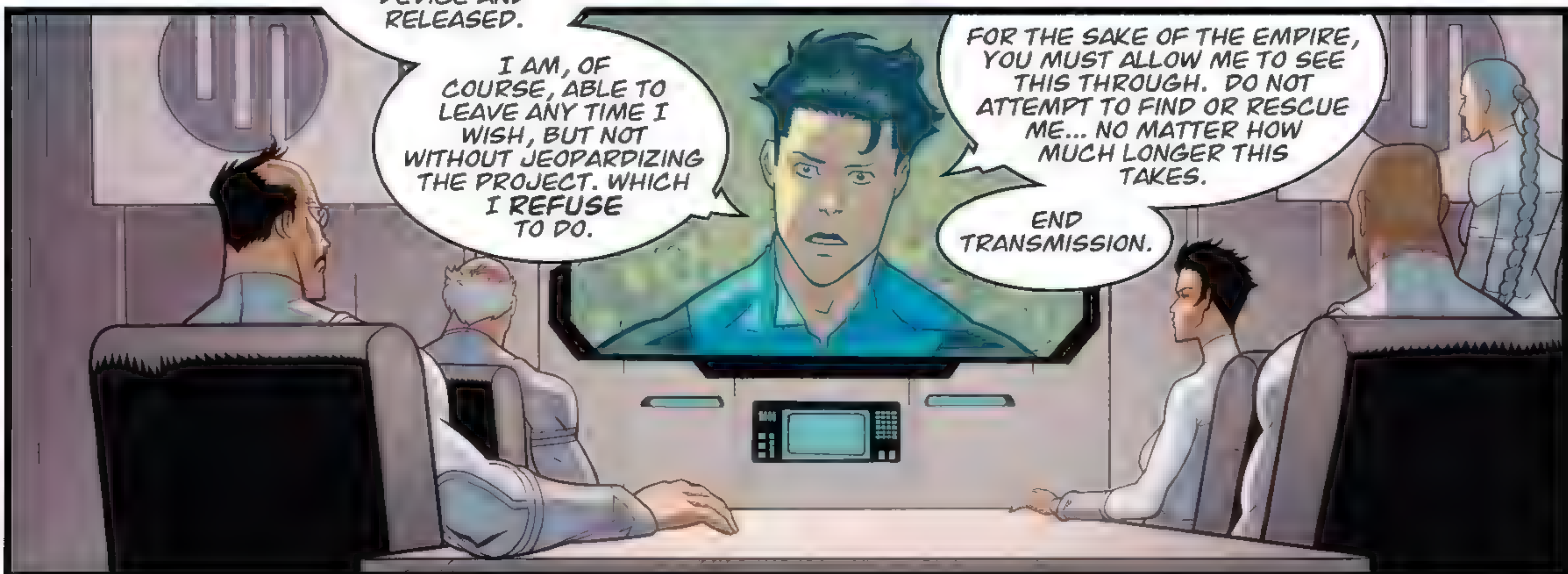
BUT I WAS WRONG.



THE SCIENTIST WORKING ON THIS PROJECT FEELS WE WILL DOUBLE CROSS HIM ONCE HE'S SUCCEEDED.

I AM NOW BEING HELD HERE UNTIL HE HAS FINISHED.

WHEN HE IS DONE, AFTER HE IS ALLOWED TO RETREAT TO ANOTHER DIMENSION, I WILL BE GIVEN THE DEVICE AND RELEASED.

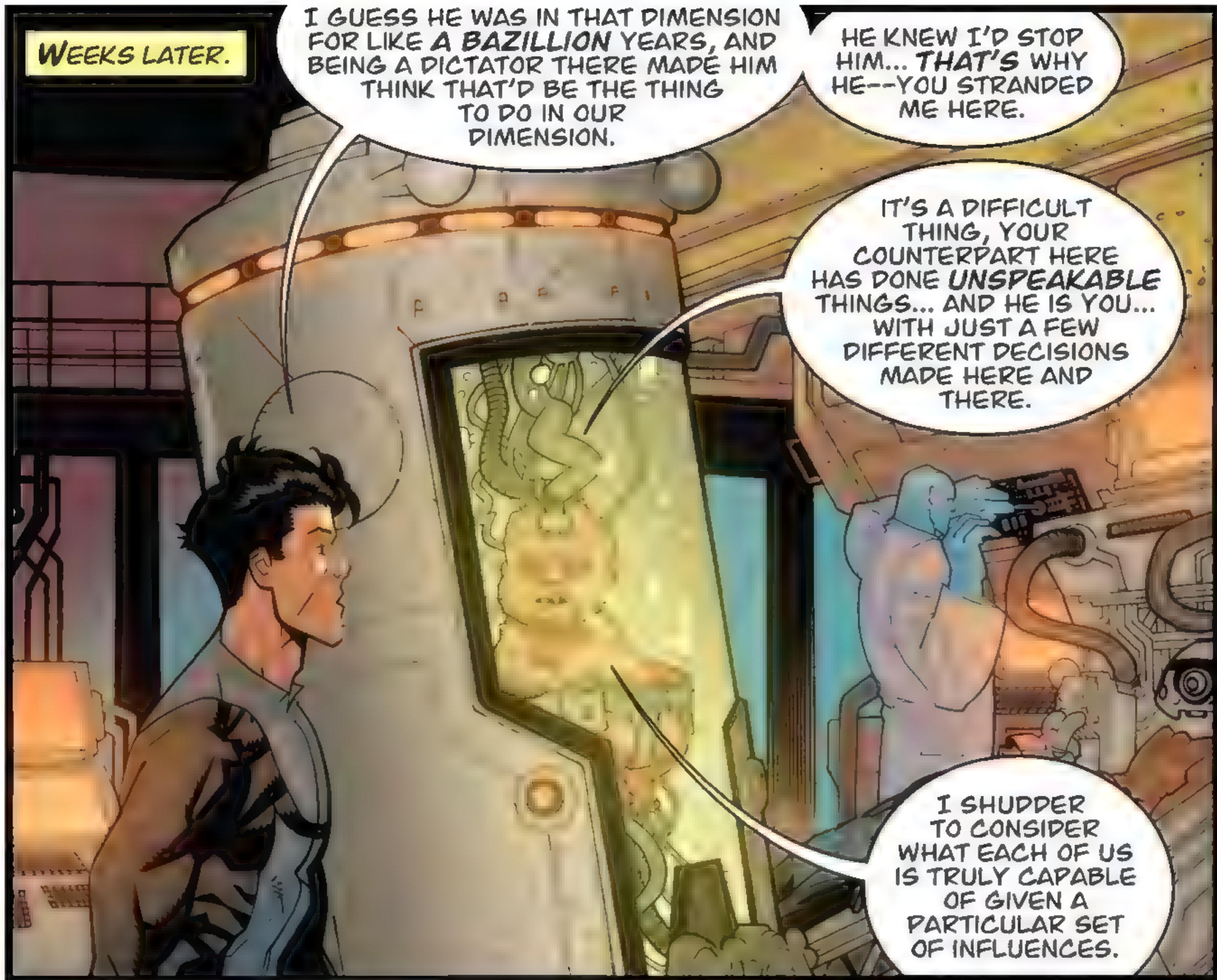


I AM, OF COURSE, ABLE TO LEAVE ANY TIME I WISH, BUT NOT WITHOUT JEOPARDIZING THE PROJECT. WHICH I REFUSE TO DO.

FOR THE SAKE OF THE EMPIRE, YOU MUST ALLOW ME TO SEE THIS THROUGH. DO NOT ATTEMPT TO FIND OR RESCUE ME... NO MATTER HOW MUCH LONGER THIS TAKES.

END TRANSMISSION.





WEEKS LATER.

I GUESS HE WAS IN THAT DIMENSION FOR LIKE A BAZILLION YEARS, AND BEING A DICTATOR THERE MADE HIM THINK THAT'D BE THE THING TO DO IN OUR DIMENSION.

HE KNEW I'D STOP HIM... THAT'S WHY HE--YOU STRANDED ME HERE.

IT'S A DIFFICULT THING, YOUR COUNTERPART HERE HAS DONE **UNSPEAKABLE** THINGS... AND HE IS YOU... WITH JUST A FEW DIFFERENT DECISIONS MADE HERE AND THERE.

I SHUDDER TO CONSIDER WHAT EACH OF US IS TRULY CAPABLE OF GIVEN A PARTICULAR SET OF INFLUENCES.



ARE YOU READY FOR THIS?



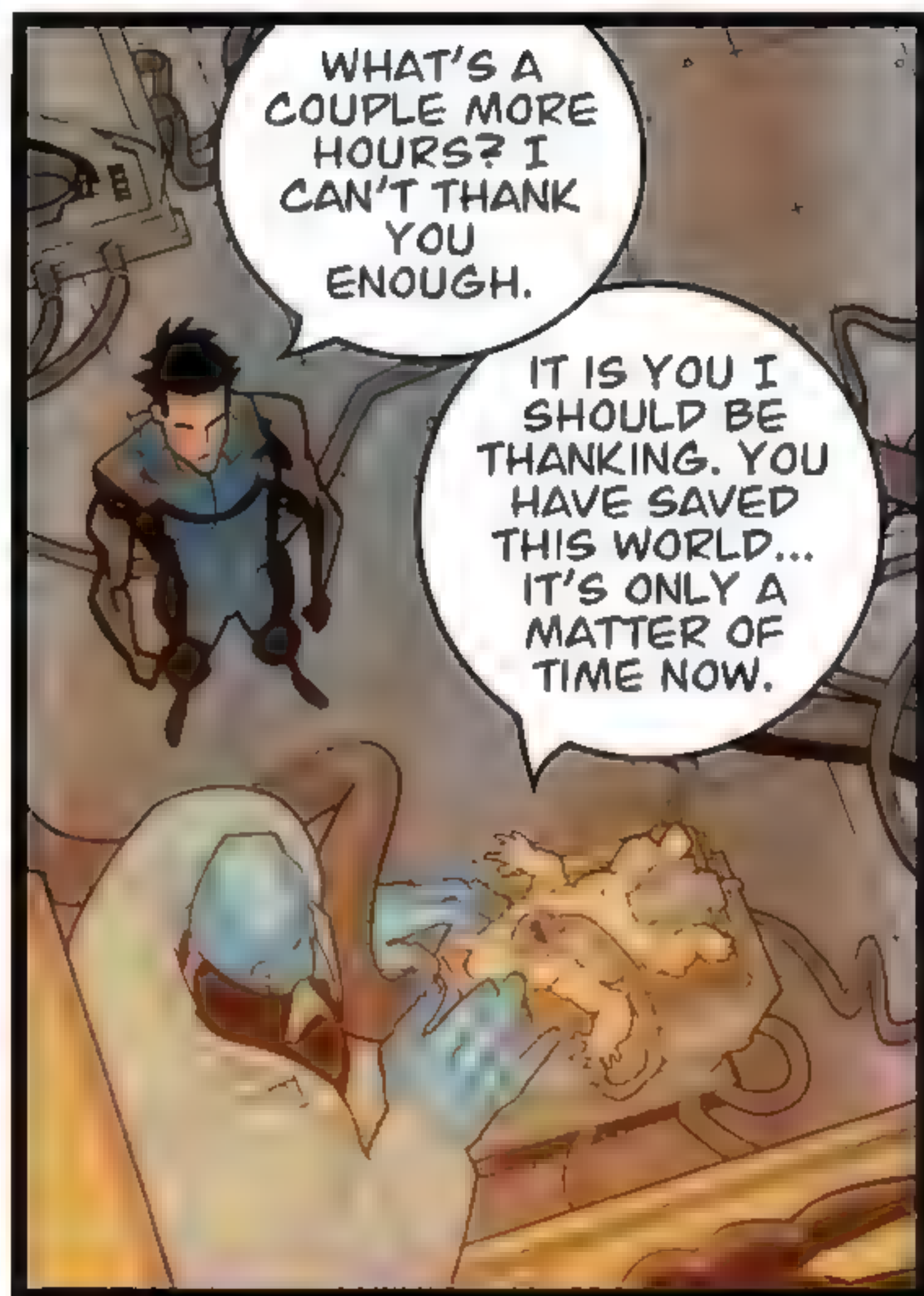
TRUTH IS, I'VE CONSIDERED ENDING MY LIFE MANY TIMES BEFORE. THE PAIN I FEEL IN THIS FORM... I'VE LONGED FOR AN END TO THE SUFFERING.

I WELCOME THIS WITH OPEN ARMS. EVEN IF I WEREN'T GOING TO LIVE ON IN A DIFFERENT FORM, I WOULD STILL DESIRE AN END TO THIS HORRID LIFE.



ALL SET, THEN.

YOUR DEVICE IS COMPLETE. THANK YOU FOR STAYING AND HELPING WITH THIS PROCESS.



WHAT'S A COUPLE MORE HOURS? I CAN'T THANK YOU ENOUGH.

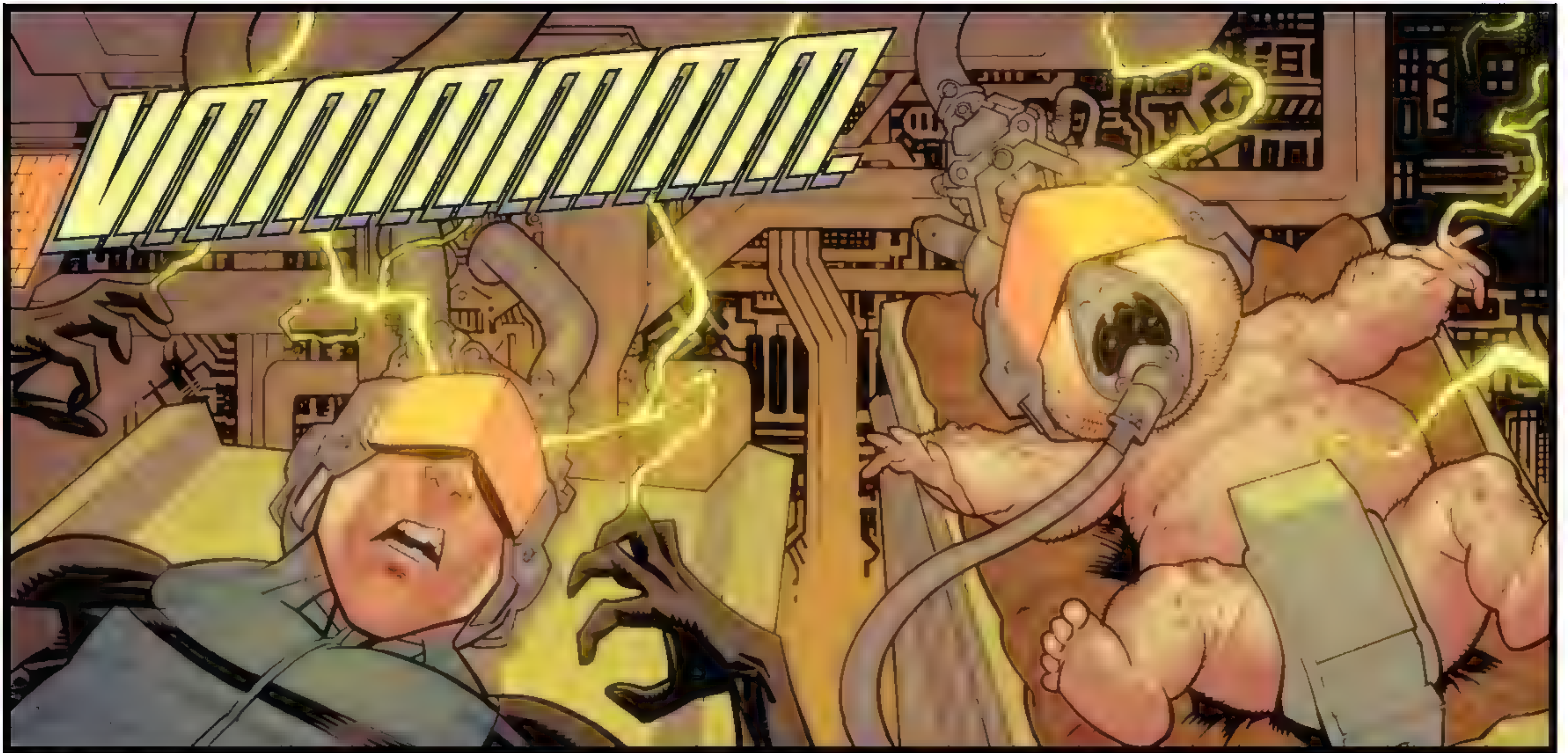
IT IS YOU I SHOULD BE THANKING. YOU HAVE SAVED THIS WORLD... IT'S ONLY A MATTER OF TIME NOW.



ALL SET. BEGINNING THE TRANSFERENCE.



AAAAAND THERE'S ANOTHER VERSION OF ME ON THIS TABLE IN FRONT OF ME. SOMETHING ON A LONG LIST OF THINGS IN MY LIFE THAT I WILL NEVER GET USED TO.



IT'S AN INCOMPREHENSIBLE AMOUNT OF DATA BEING TRANSFERRED... STILL, THIS WILL ONLY TAKE A FEW MINUTES.



I'LL WAIT.

THANKS FOR DOING THIS. I'M SHOCKED THE VILTRUMITES ACTUALLY LISTENED TO ME AND NEVER TRIED TO--

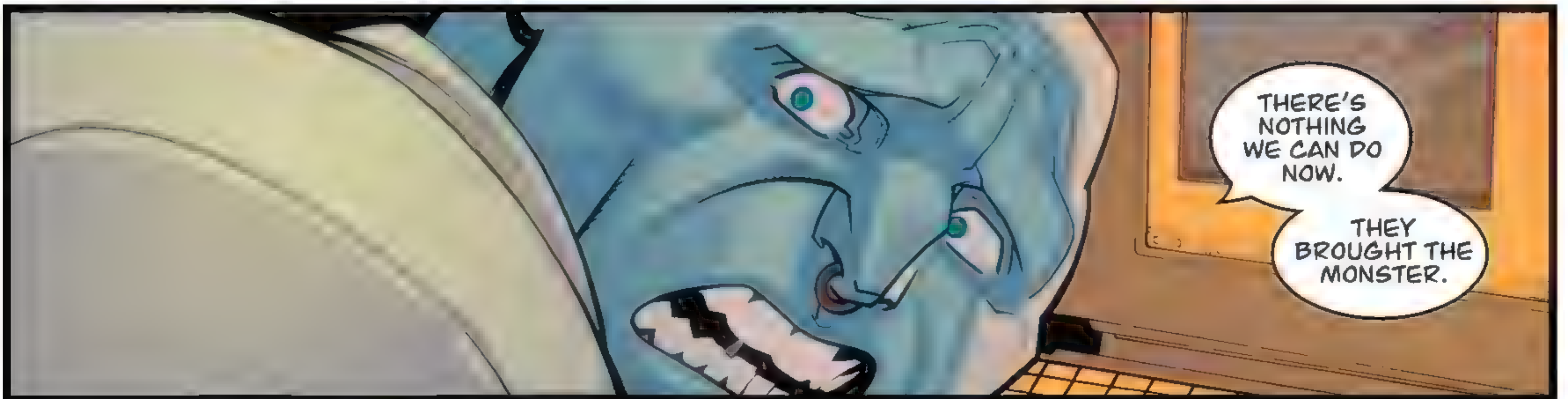


PROXIMITY ALARM. IT'S THEM.



NO! IT'S TOO SOON! THIS PLAN WON'T WORK IF THEY ATTACK BEFORE WE'RE READY! I CAN'T BE HERE IF THEY BREAK THEIR WAY IN--BUT I CAN'T LEAVE HIM HERE TO DIE!

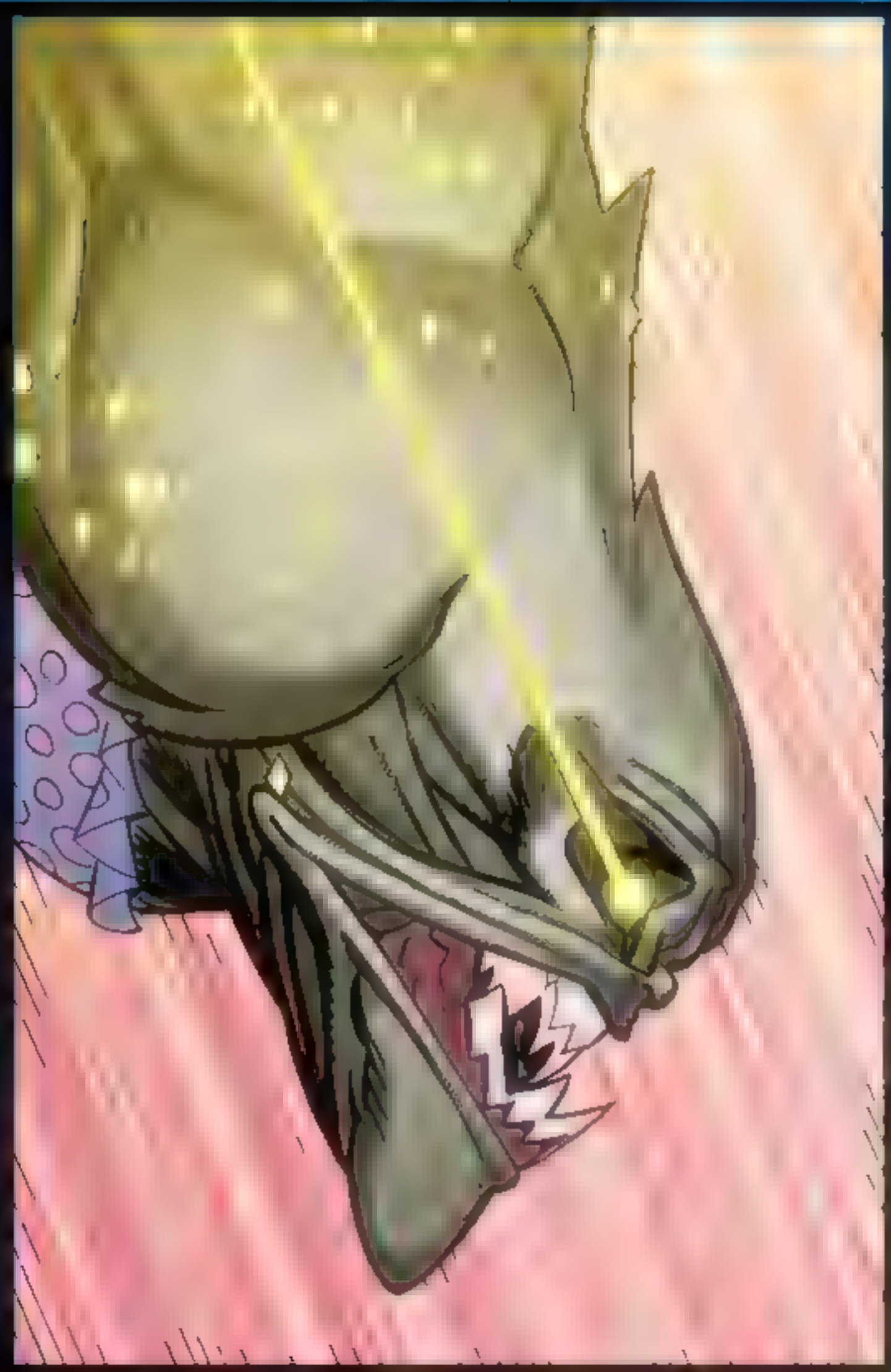
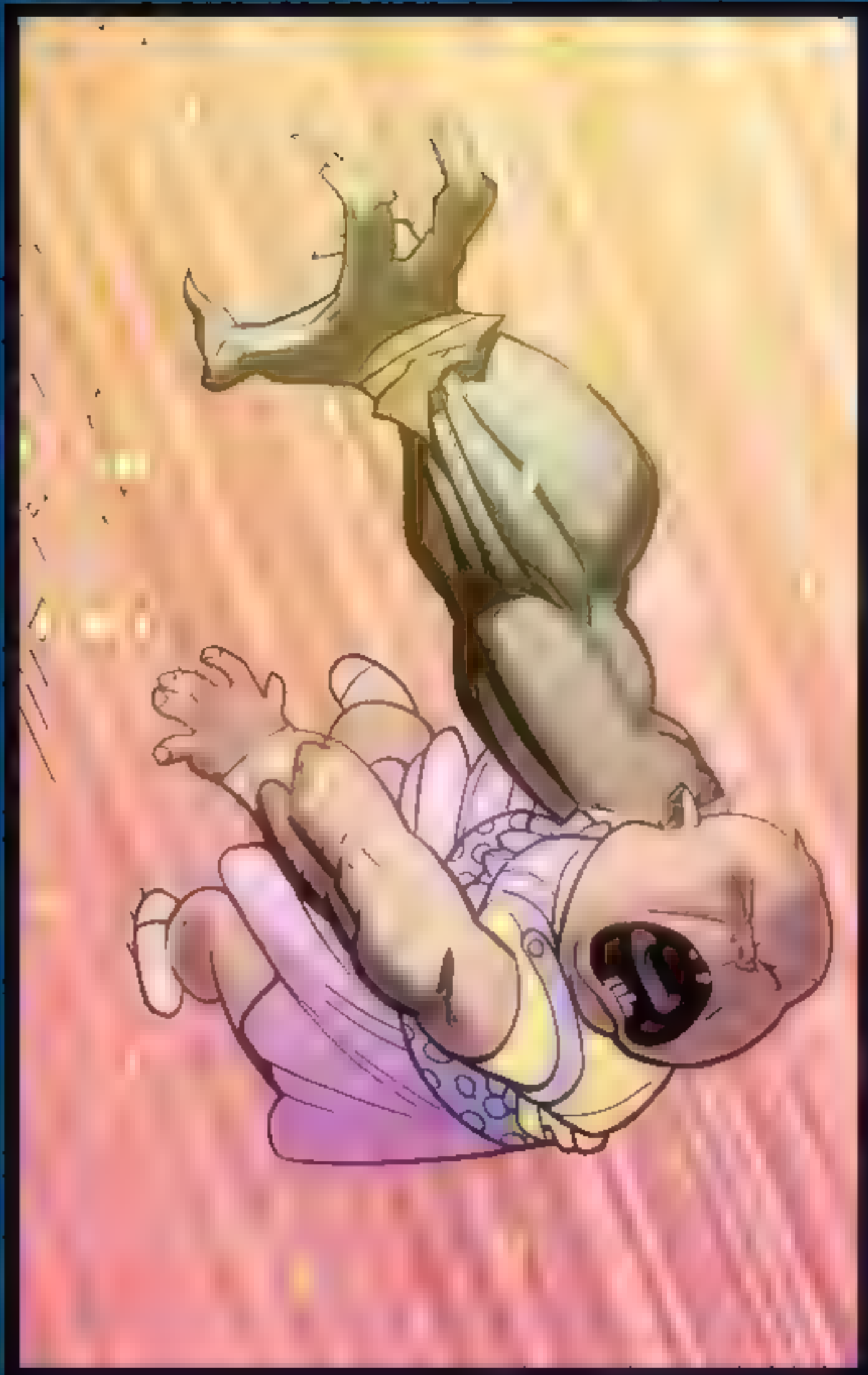
YOU'VE GOT TO ATTACK THEM--STALL THEM SO THIS CAN WORK. CAN YOU BUY US SOME TIME? MAYBE IF I WEAR ONE OF THE ROBOT SUITS--



THERE'S NOTHING WE CAN DO NOW.

THEY BROUGHT THE MONSTER.





RRRUUMMMBLE!

OH, GOD--
HOW MUCH
MORE
TIME?!

IT'S DONE!
THE PROCESS IS
COMPLETE!

GO!



IT WORKED!
I'M IN THIS
BODY!

GO NOW--
WHILE
YOU STILL
CAN!

KROOM!



RUUMMMBLE!

BE STERN
WITH THEM
AND THEY'LL
THINK YOU'RE
ME!

GOOD
LUCK!

DON'T
WORRY
ABOUT
US!



I TOLD YOU NOT TO ATTEMPT
A RESCUE! THE PROJECT IS
LOST, BUT I FEAR THEY NEVER
INTENDED TO COMPLETE IT. I
WAS BLINDED BY MY
AMBITION FOR THE
EMPIRE.

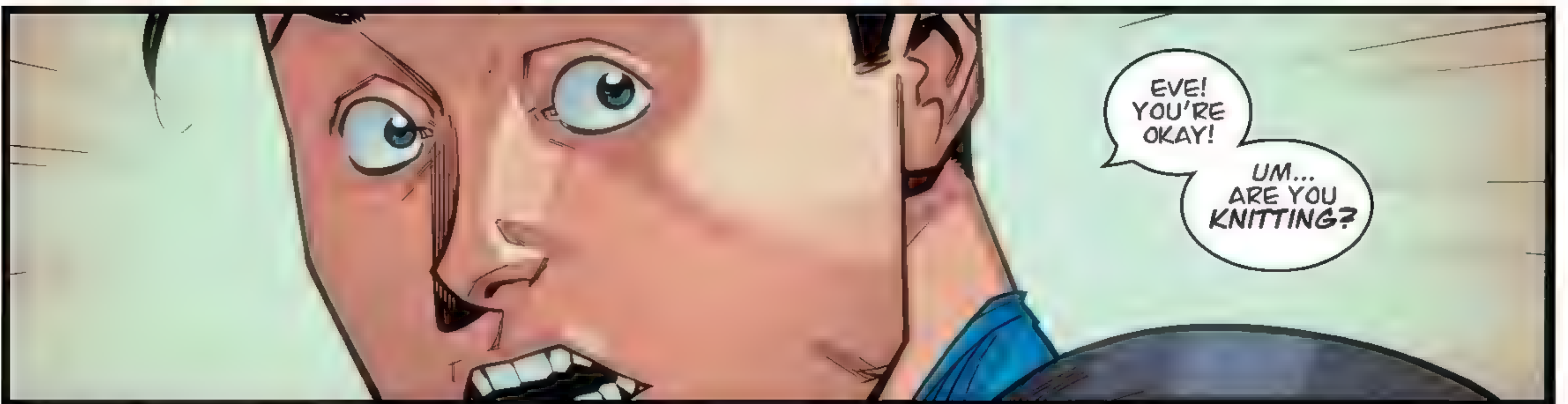
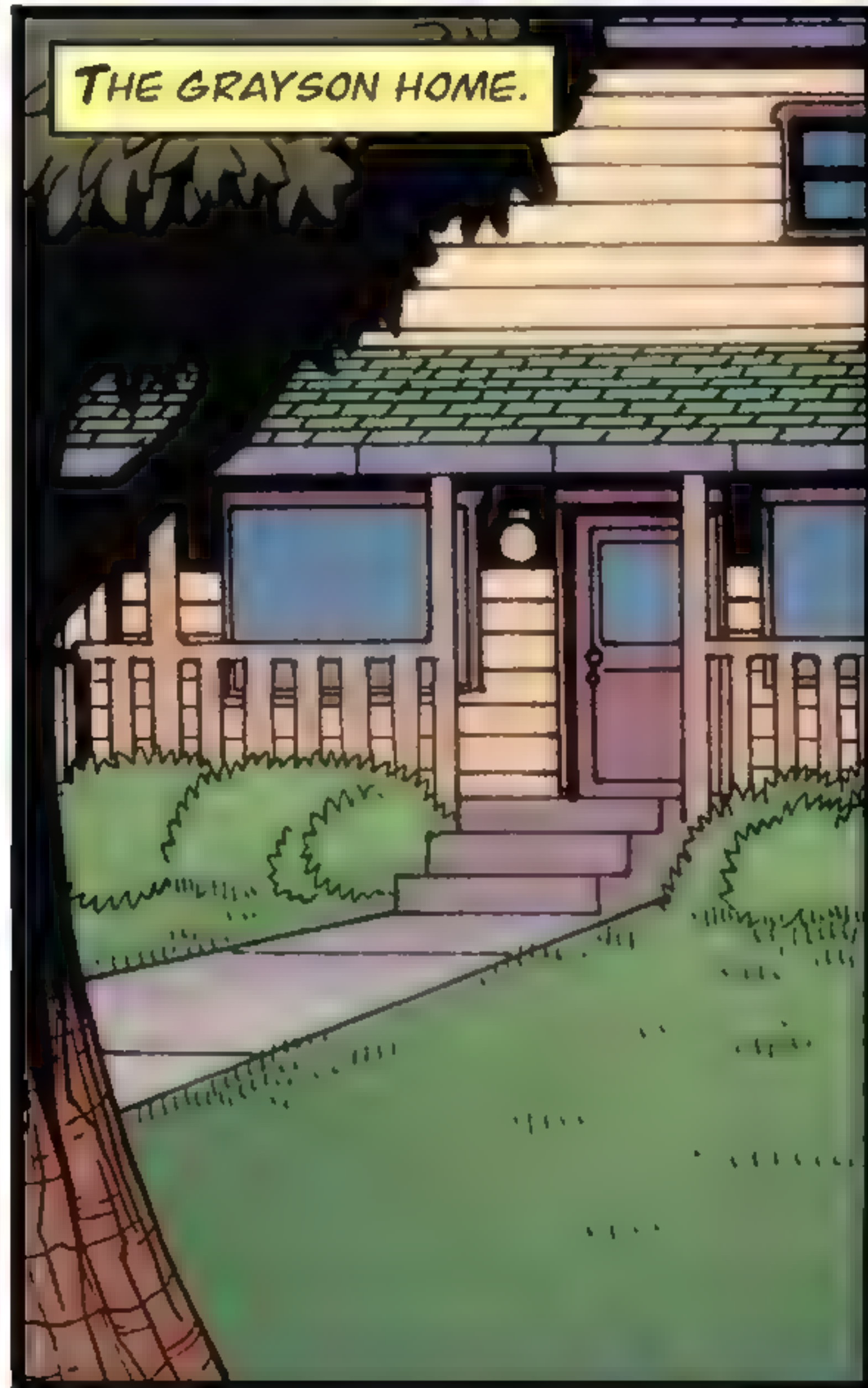
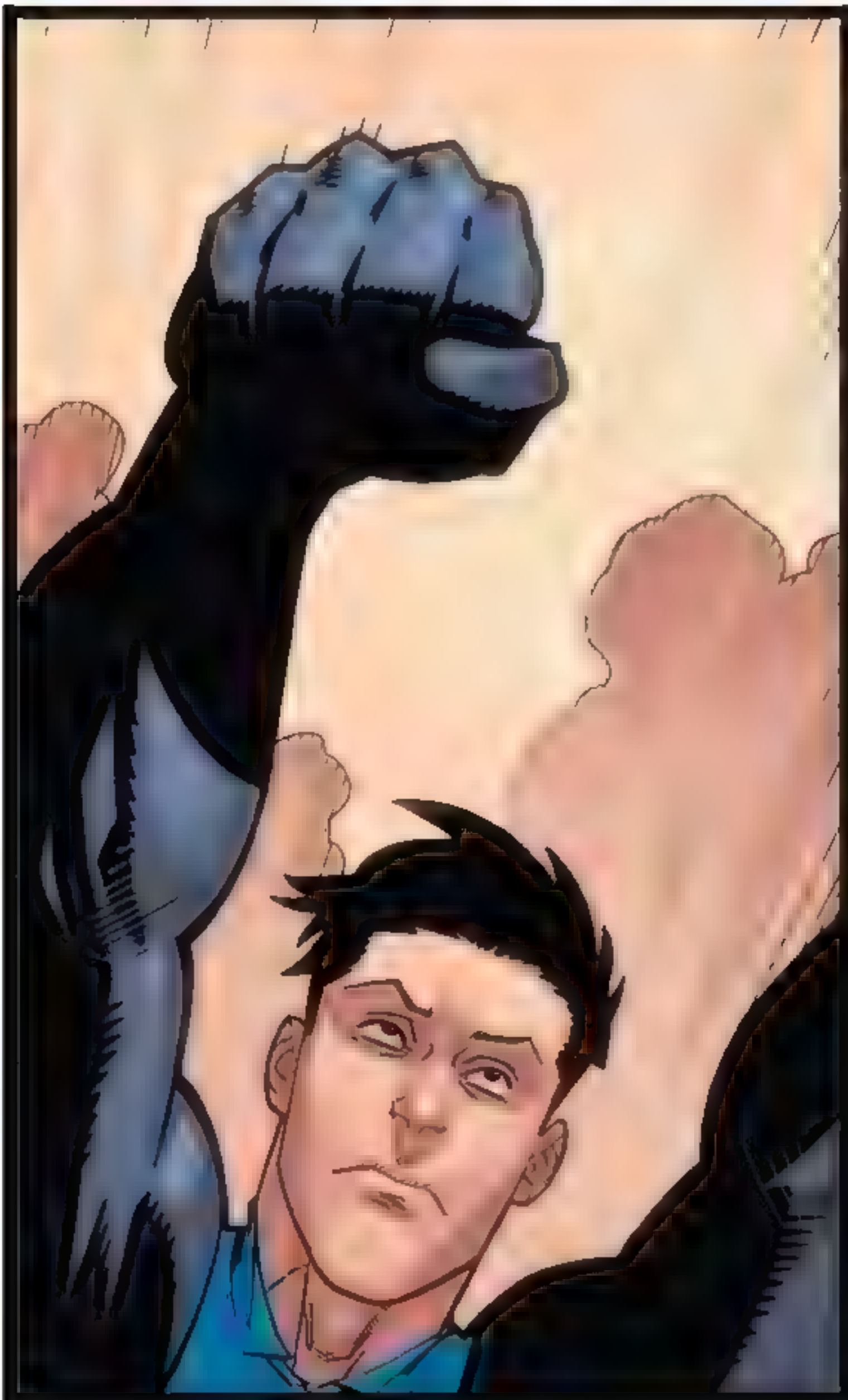
NOW THERE IS
MUCH TO BE DONE...
BUT IT DOESN'T
INVOLVE SO MANY
PEOPLE LOSING
THEIR LIVES--
THE MONSTER
MUST BE
STOPPED!

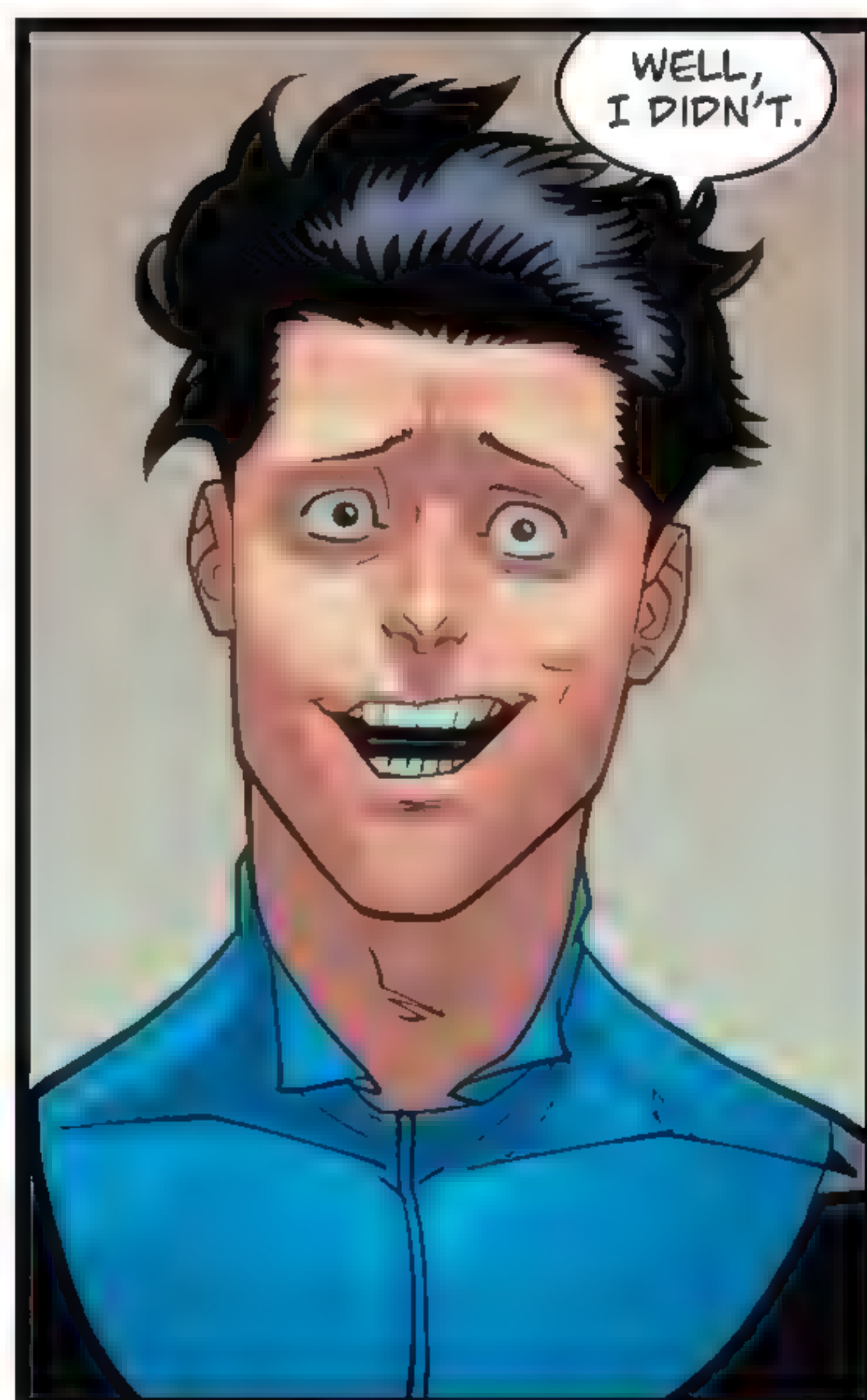
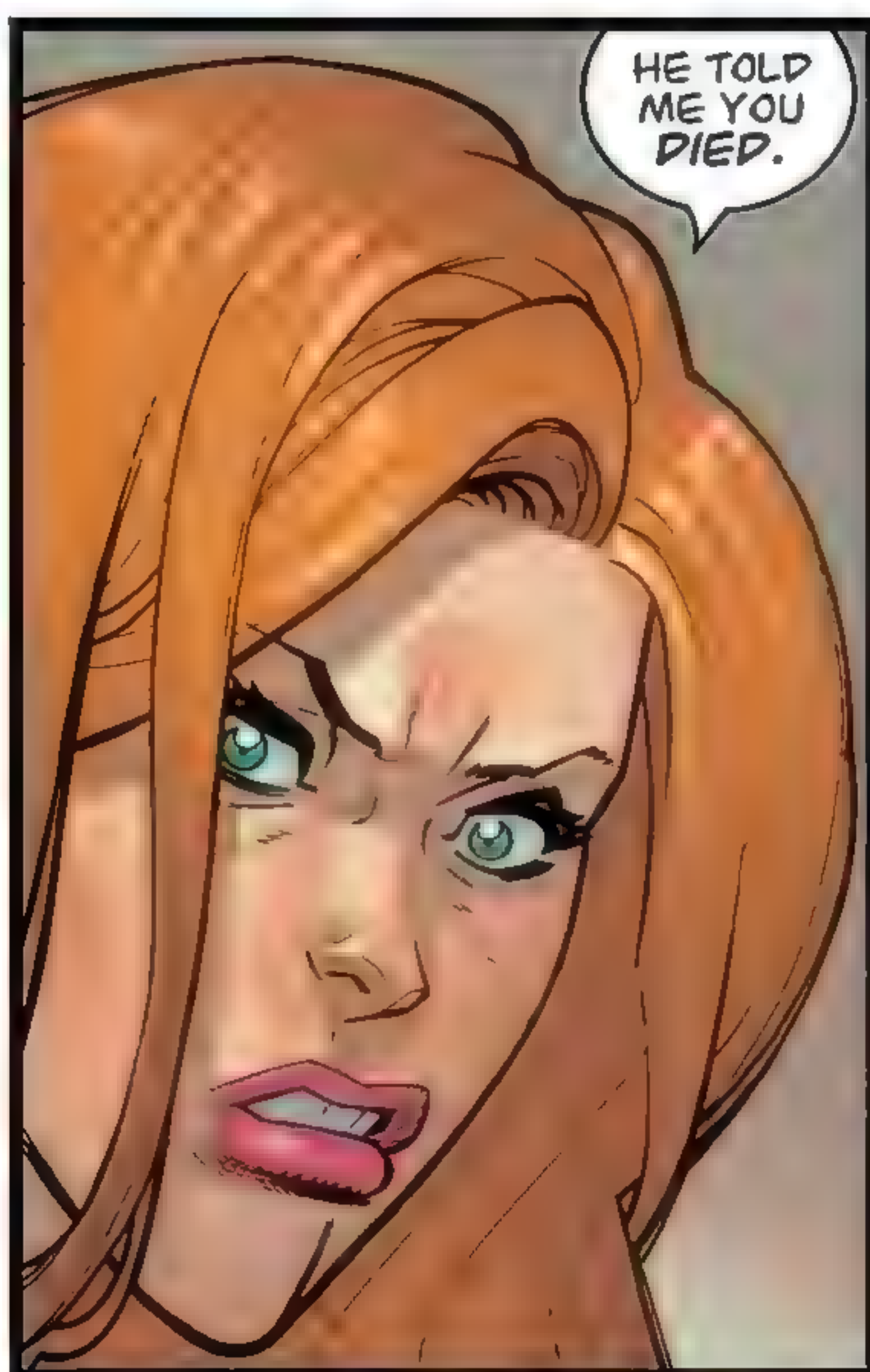
THIS IS
THE DAWN
OF A NEW
VILTRUM
EMPIRE!

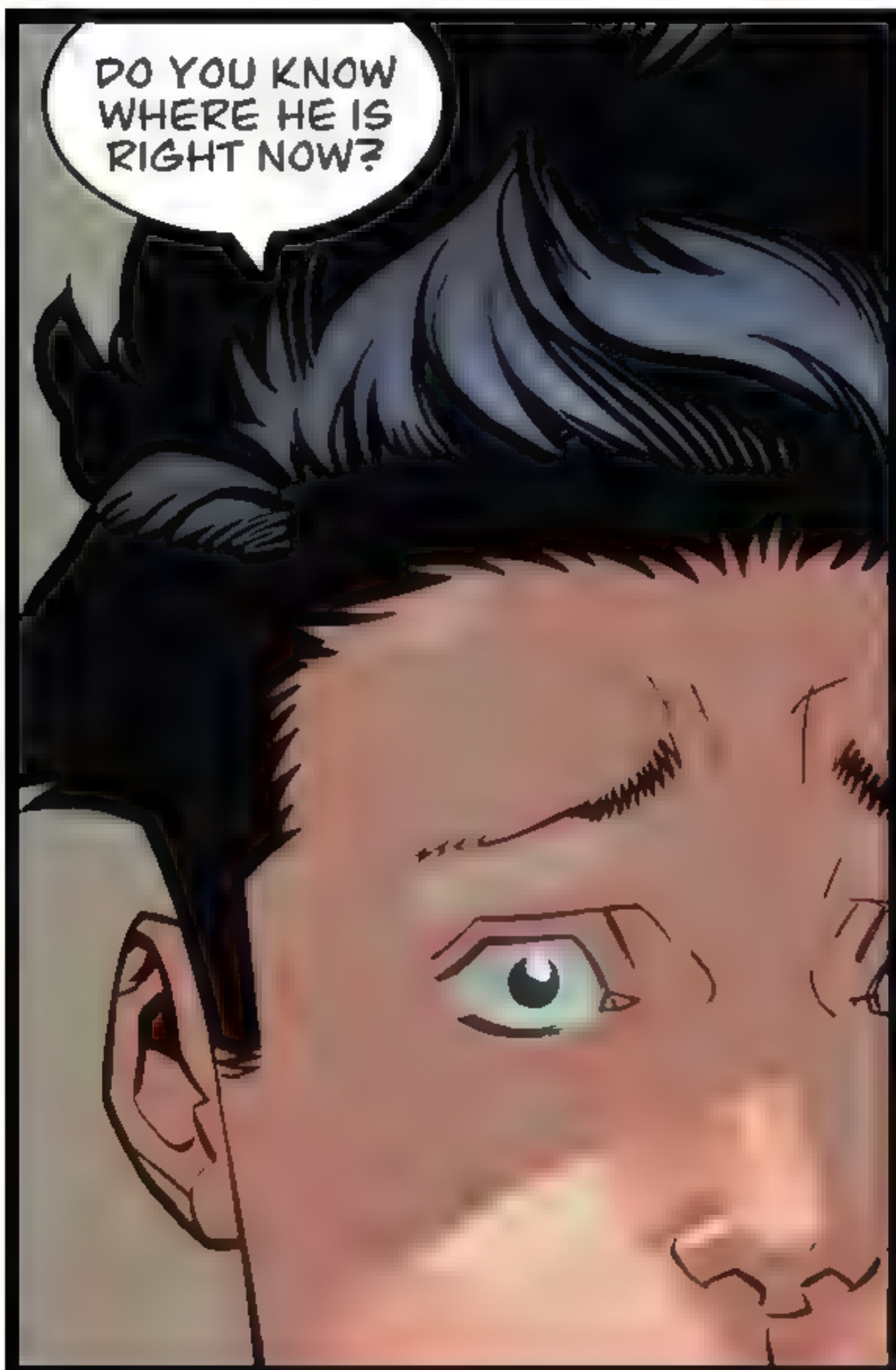


CHAPTER 10





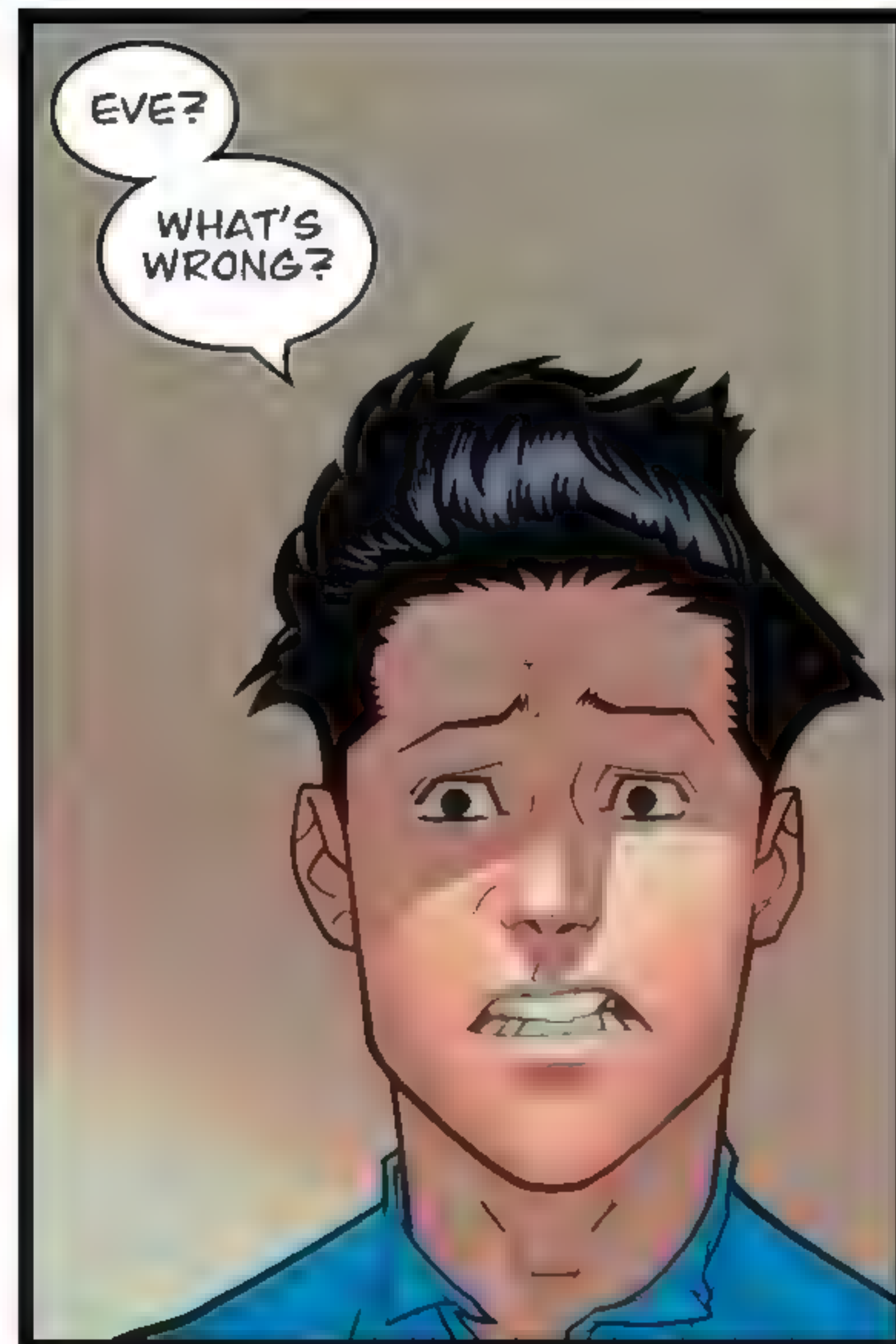




DO YOU KNOW
WHERE HE IS
RIGHT NOW?

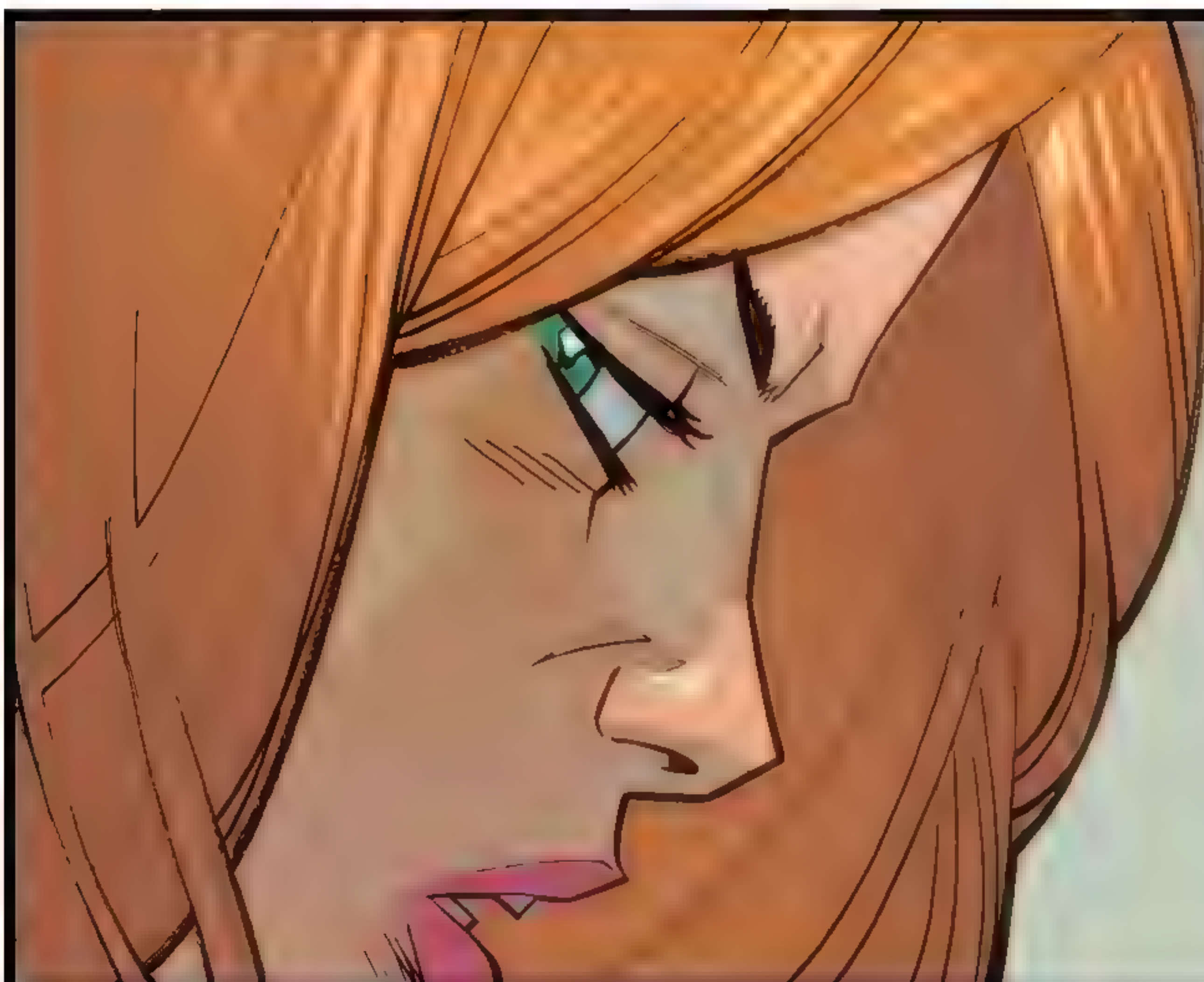


...



EVE?

WHAT'S
WRONG?



SIX MONTHS,
MARK. YOU'VE
BEEN GONE
FOR SIX
MONTHS.

DON'T I...
LOOK DIFFERENT
TO YOU? I COULDN'T
SLEEP... I COULDN'T
MAKE MYSELF EAT.
I LOST TOO MUCH
WEIGHT, TOO
FAST.

I WAS IN
THE HOSPITAL
FOR OVER A
MONTH. I
ALMOST...

I ALMOST
LOST THE
BABY,
MARK.



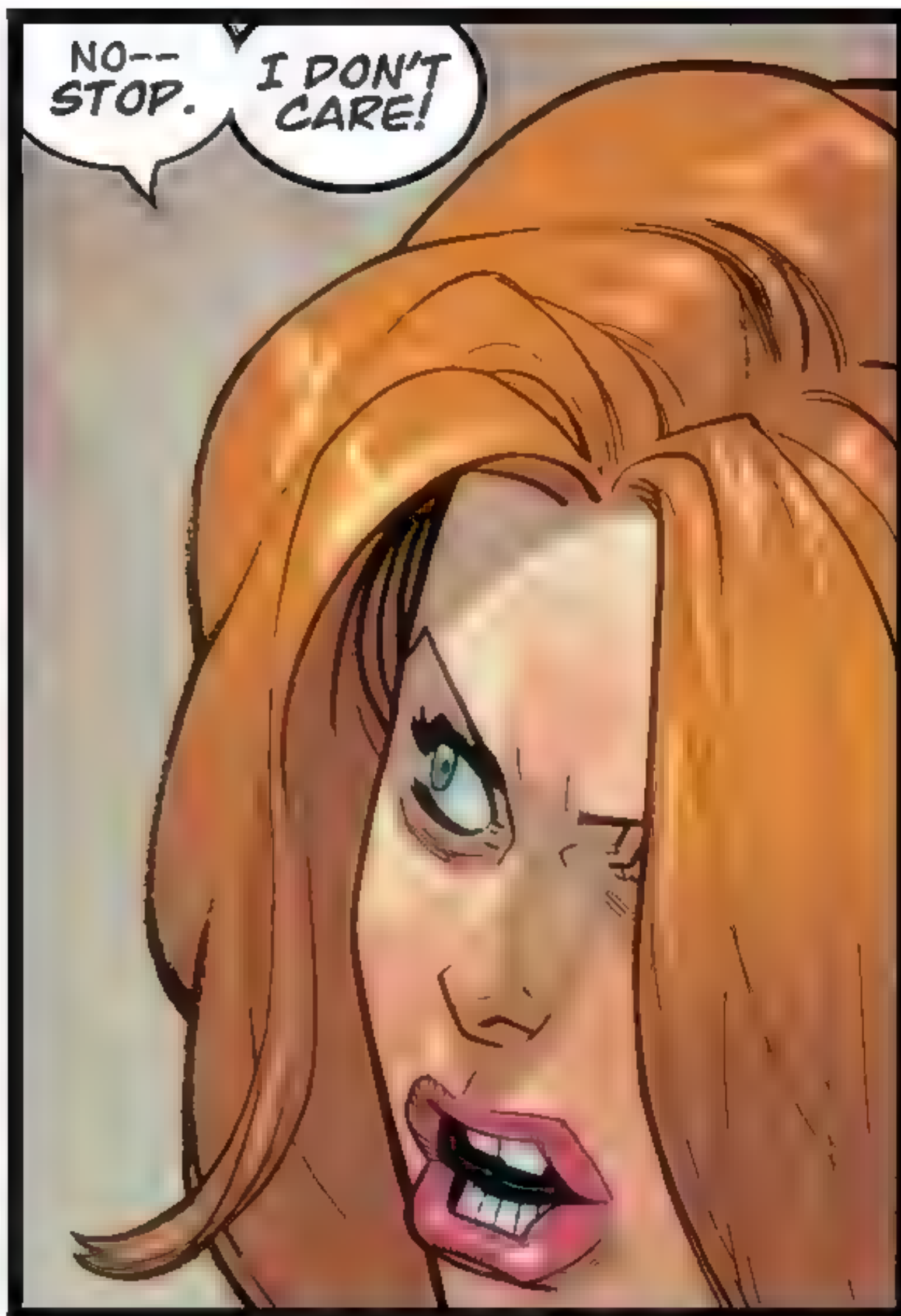
I DON'T...

I COULDN'T HANDLE IT.
ROBOT TOLD ME WHAT
HAPPENED, HOW YOU KILLED
ANGSTROM LEVY BUT THE
OTHER VILTRUMITES
OVERPOWERED YOU...
HE SAID HE SAW THEM
KILL YOU.

I DIDN'T BELIEVE
IT AT FIRST. I
THOUGHT MAYBE HE
DIDN'T KNOW HOW
RESILIENT YOU WERE...
WHAT YOU COULD
SURVIVE. HE SAID HE
SAW THEM CRUSH
YOUR HEAD.

HAVE YOU
BEEN HEALING
ALL THIS TIME?
IS THAT WHAT
TOOK YOU SO
LONG?







I THINK ABOUT WHAT I WENT THROUGH... AND I REALIZE... I CAN'T HAVE OUR CHILD LIVING THROUGH THAT.

HOW DO I TELL THEM DADDY ISN'T COMING HOME--- THAT I DON'T KNOW WHEN... OR IF YOU'RE EVER COMING BACK?

I'LL BE DAMNED IF I'M GOING TO LIVE THAT LIFE... I WOULDN'T WISH THIS ON ANYONE.

YOU'RE RIGHT... ABOUT EVERYTHING. YOU WERE RIGHT ABOUT ANGSTROM, TOO... I NEVER SHOULD HAVE GONE AFTER HIM. AND I KNOW IT'S NOT ENOUGH, BUT I'M SORRY. YOU HAVE TO BELIEVE THAT.



I WANT TO MAKE THINGS RIGHT, BUT I CAN'T RIGHT NOW. THERE'S TOO MUCH HAPPENING.

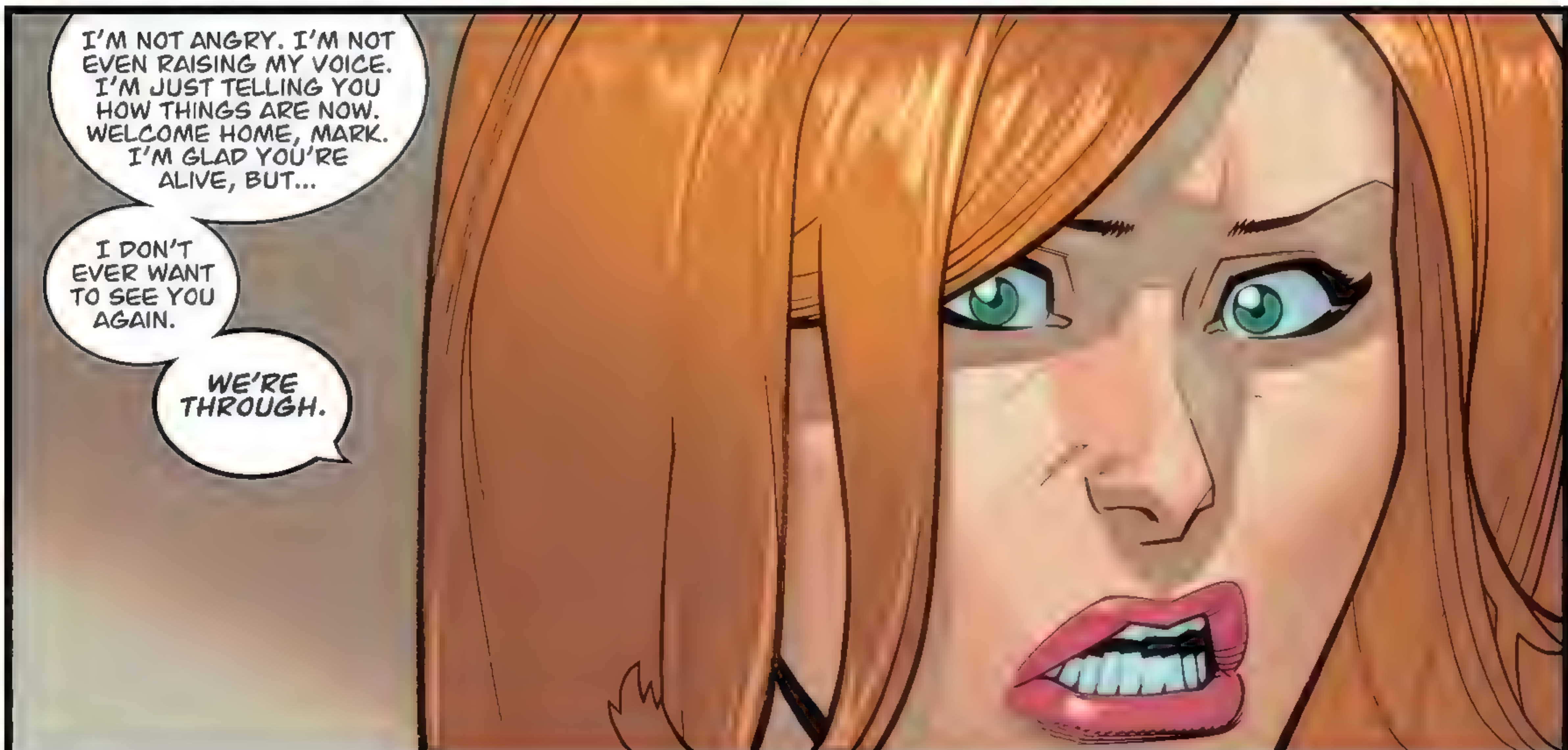
I NEED YOU TO COME WITH ME AND---



ARE YOU EVEN LISTENING TO ME?



I KNOW YOU'RE ANGRY, BUT...



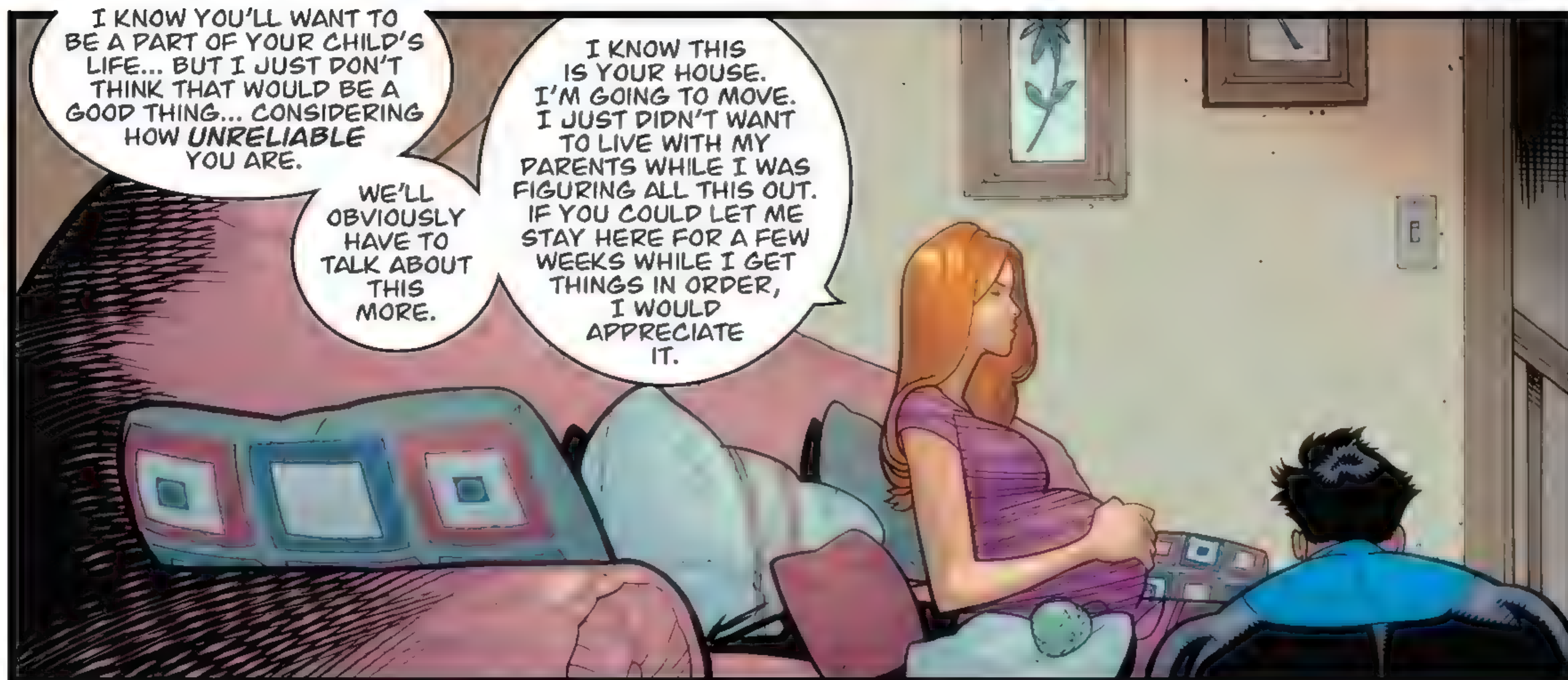
I'M NOT ANGRY. I'M NOT EVEN RAISING MY VOICE. I'M JUST TELLING YOU HOW THINGS ARE NOW. WELCOME HOME, MARK. I'M GLAD YOU'RE ALIVE, BUT...

I DON'T EVER WANT TO SEE YOU AGAIN.

WE'RE THROUGH.



WHAT?!



I KNOW YOU'LL WANT TO BE A PART OF YOUR CHILD'S LIFE... BUT I JUST DON'T THINK THAT WOULD BE A GOOD THING... CONSIDERING HOW UNRELIABLE YOU ARE.

WE'LL OBVIOUSLY HAVE TO TALK ABOUT THIS MORE.

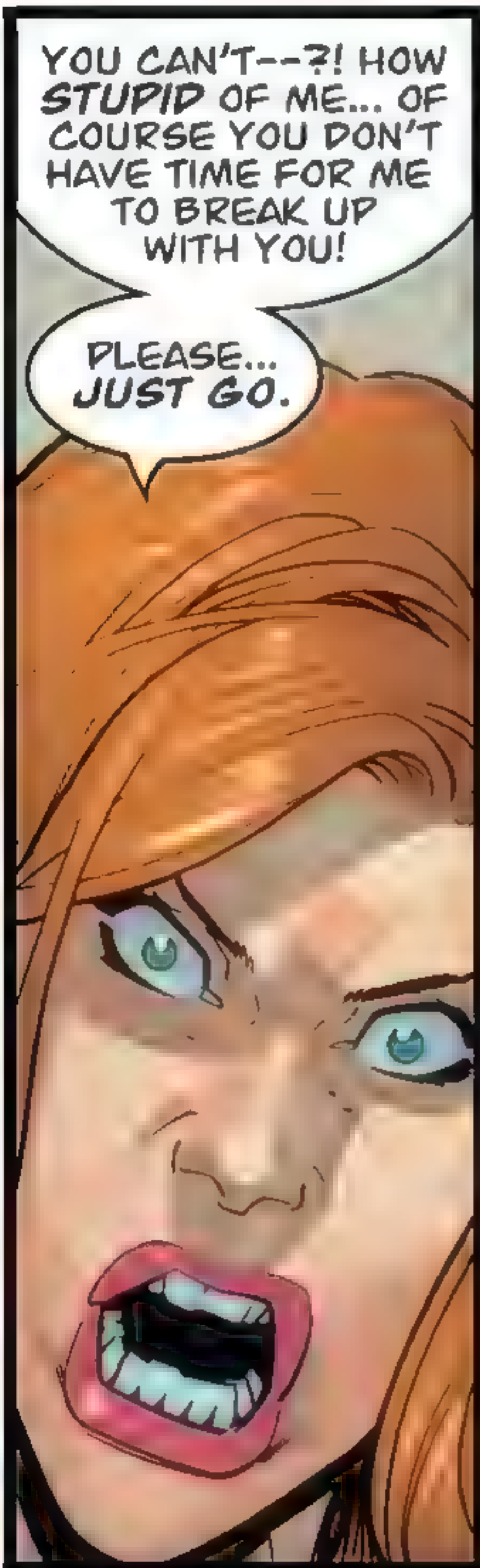
I KNOW THIS IS YOUR HOUSE. I'M GOING TO MOVE. I JUST DIDN'T WANT TO LIVE WITH MY PARENTS WHILE I WAS FIGURING ALL THIS OUT. IF YOU COULD LET ME STAY HERE FOR A FEW WEEKS WHILE I GET THINGS IN ORDER, I WOULD APPRECIATE IT.



PLEASE DON'T DO THIS. NOT RIGHT NOW. THERE'S SO MUCH GOING ON THAT YOU DON'T KNOW ABOUT. WE NEED TO LEAVE HERE... TOGETHER. YOU COULD BE IN DANGER.

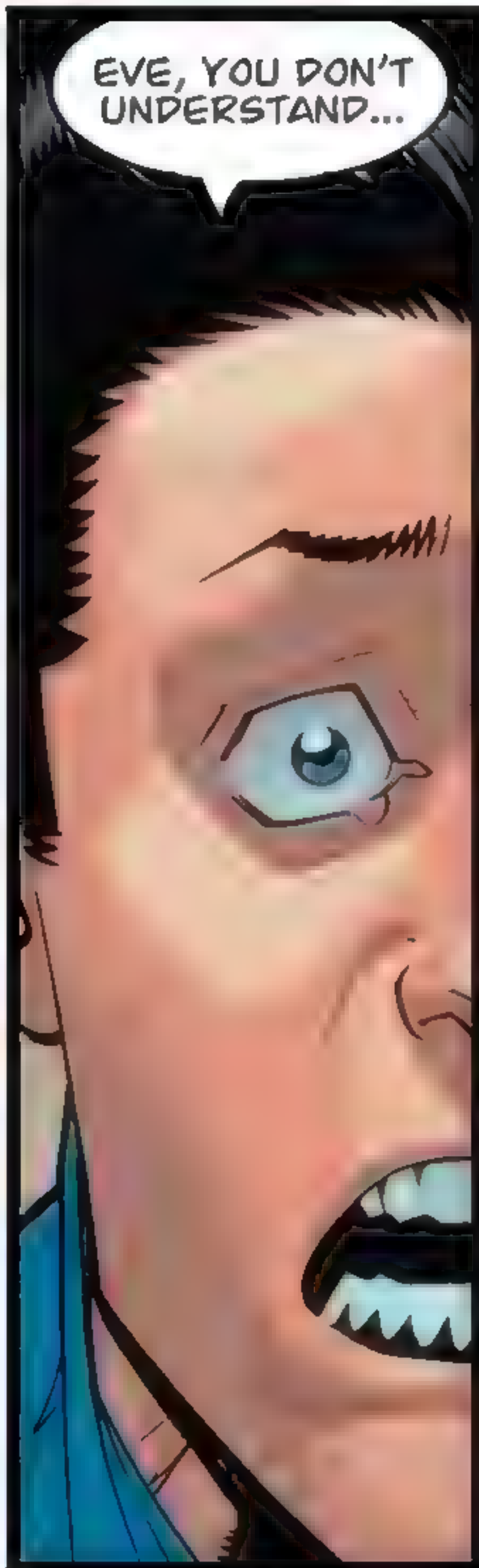
SO MANY PEOPLE COULD BE IN DANGER.

I JUST... I CAN'T DO THIS RIGHT NOW.

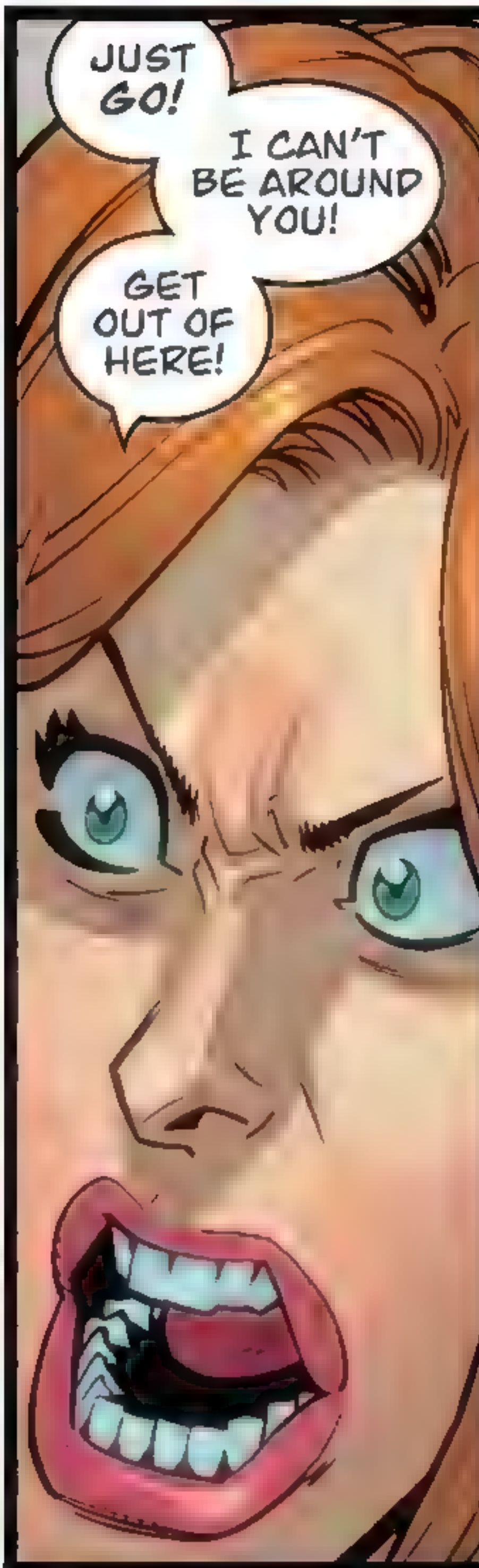


YOU CAN'T--?! HOW STUPID OF ME... OF COURSE YOU DON'T HAVE TIME FOR ME TO BREAK UP WITH YOU!

PLEASE... JUST GO.



EVE, YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND...



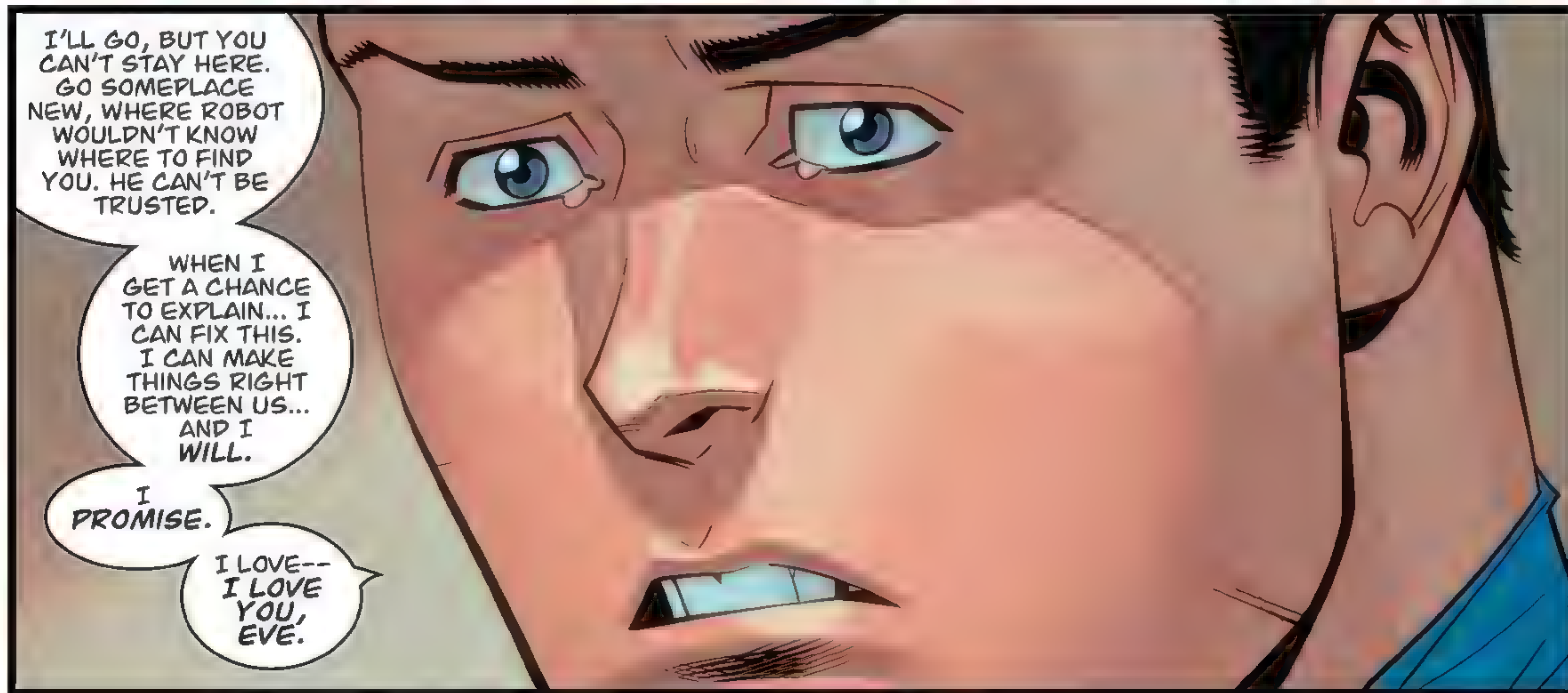
JUST GO!

I CAN'T BE AROUND YOU!

GET OUT OF HERE!



...

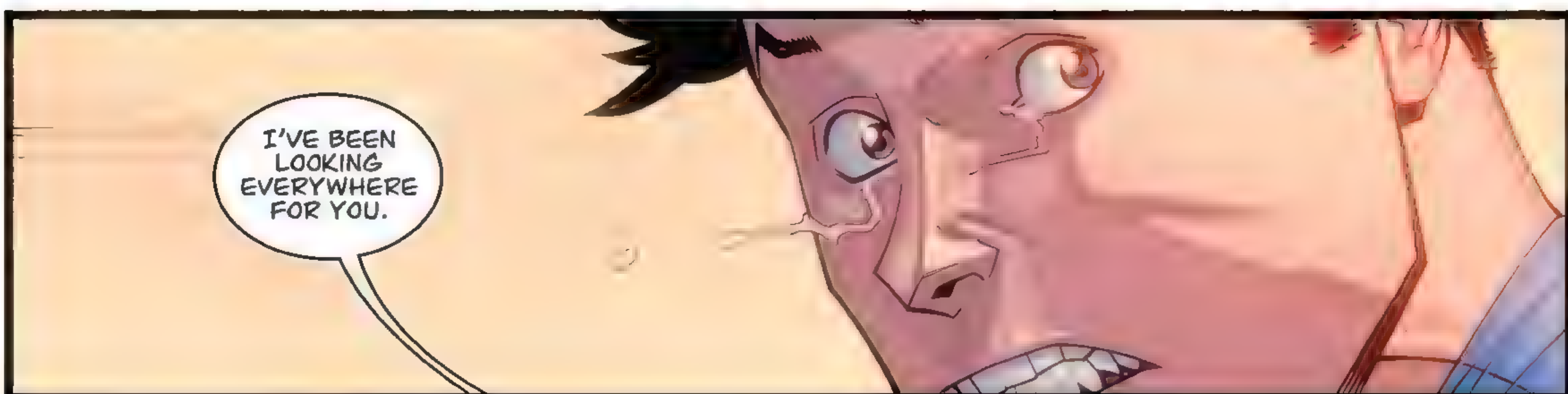
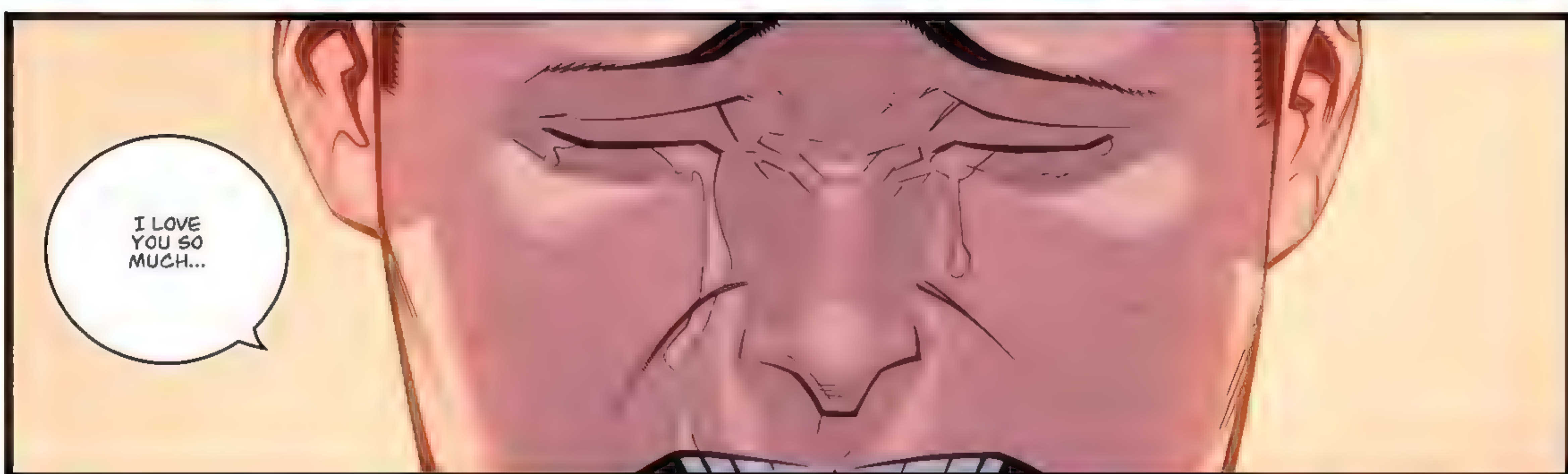


I'LL GO, BUT YOU CAN'T STAY HERE. GO SOMEPLACE NEW, WHERE ROBOT WOULDN'T KNOW WHERE TO FIND YOU. HE CAN'T BE TRUSTED.

WHEN I GET A CHANCE TO EXPLAIN... I CAN FIX THIS. I CAN MAKE THINGS RIGHT BETWEEN US... AND I WILL.

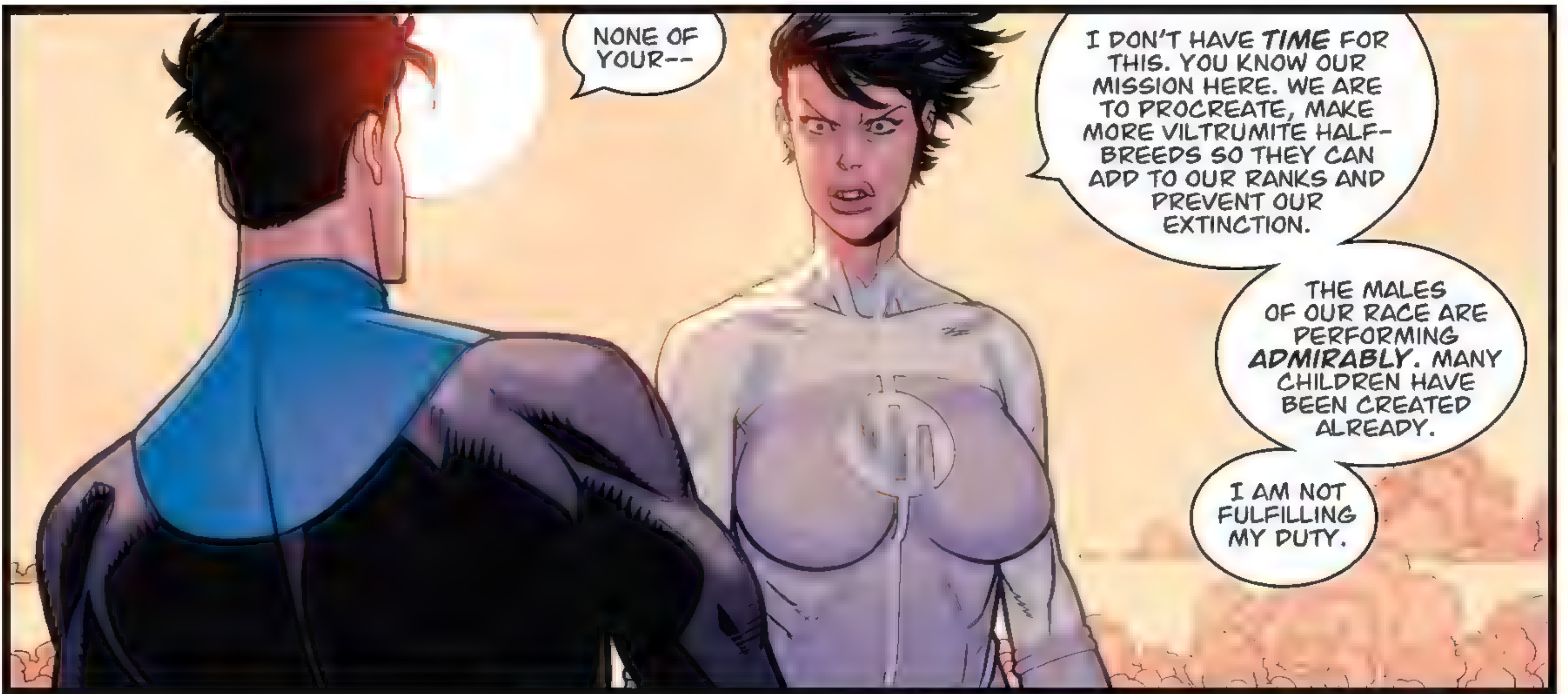
I PROMISE.

I LOVE-- I LOVE YOU, EVE.





WHERE
HAVE YOU
BEEN?

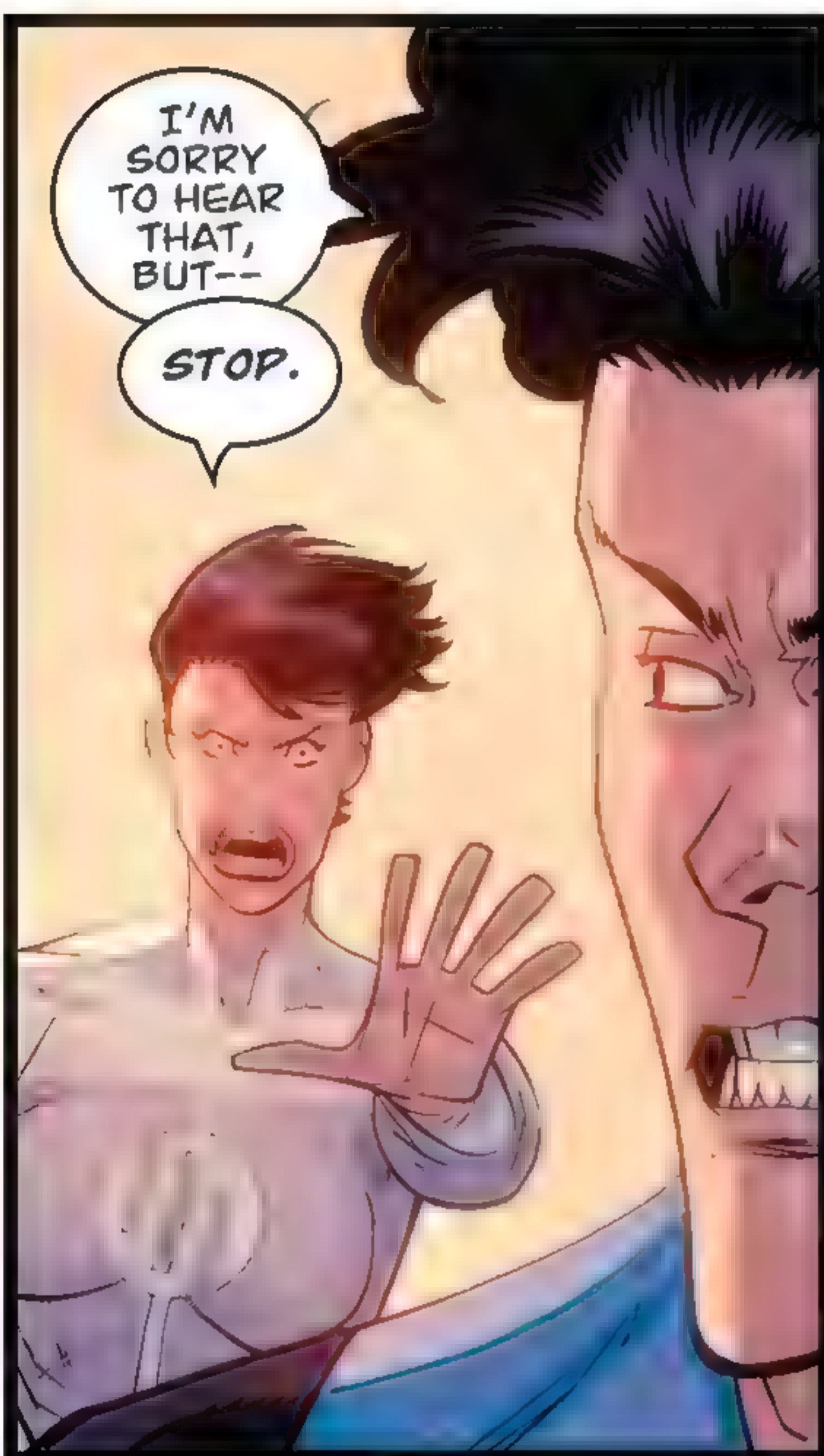


NONE OF YOUR--

I DON'T HAVE TIME FOR THIS. YOU KNOW OUR MISSION HERE. WE ARE TO PROCREATE, MAKE MORE VILTRUMITE HALF-BREEDS SO THEY CAN ADD TO OUR RANKS AND PREVENT OUR EXTINCTION.

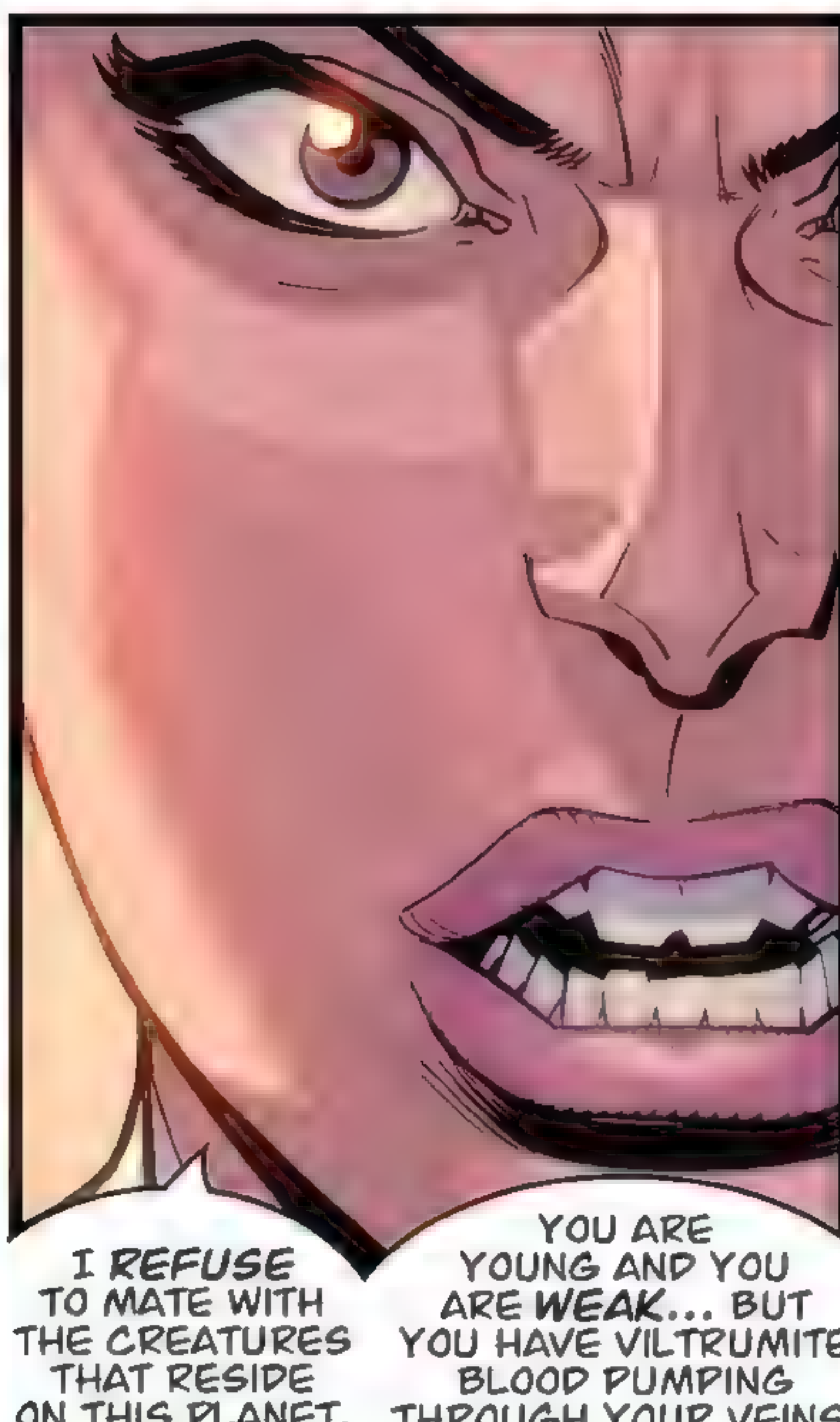
THE MALES OF OUR RACE ARE PERFORMING **ADMIRABLY**. MANY CHILDREN HAVE BEEN CREATED ALREADY.

I AM NOT FULFILLING MY DUTY.



I'M SORRY TO HEAR THAT, BUT--

STOP.



I REFUSE TO MATE WITH THE CREATURES THAT RESIDE ON THIS PLANET.

YOU ARE YOUNG AND YOU ARE **WEAK**... BUT YOU HAVE VILTRUMITE BLOOD PUMPING THROUGH YOUR VEINS.



SO YOU'LL DO.

FLATTERED, BUT NO... I'M **TAKEN**. REALLY. I'M NOT INTERESTED.

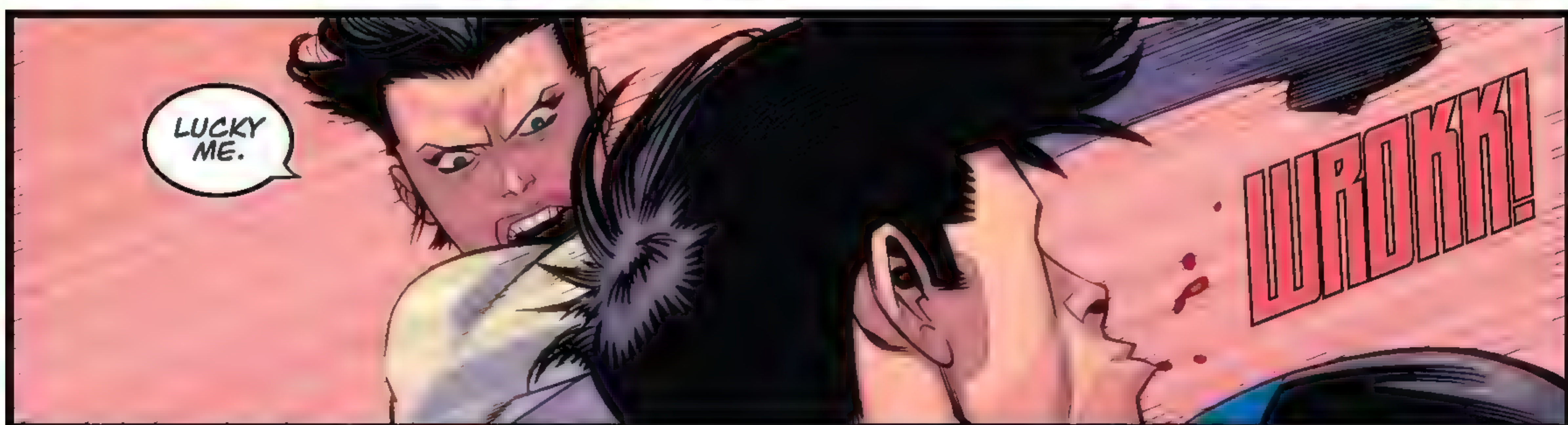
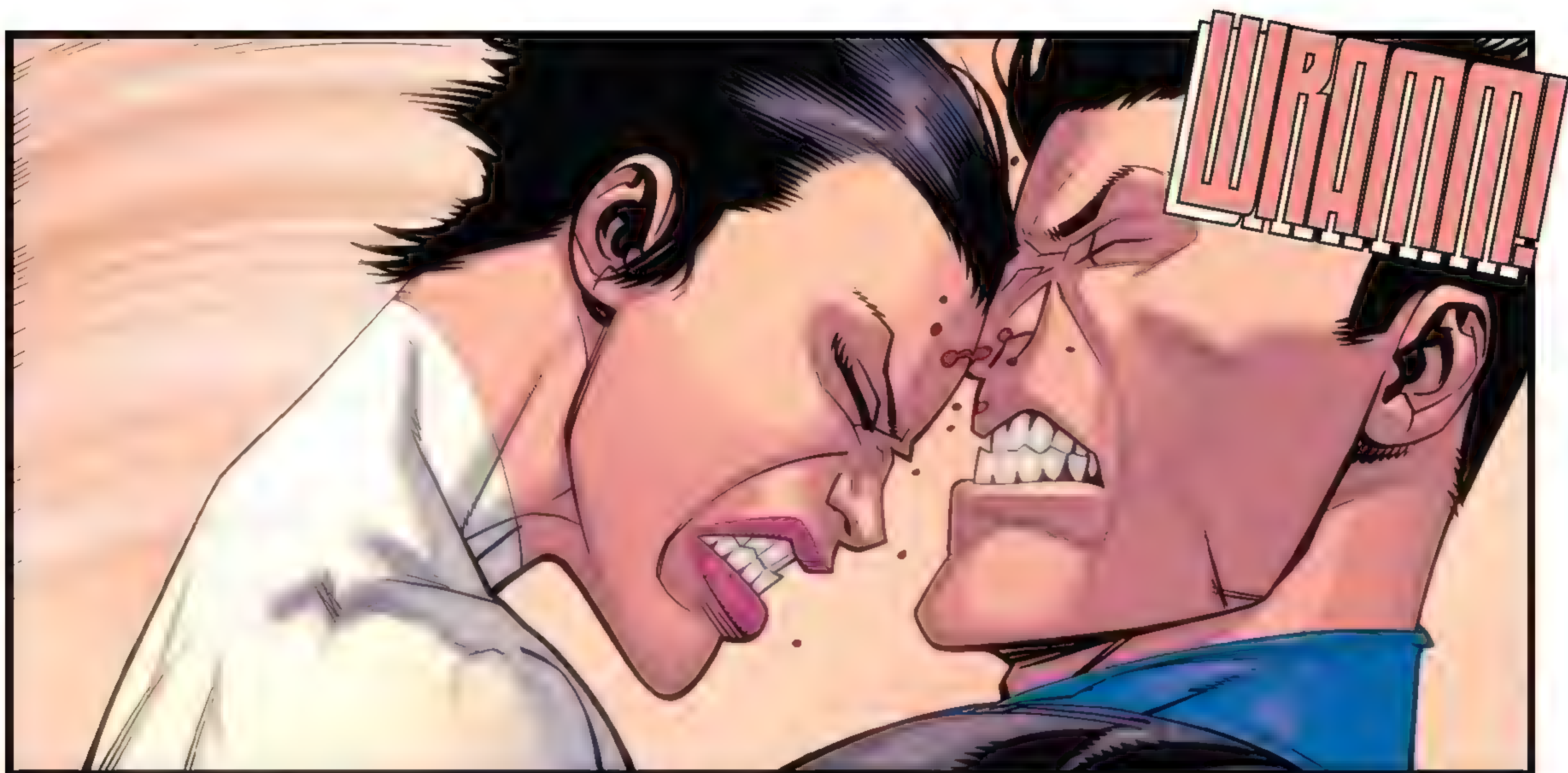
AND I'VE GOT SOMEWHERE ELSE I REALLY NEED TO BE.

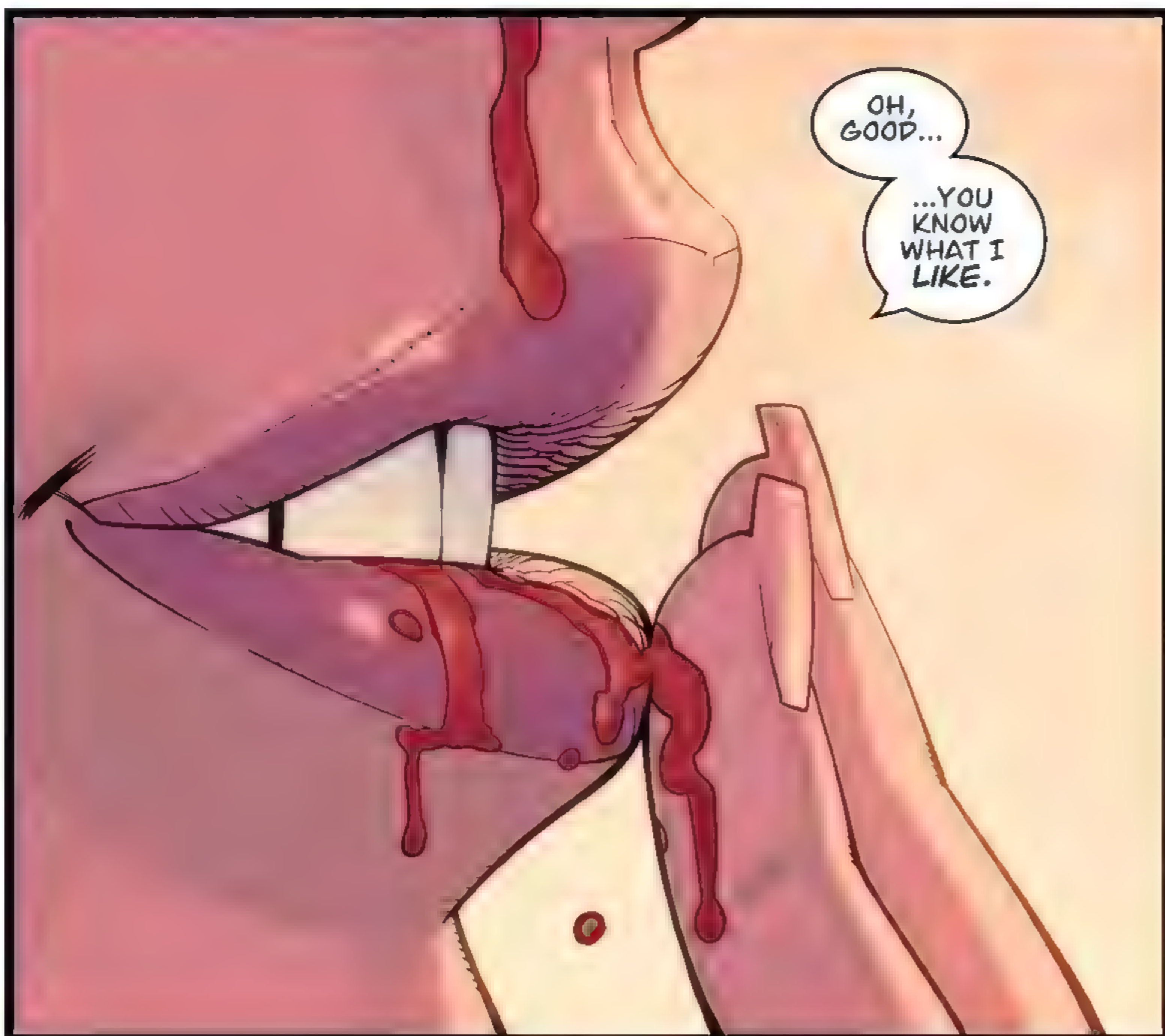
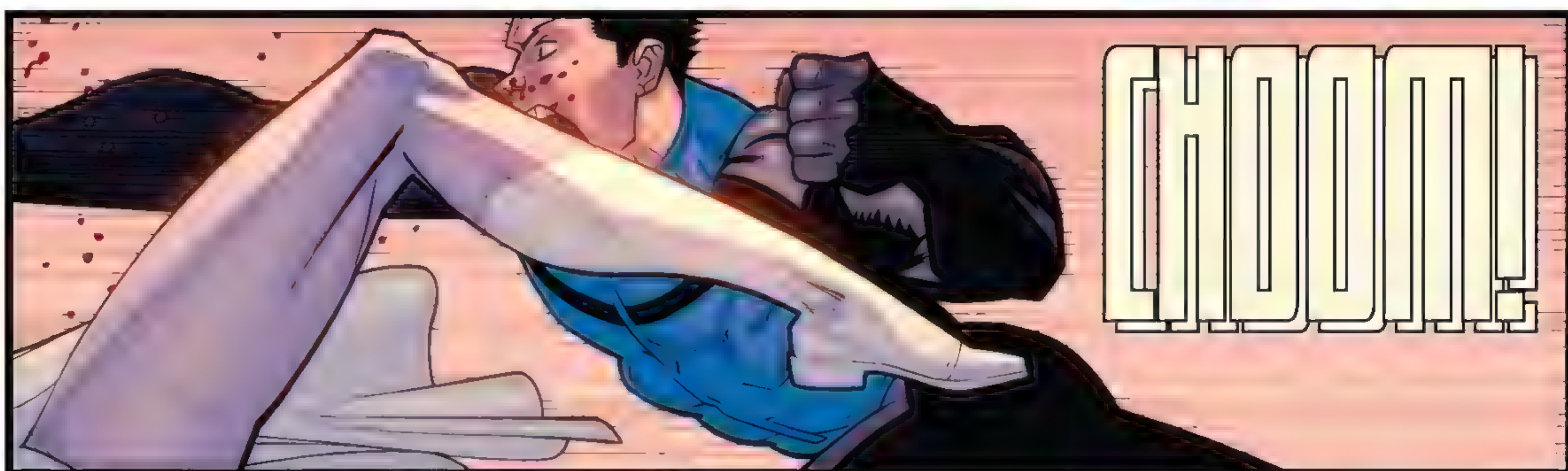
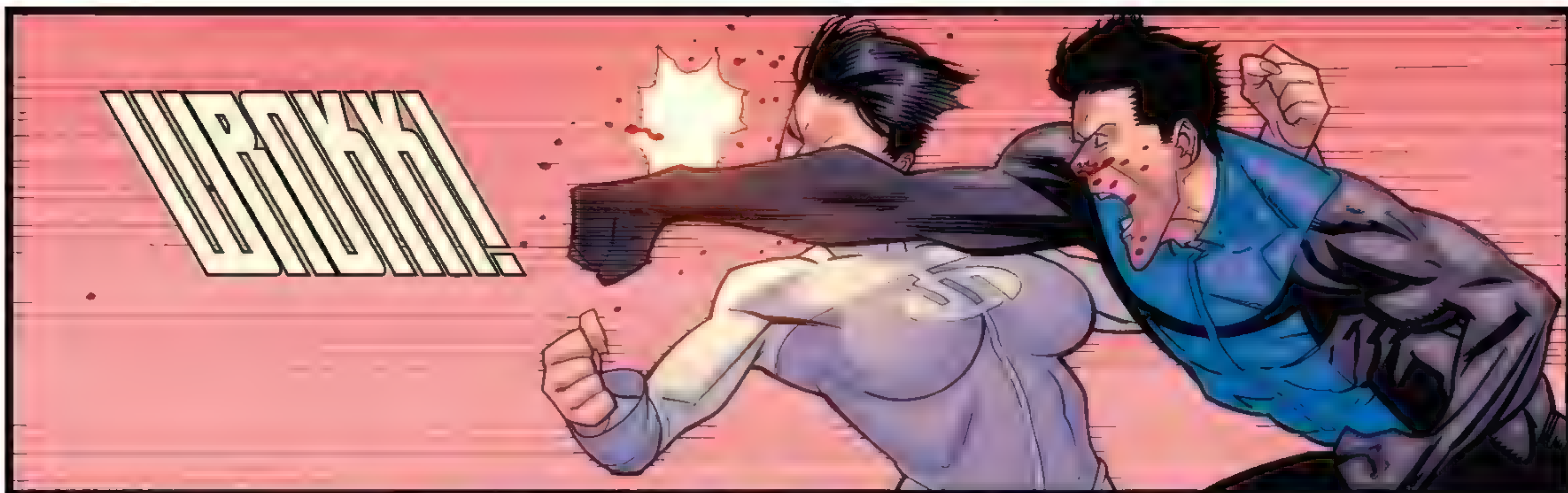


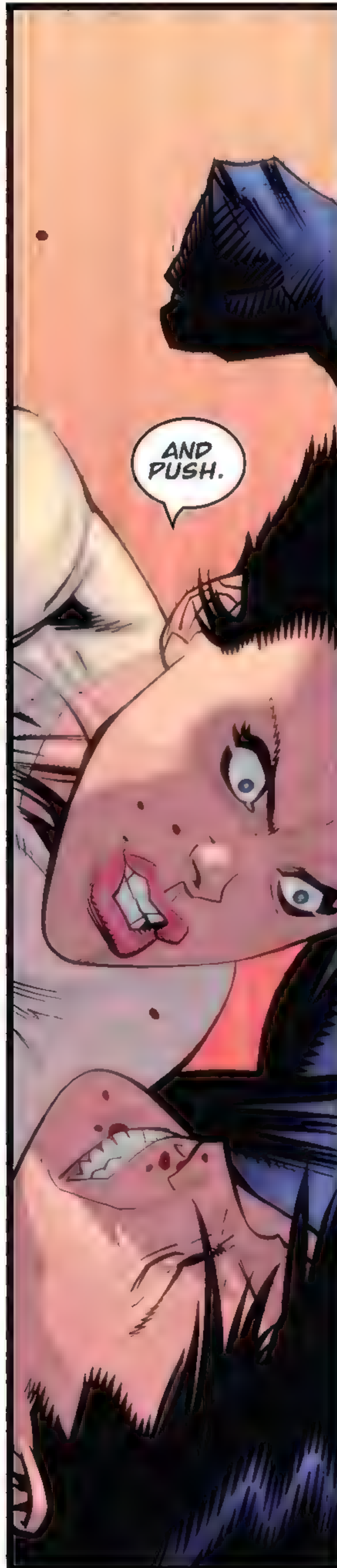
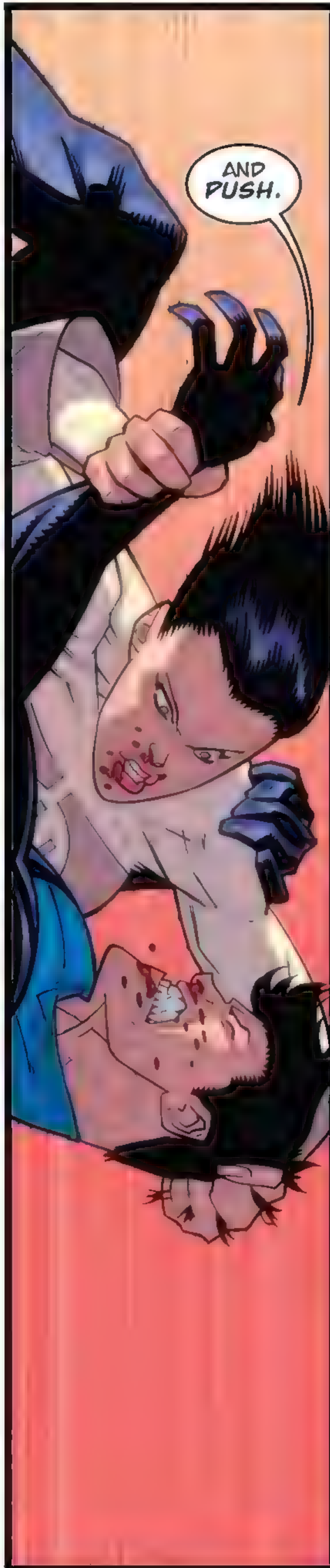
SO-- BYE!

I SAID--

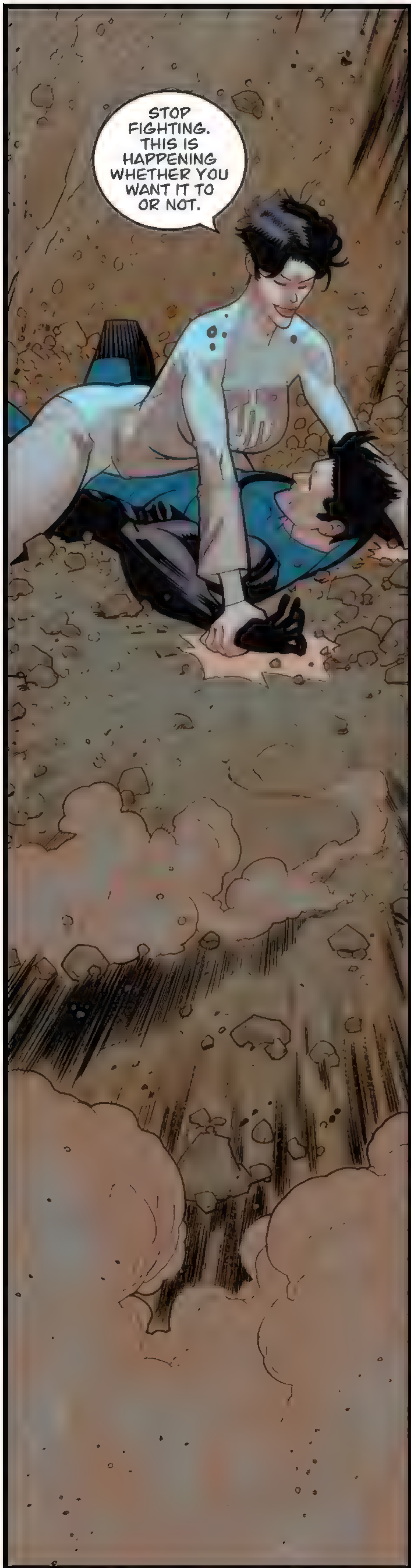


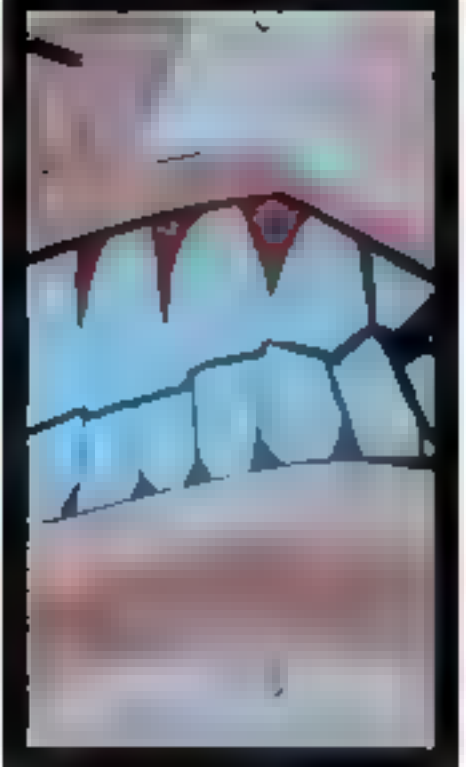
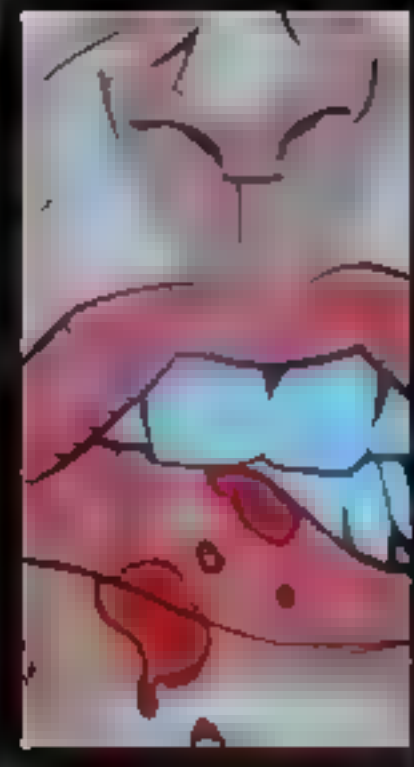
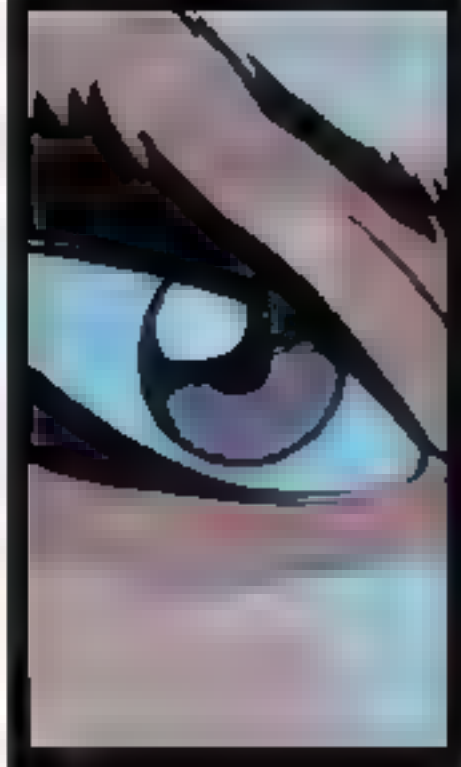
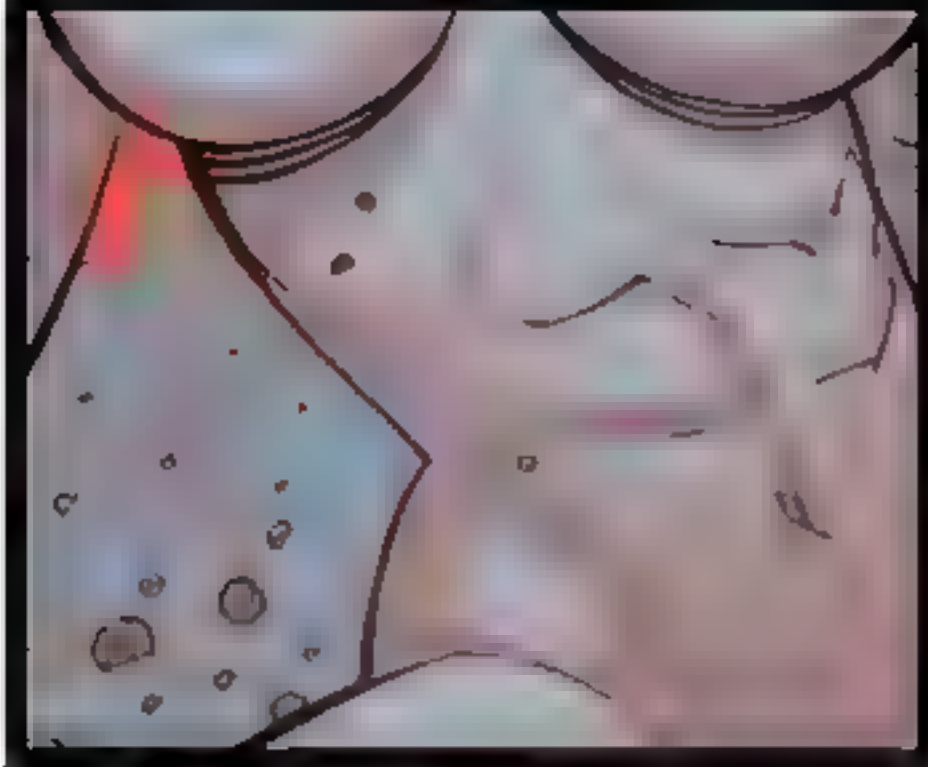
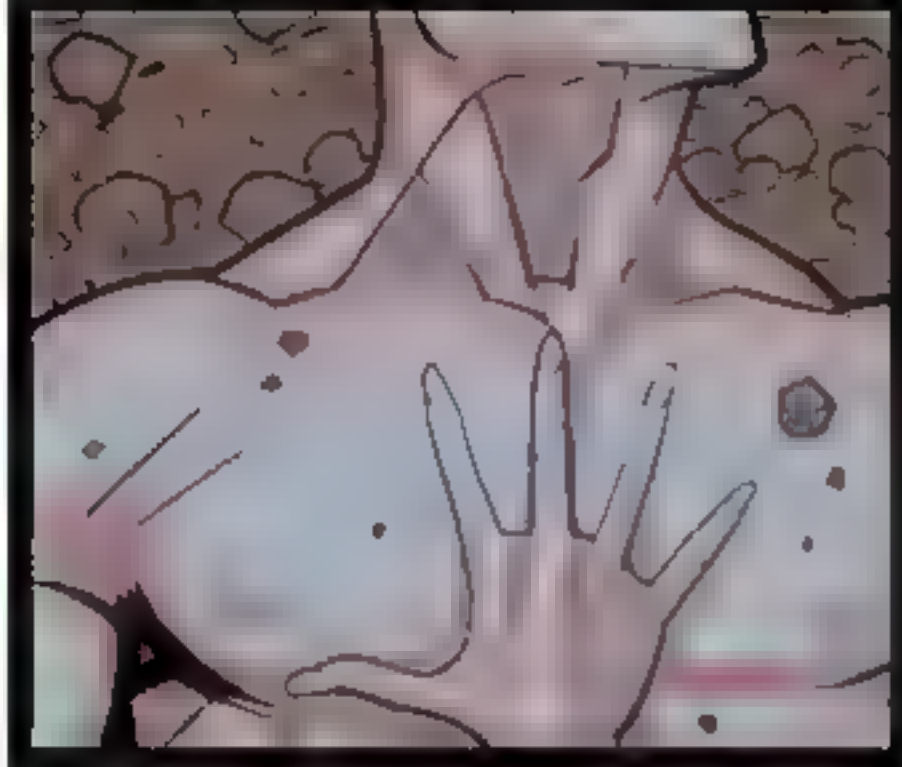
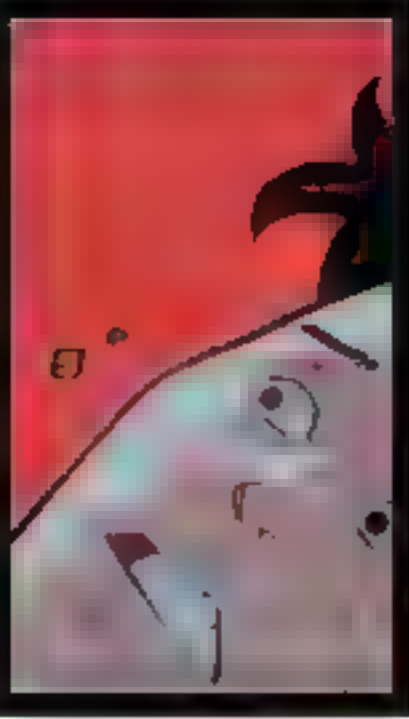
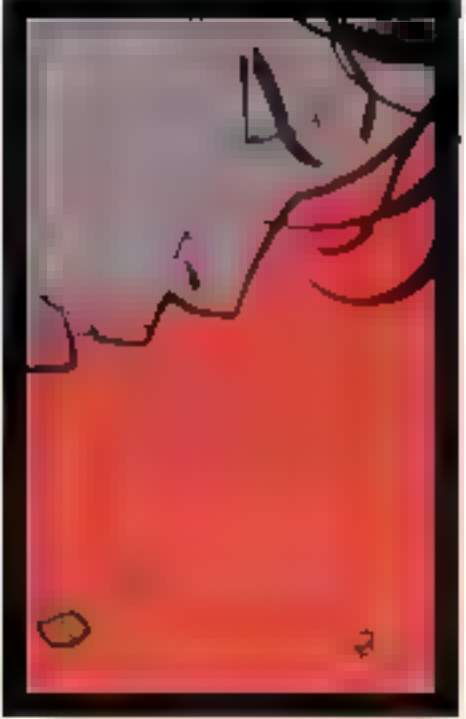
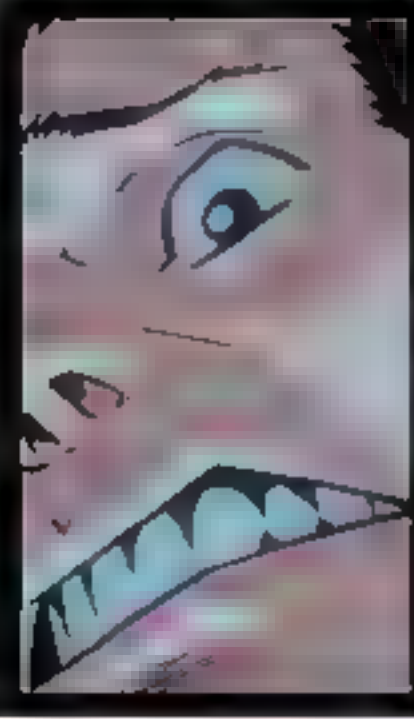
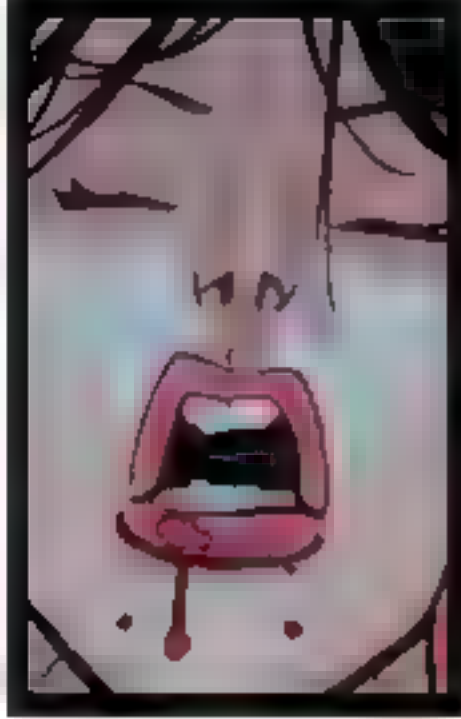
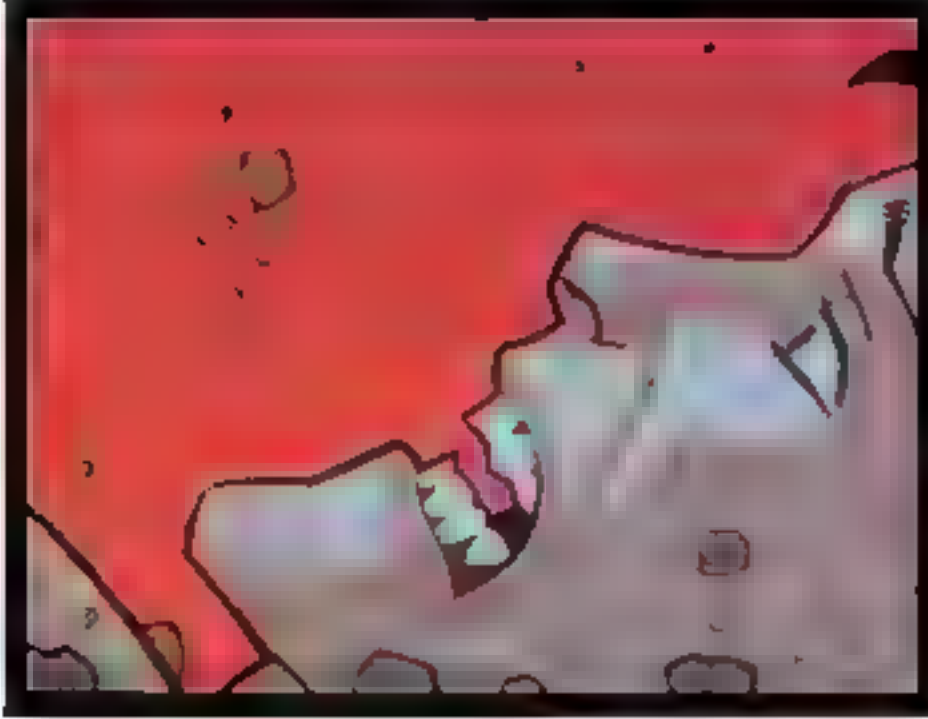
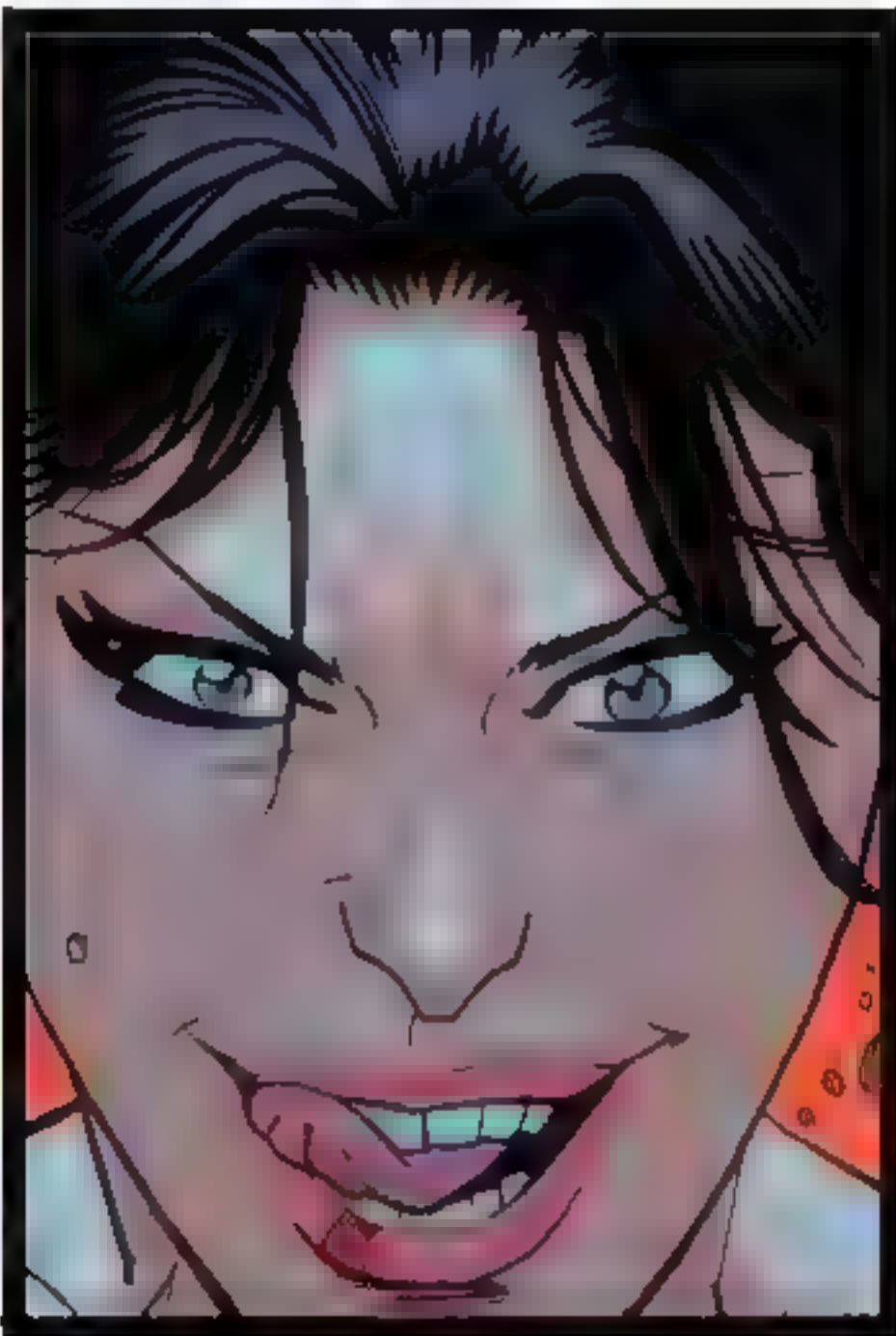
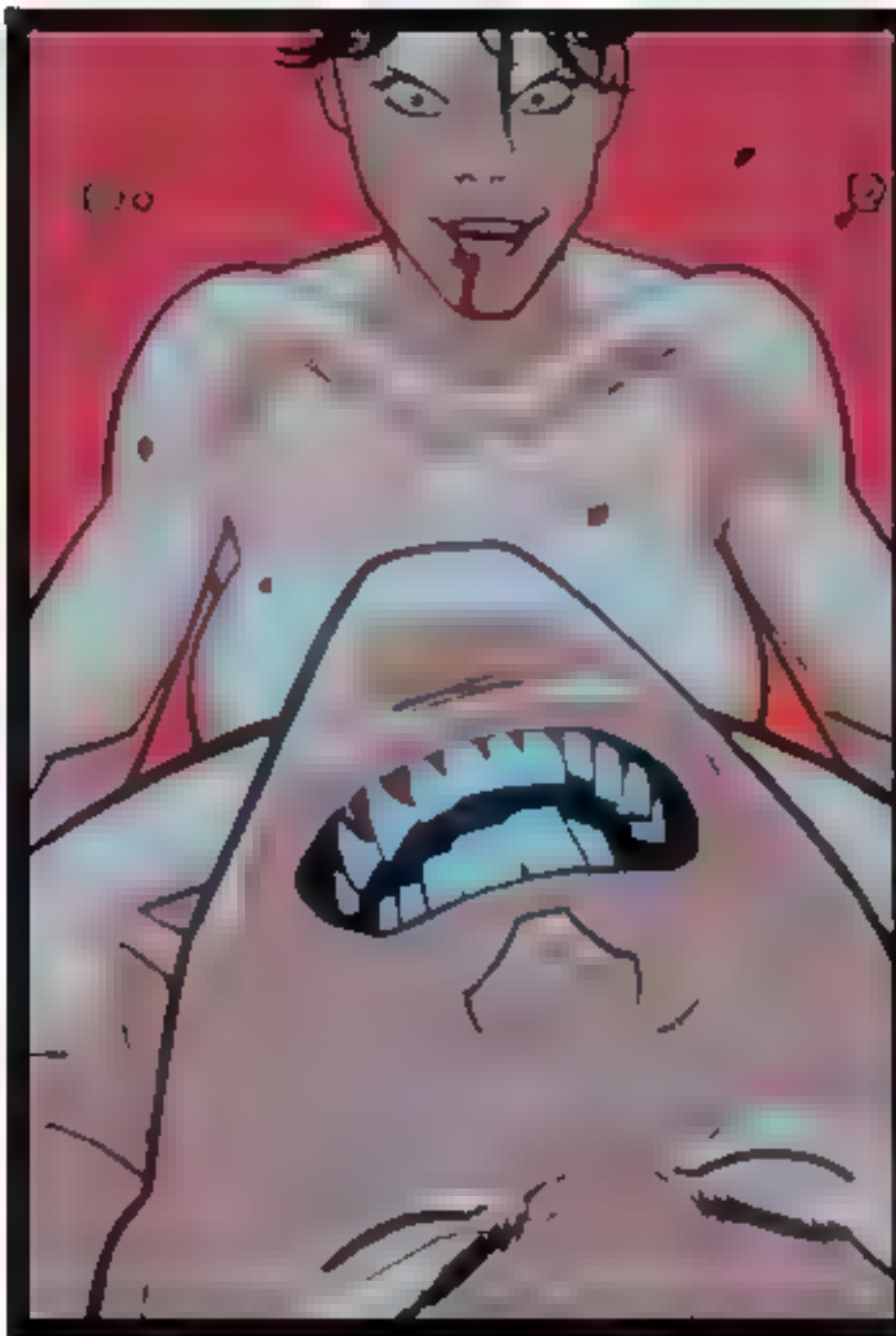
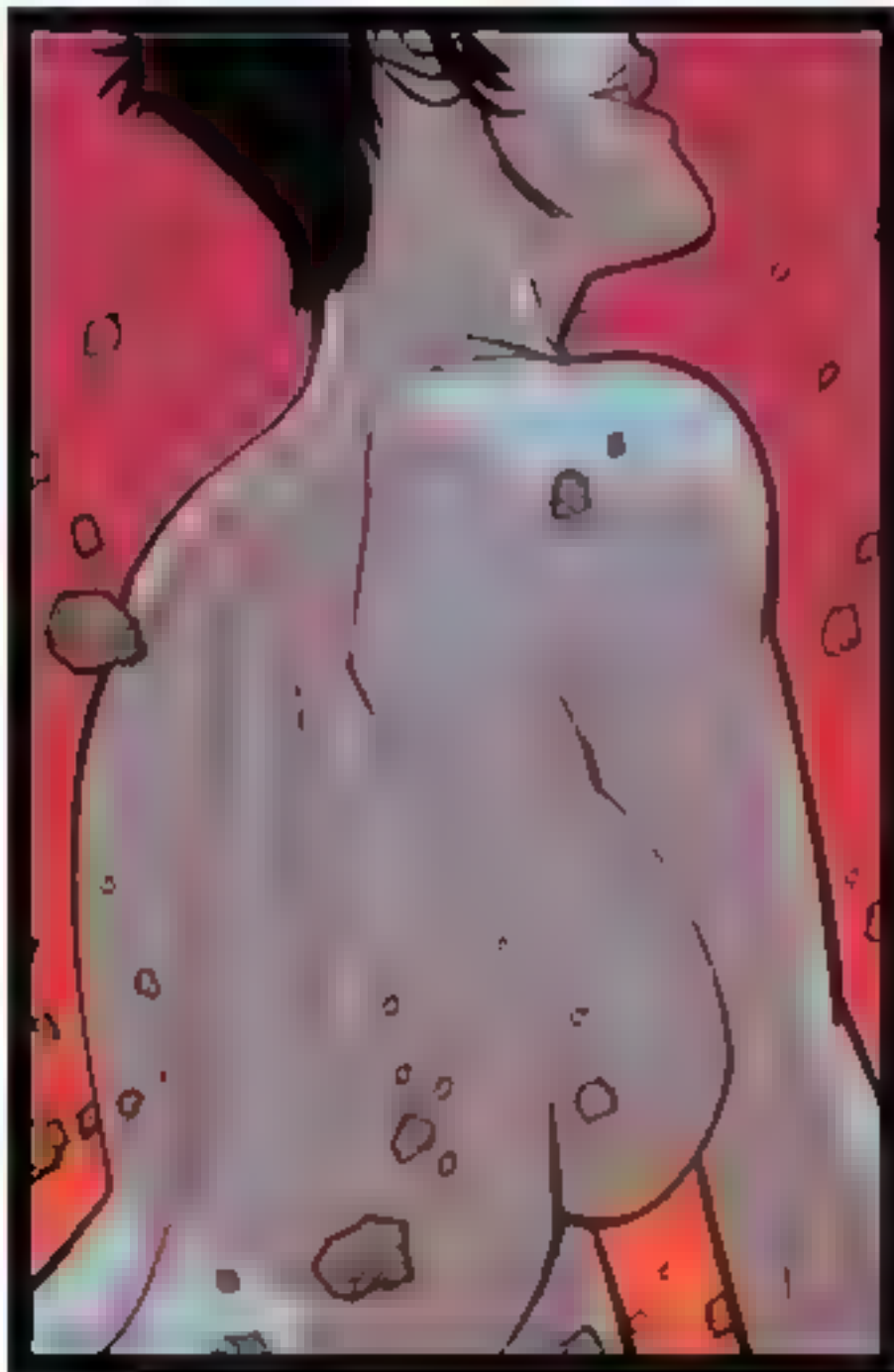
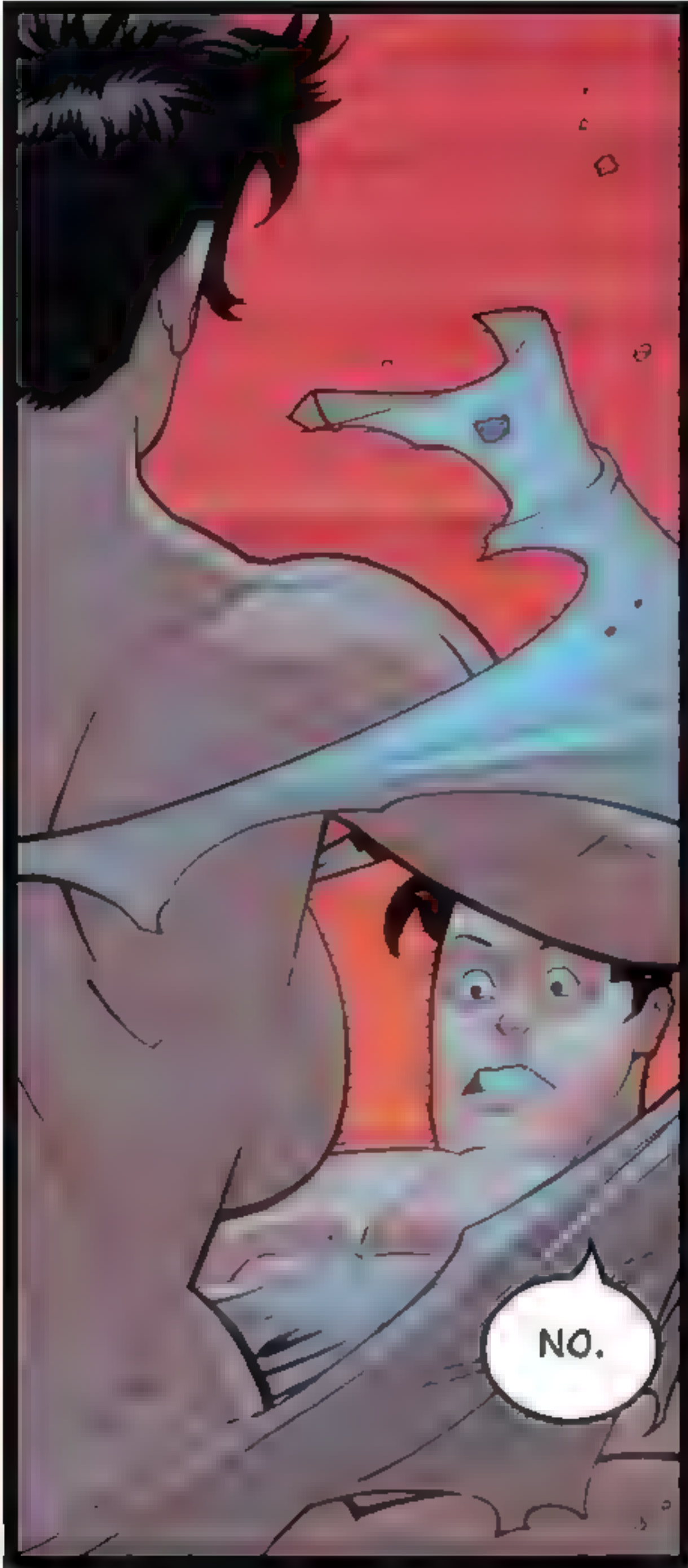
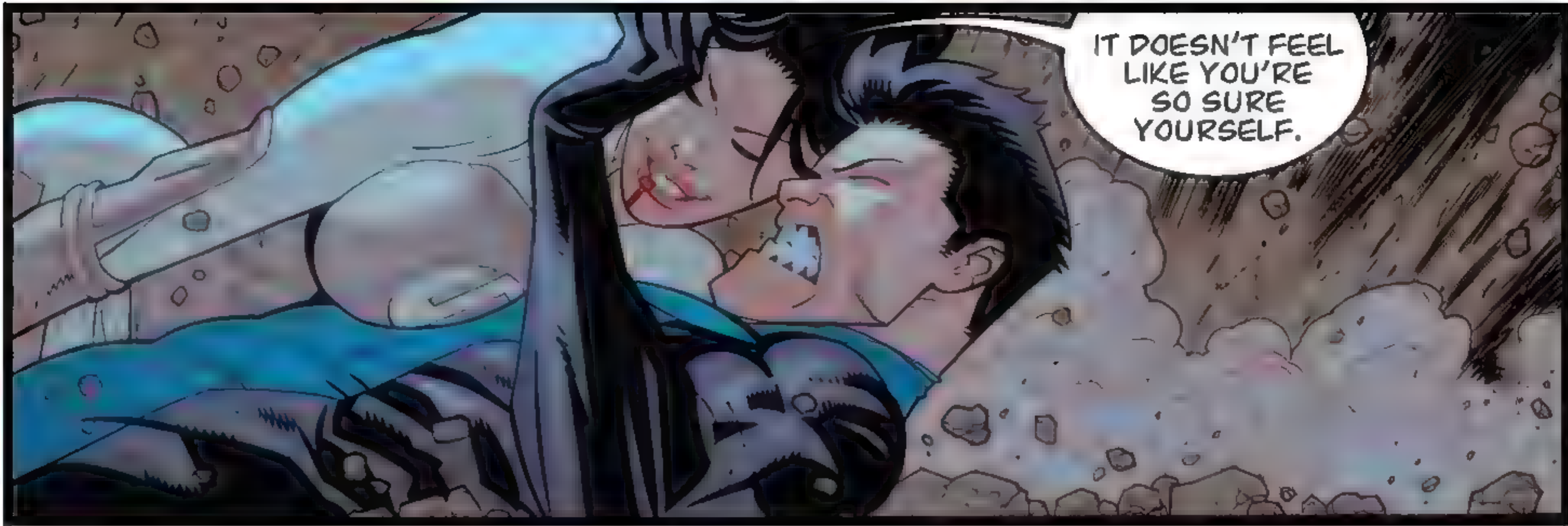


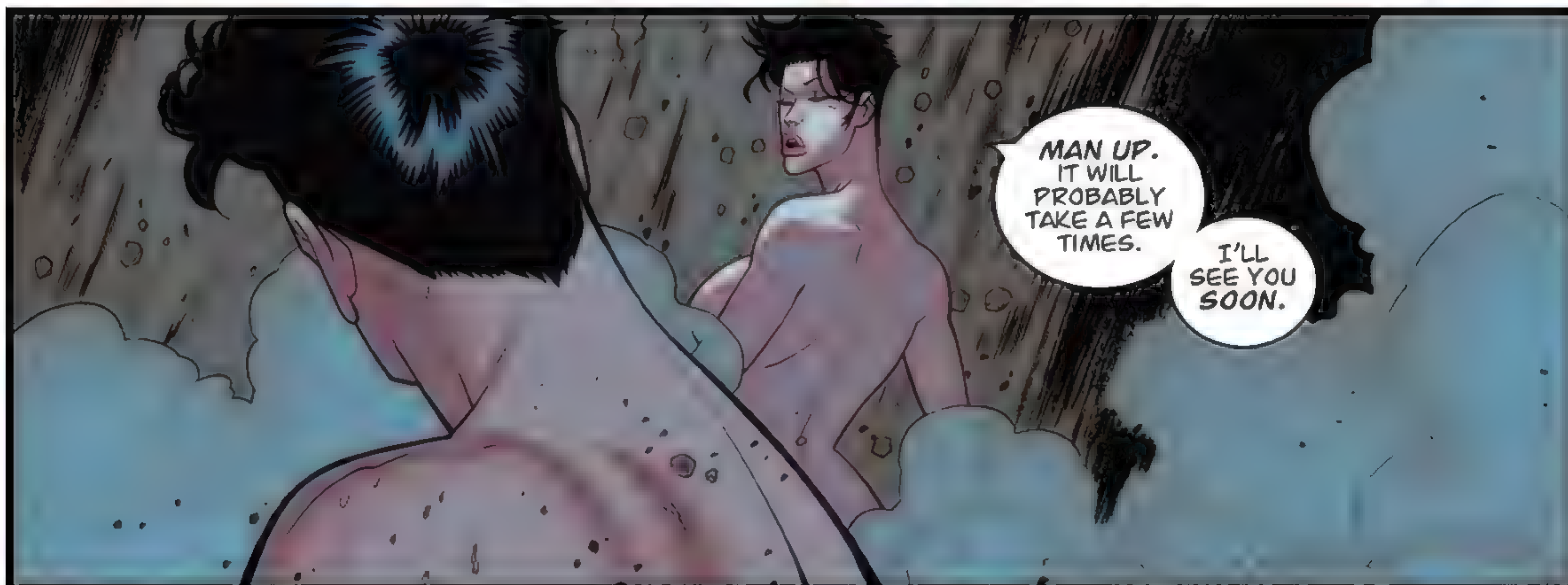
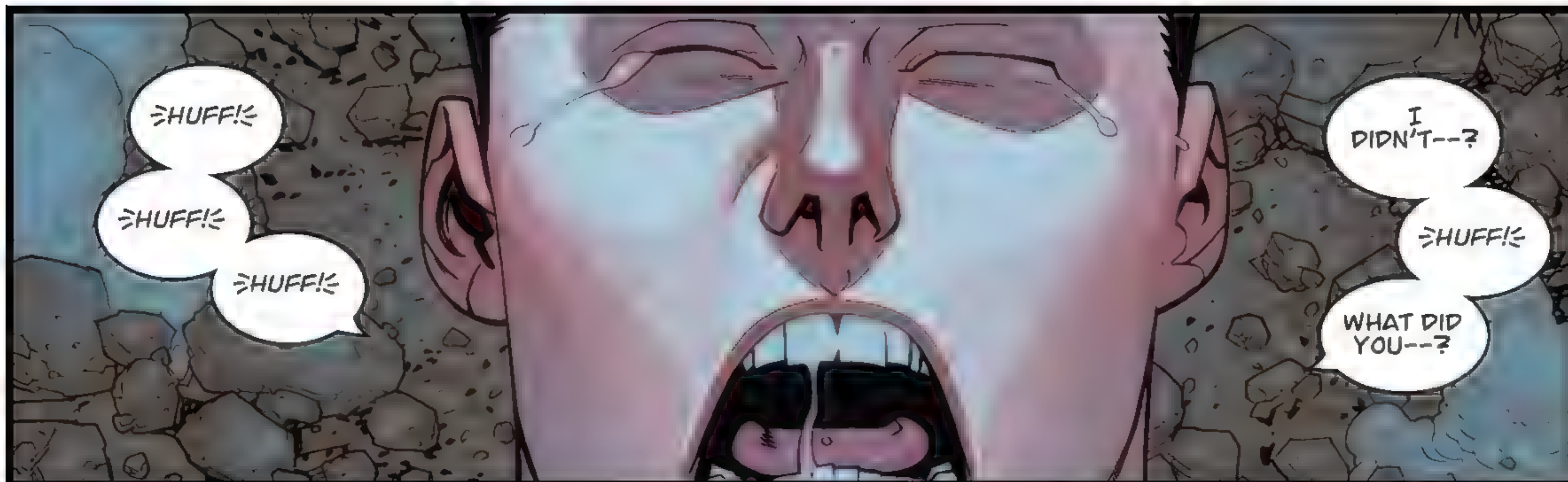












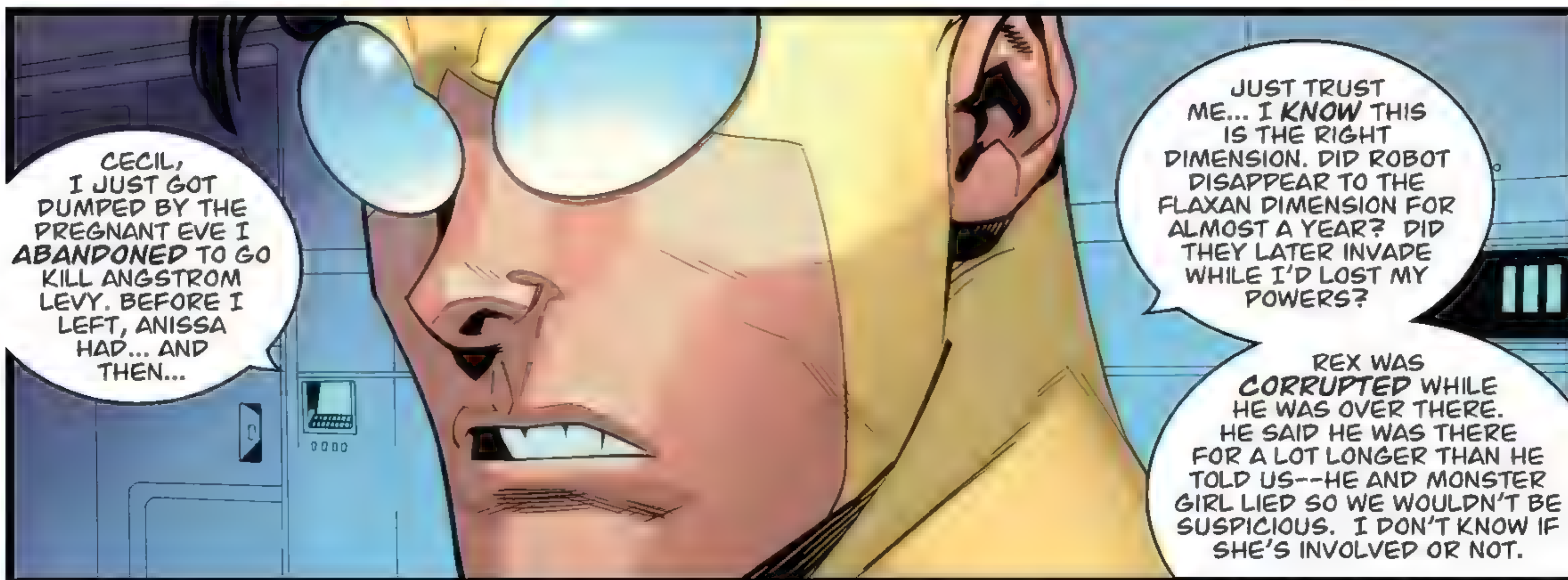
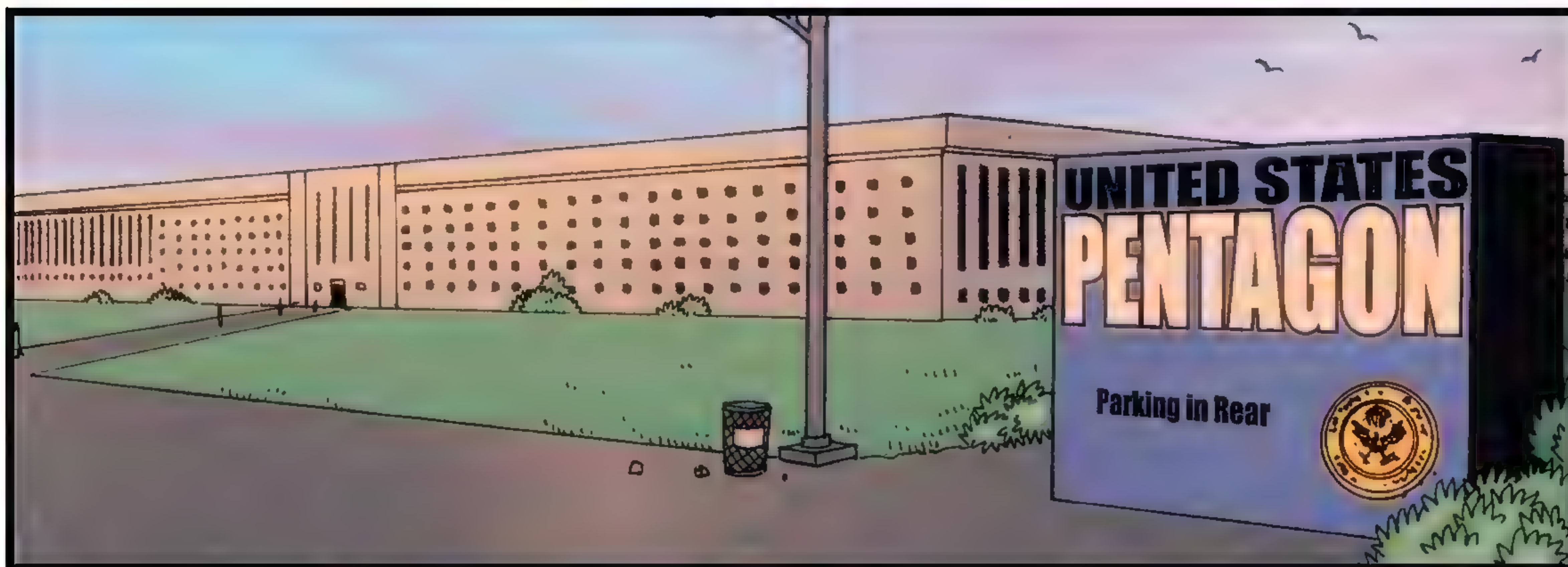


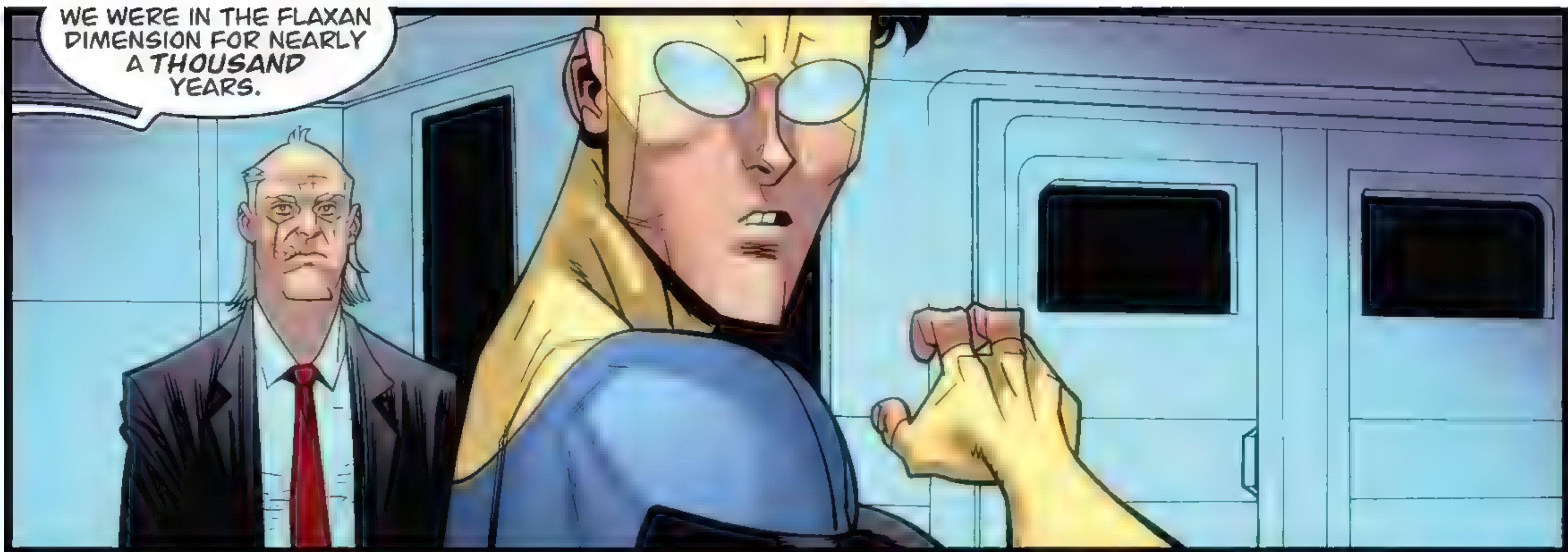


CHAPTER III

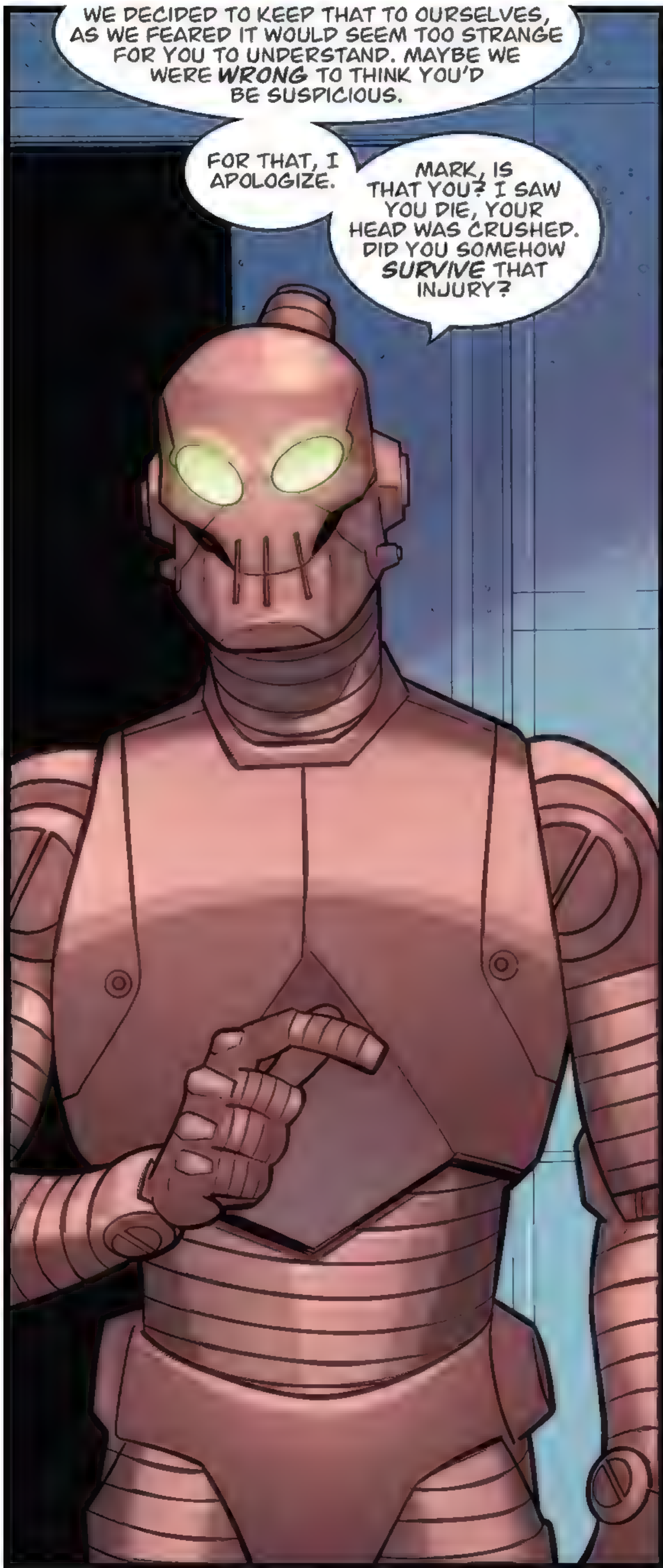








WE WERE IN THE FLAXAN DIMENSION FOR NEARLY A THOUSAND YEARS.



WE DECIDED TO KEEP THAT TO OURSELVES, AS WE FEARED IT WOULD SEEM TOO STRANGE FOR YOU TO UNDERSTAND. MAYBE WE WERE **WRONG** TO THINK YOU'D BE SUSPICIOUS.

FOR THAT, I APOLOGIZE.

MARK, IS THAT YOU? I SAW YOU DIE, YOUR HEAD WAS CRUSHED. DID YOU SOMEHOW **SURVIVE** THAT INJURY?



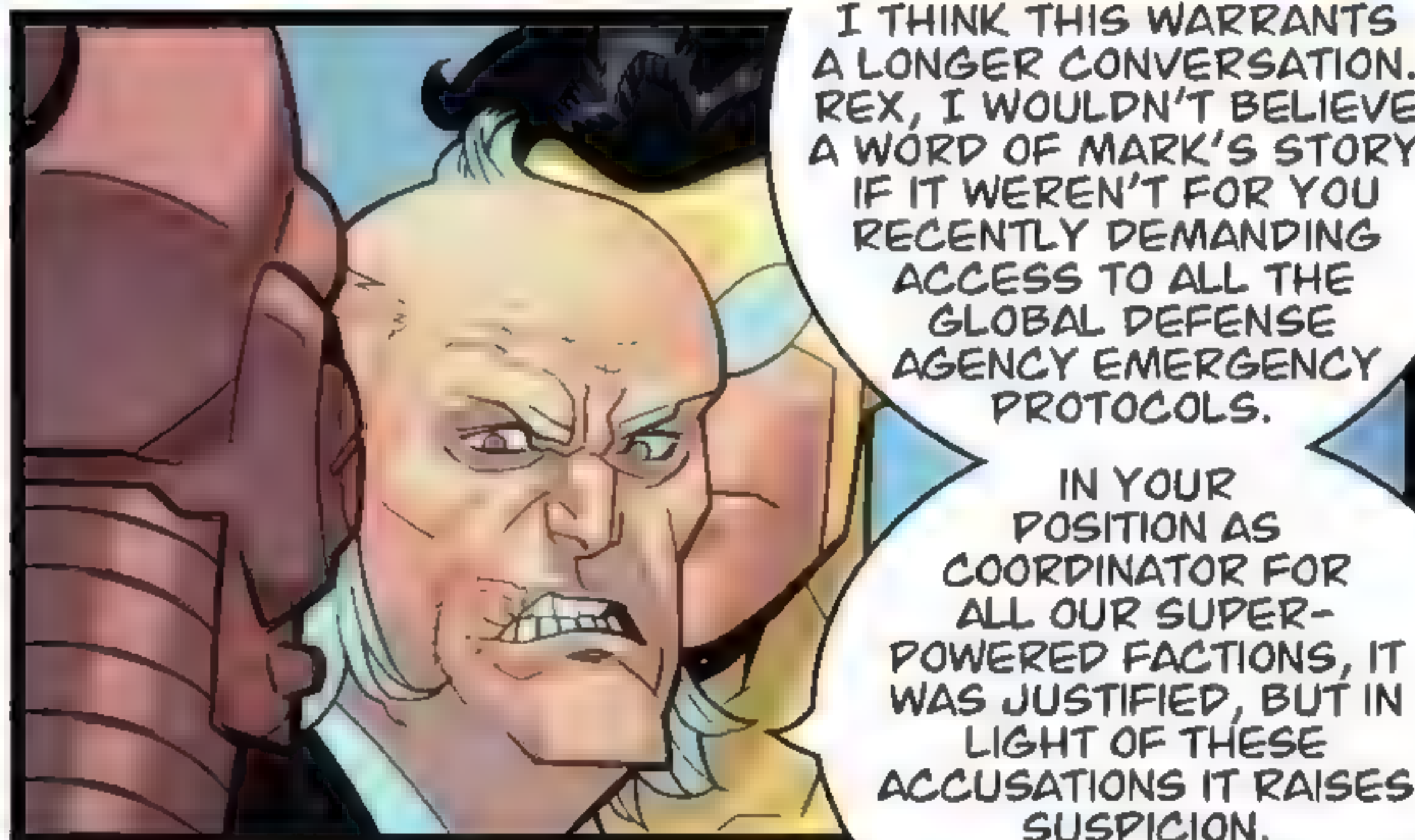
REALLY? THAT'S YOUR TACTIC? **DENIAL?**

I SAW WHAT YOU DID... AND I'VE ALREADY TOLD CECIL. SURRENDER BEFORE THIS GETS ANY WORSE FOR YOU.



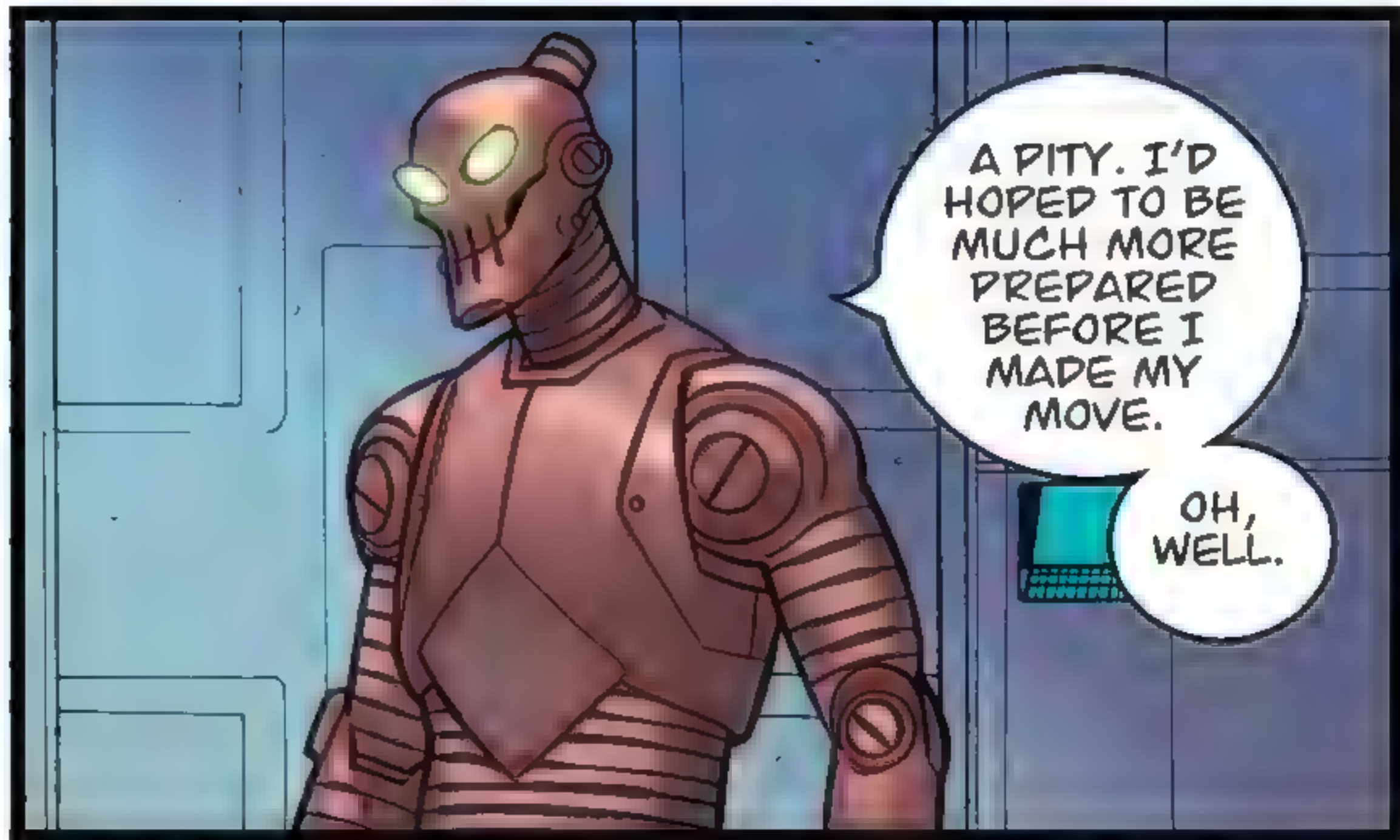
SURRENDER FOR WHAT?

YOU PLAN ON TAKING OVER THE PLANET. YOU TOLD ME THAT.



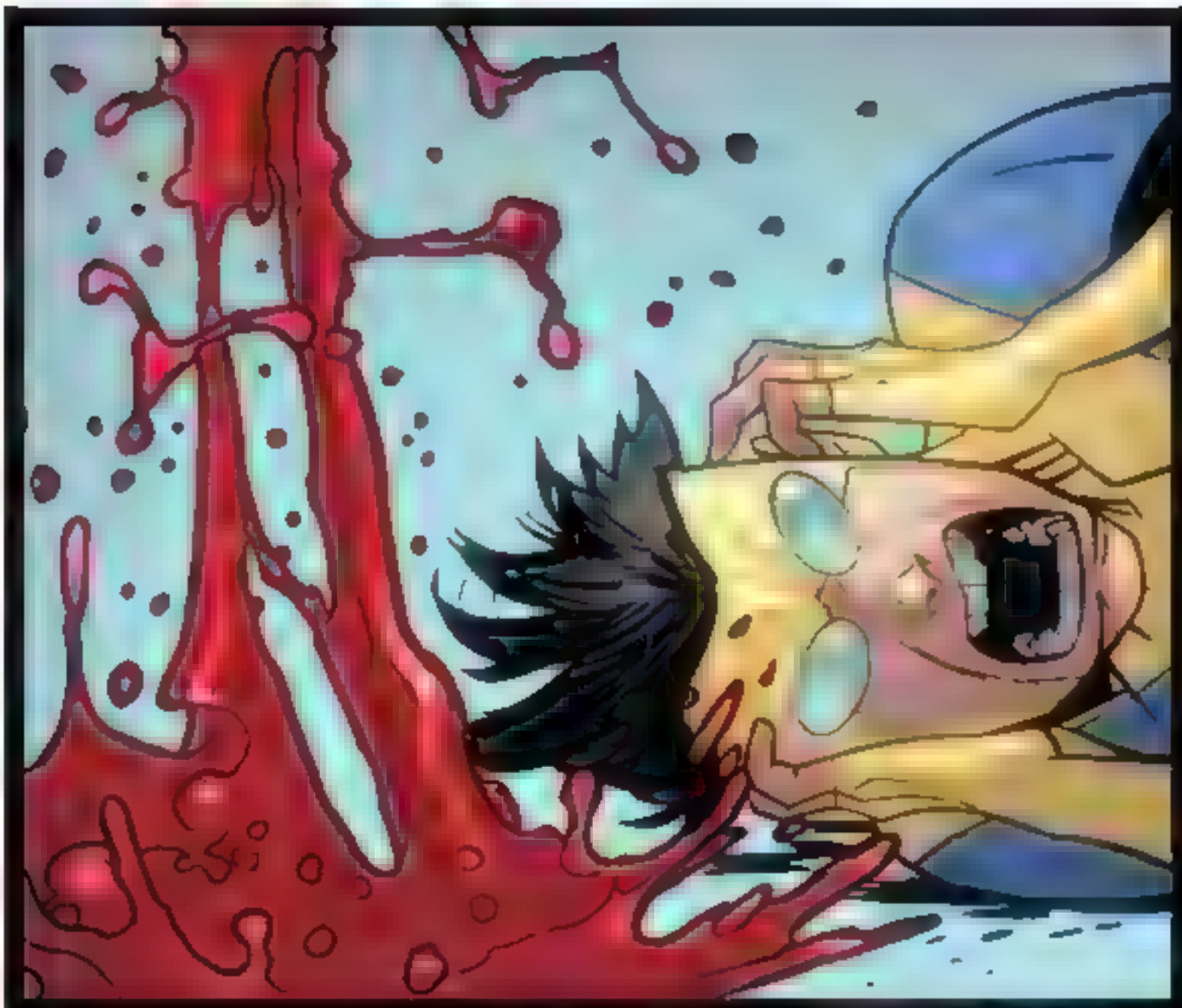
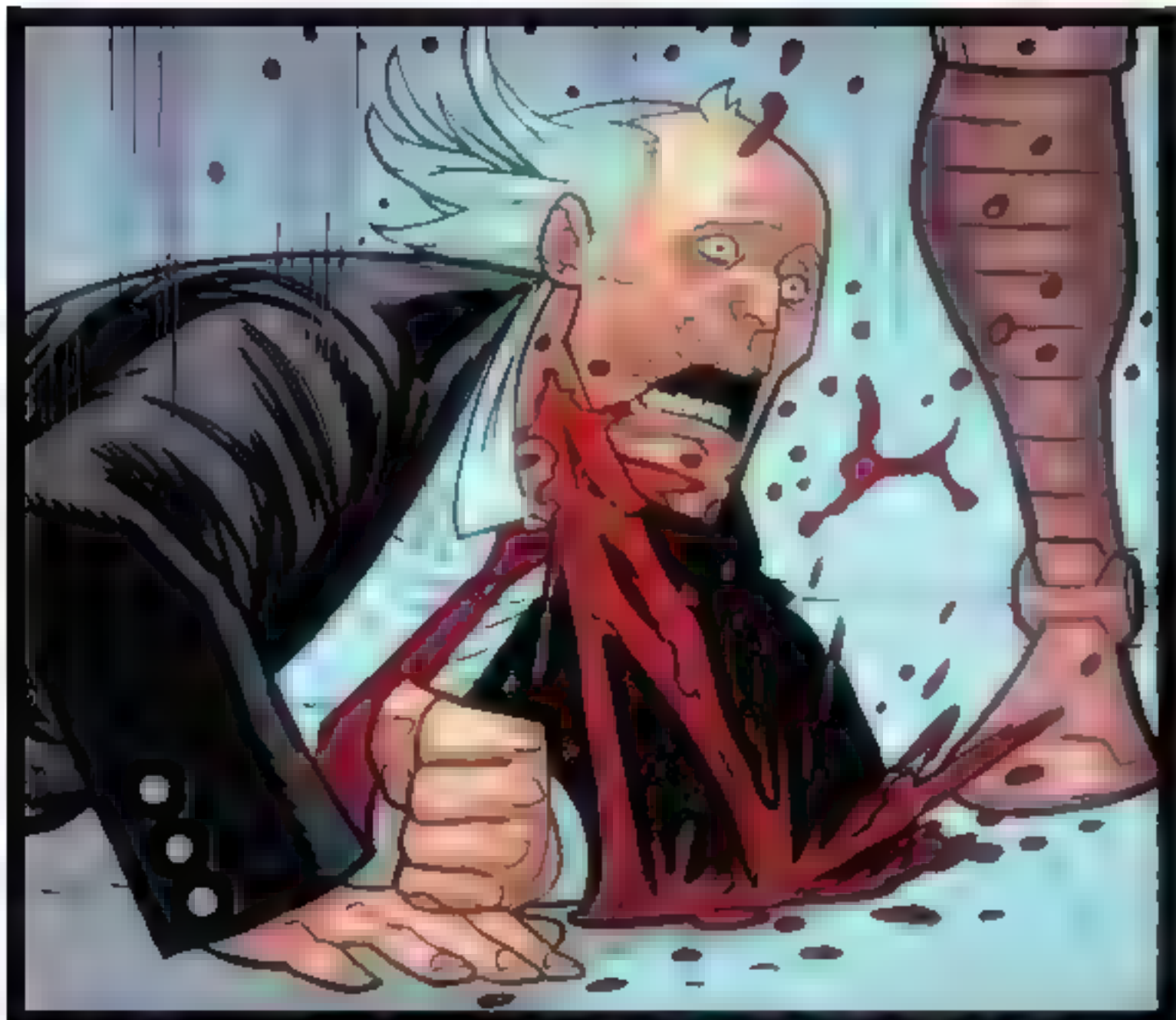
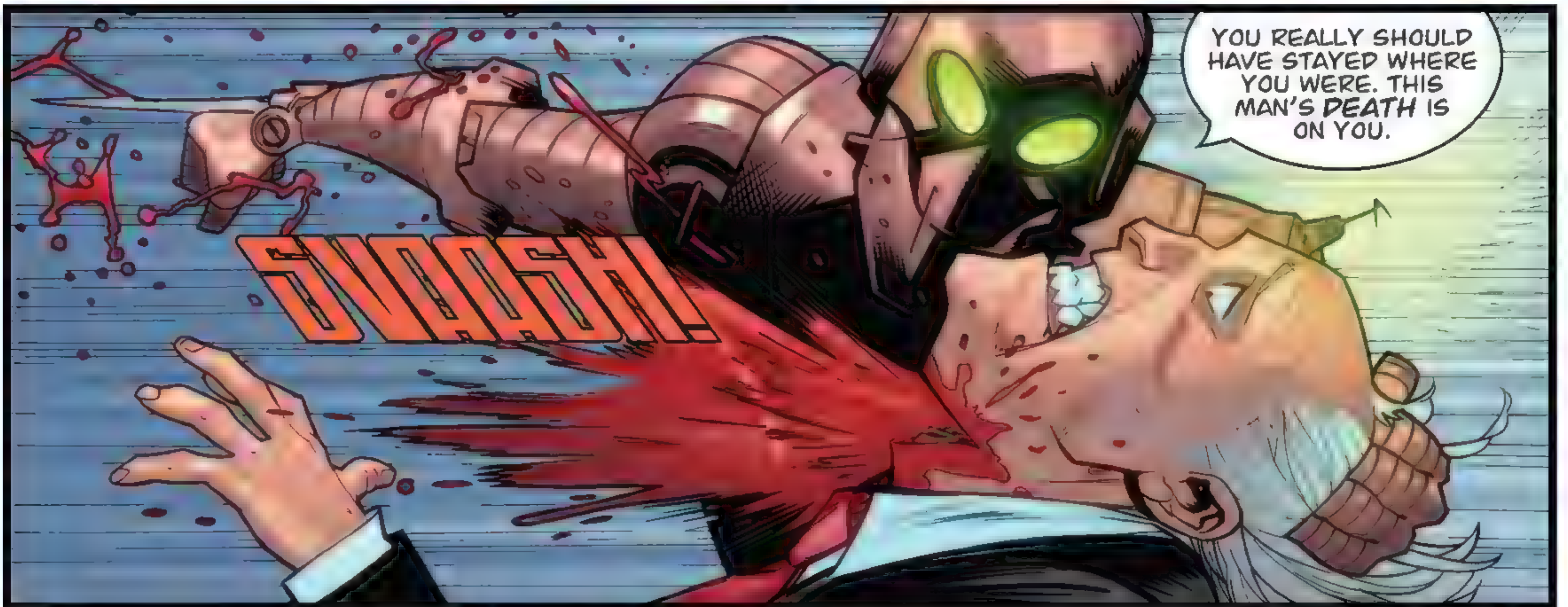
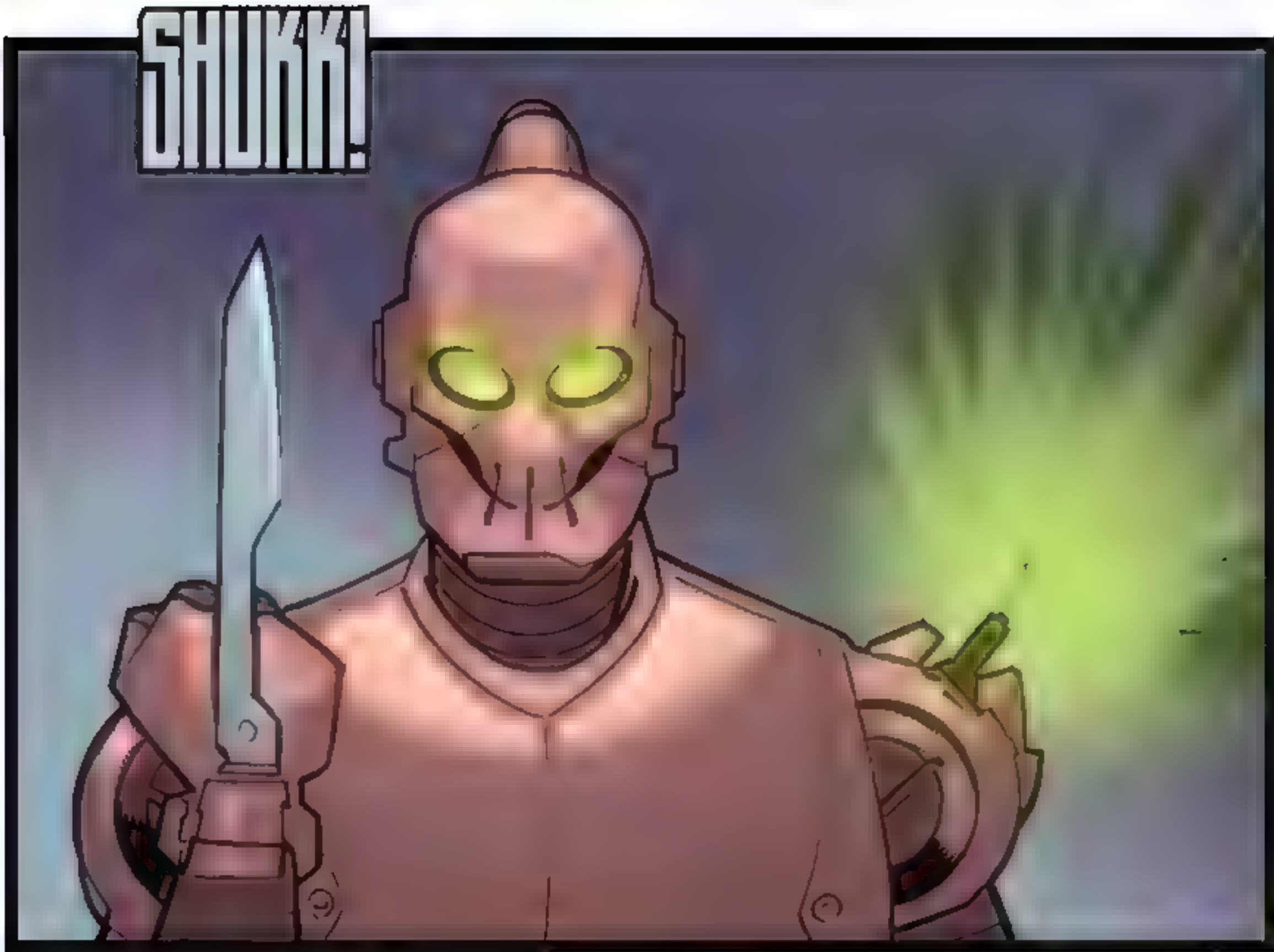
I THINK THIS WARRANTS A LONGER CONVERSATION. REX, I WOULDN'T BELIEVE A WORD OF MARK'S STORY IF IT WEREN'T FOR YOU RECENTLY DEMANDING ACCESS TO ALL THE GLOBAL DEFENSE AGENCY EMERGENCY PROTOCOLS.

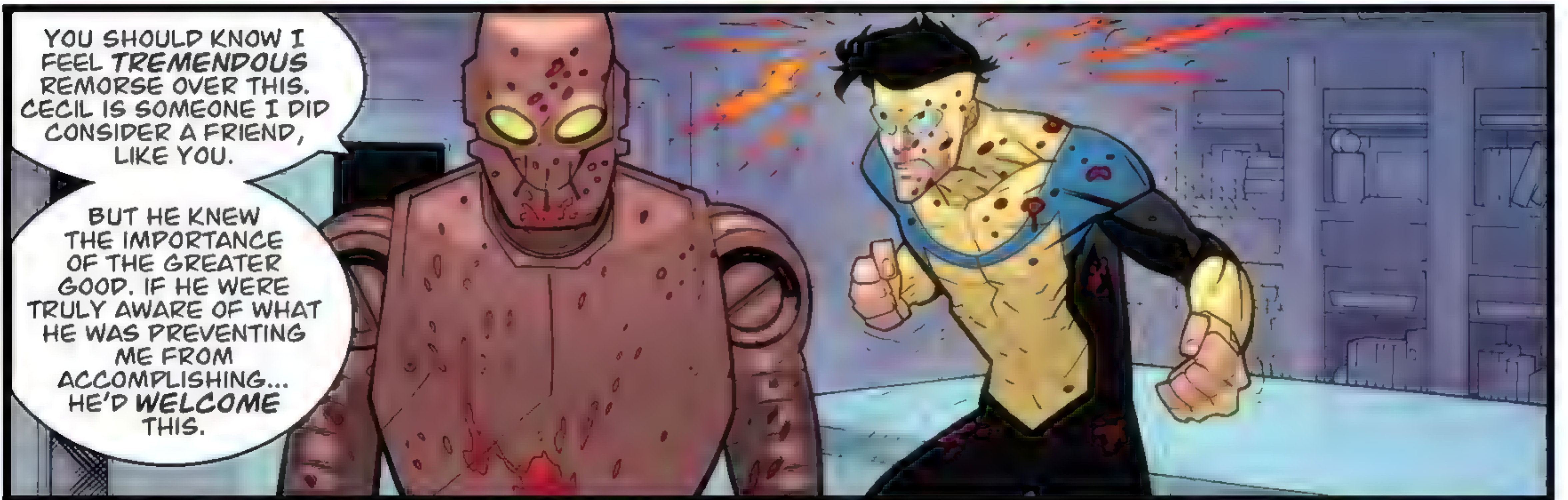
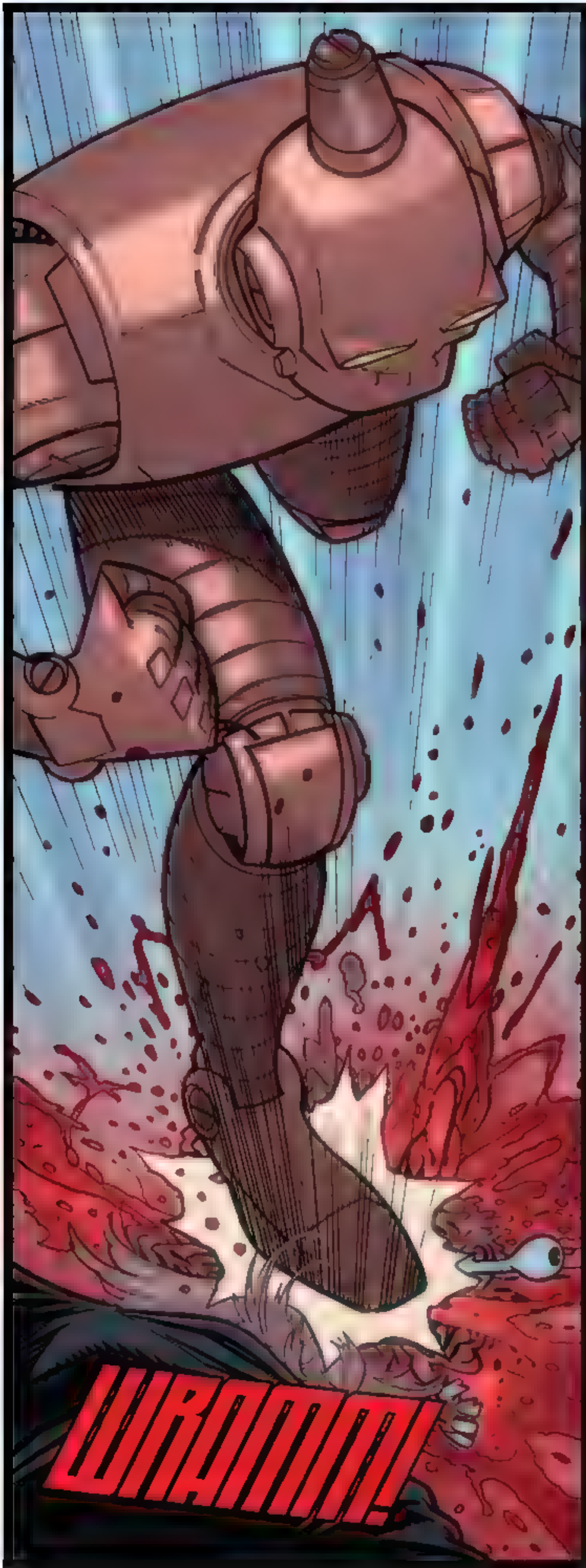
IN YOUR POSITION AS COORDINATOR FOR ALL OUR SUPER-POWERED FACTIONS, IT WAS JUSTIFIED, BUT IN LIGHT OF THESE ACCUSATIONS IT RAISES SUSPICION.

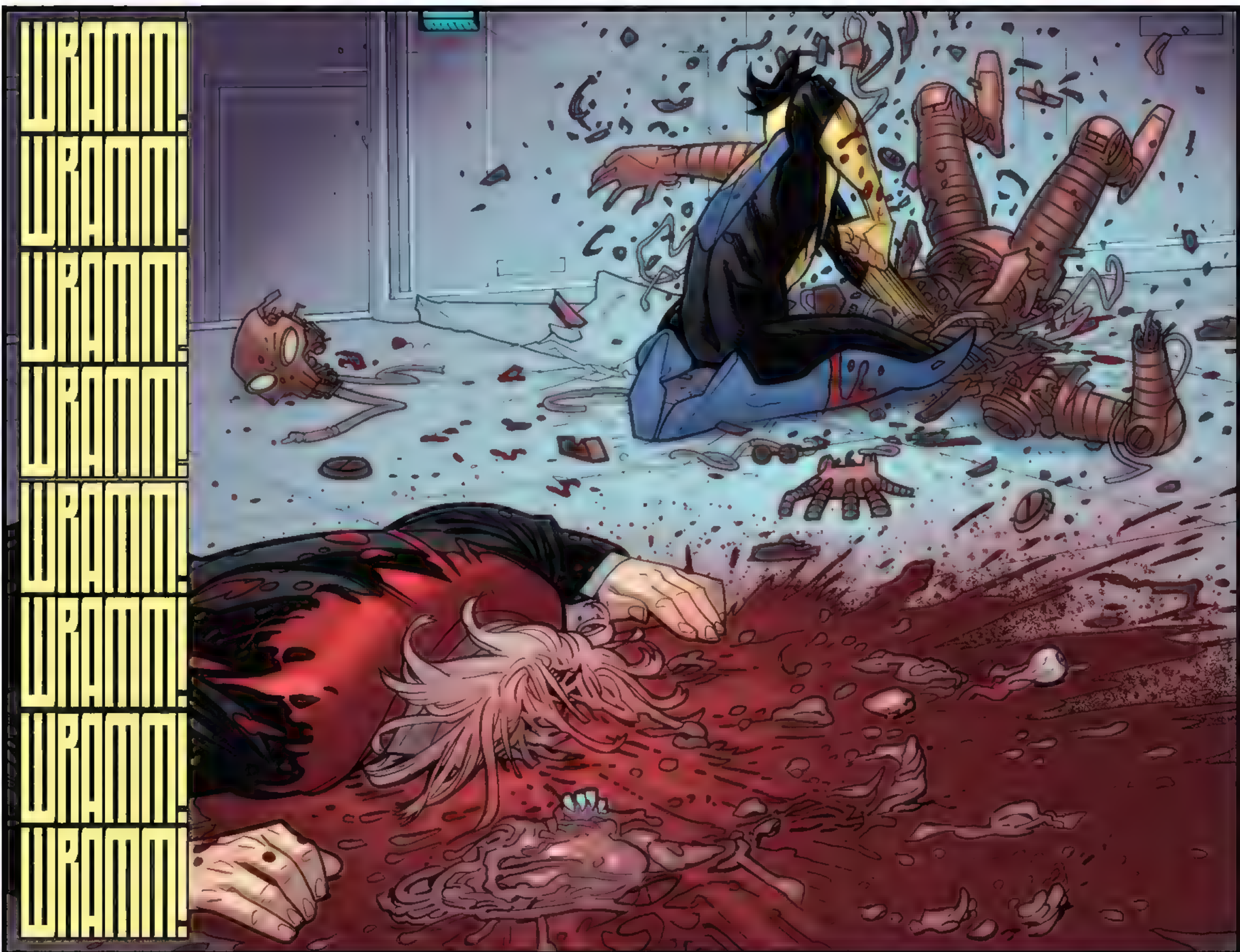
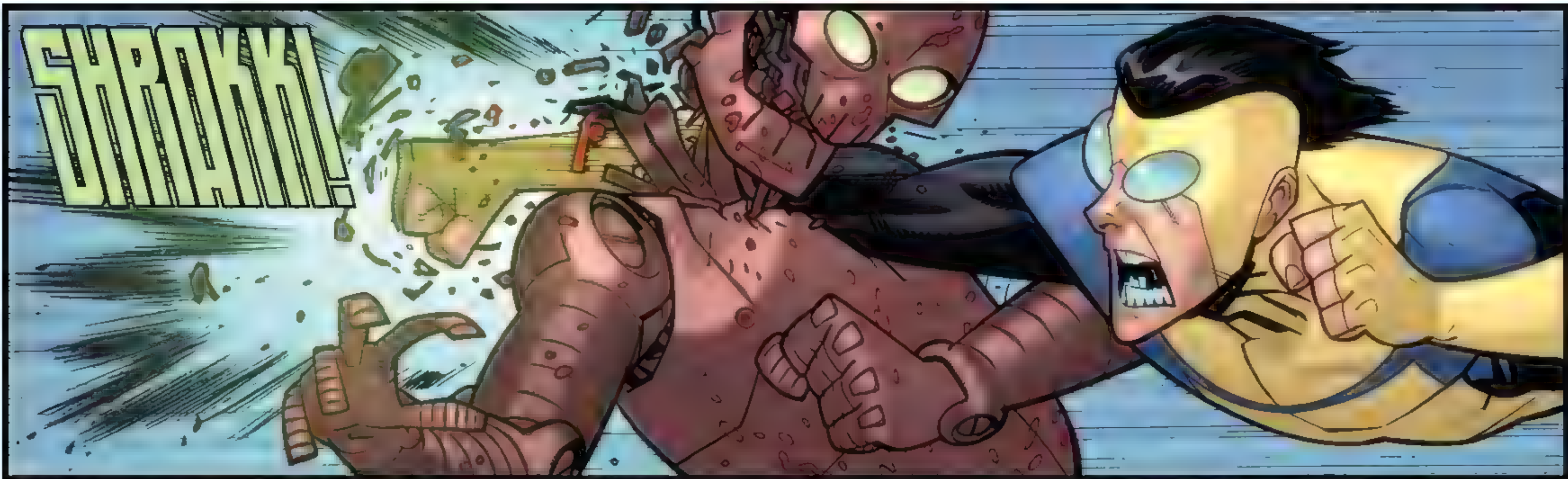


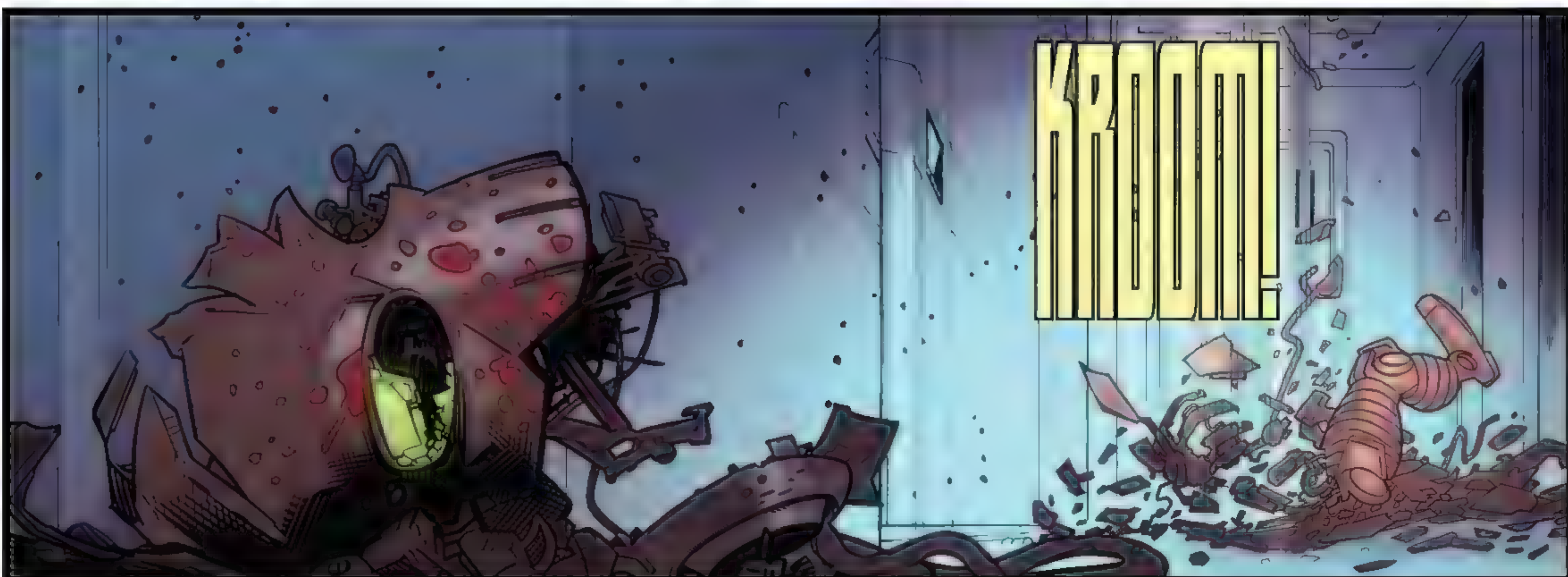
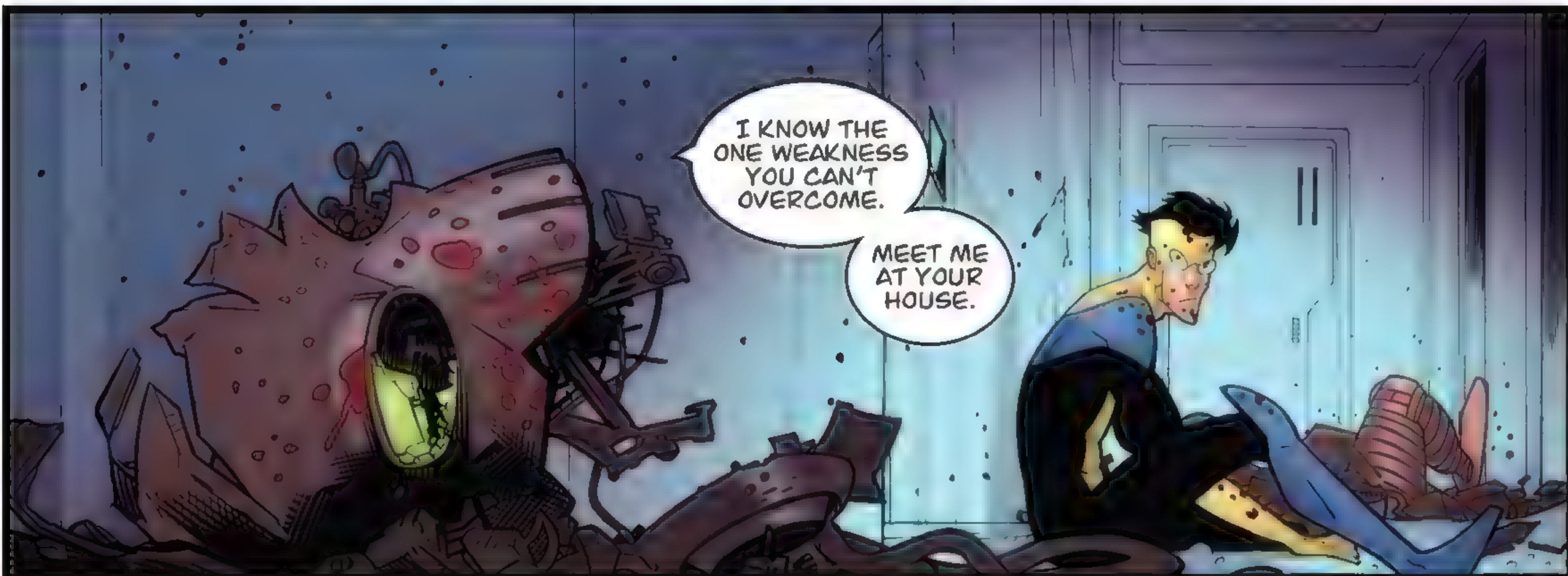
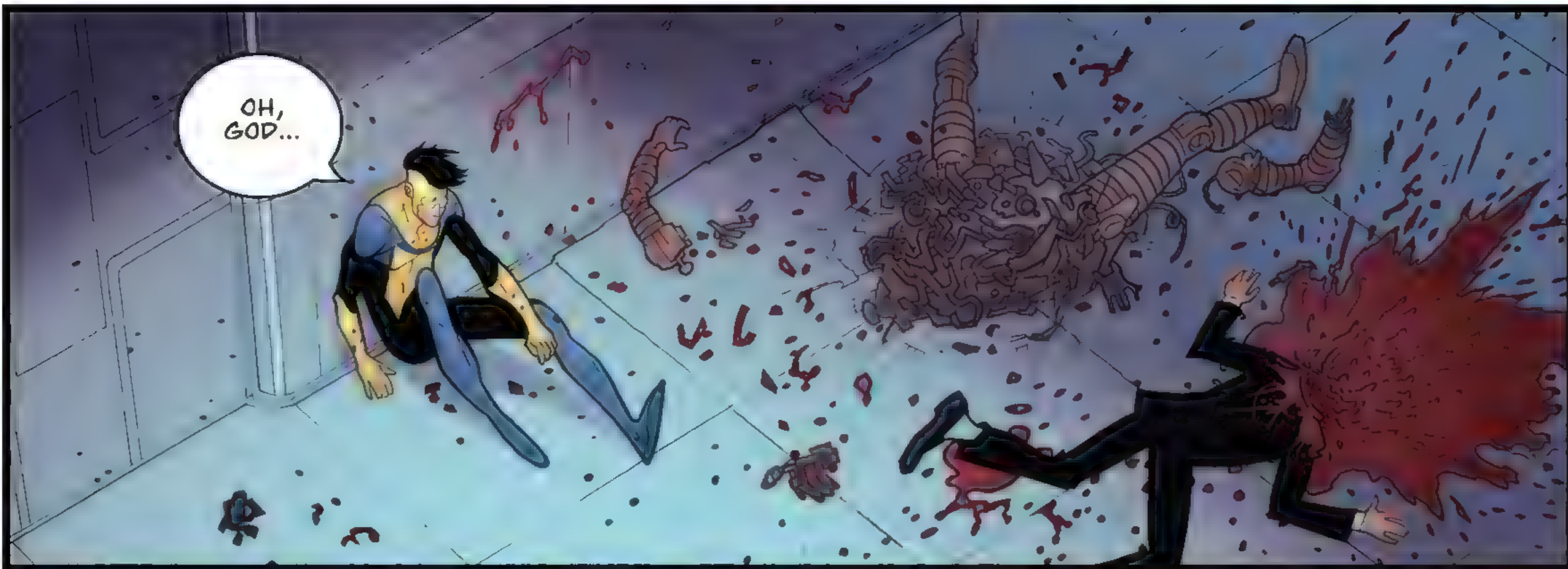
A PITY. I'D HOPED TO BE MUCH MORE PREPARED BEFORE I MADE MY MOVE.

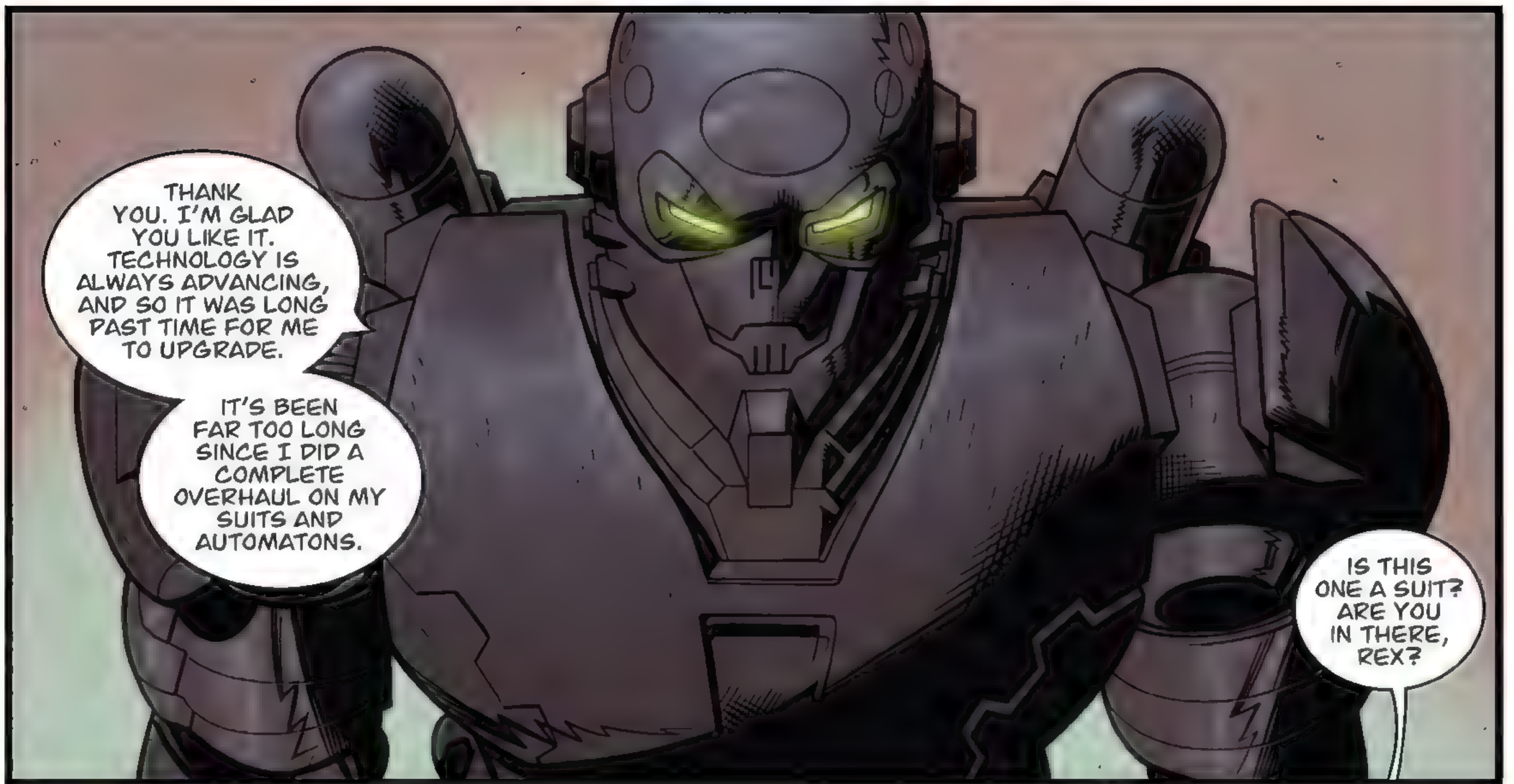
OH, WELL.











MARK... THIS IS YOUR LAST CHANCE. GIVE ME THE SAME TRUST YOU GAVE DINOSAURUS. DO YOU NOT KNOW ME BETTER THAN YOU KNEW HIM?

THIS WILL BE BETTER FOR EVERYONE IF WE WORK TOGETHER. I PROMISE YOU WE CAN MAKE THIS WORLD A BETTER PLACE.

TELL ME YOU'RE HAPPY WITH THE WORLD AS IT IS. THE HUNGER, THE POVERTY, THE VIOLENCE, THE MISERY... THIS WORLD IS FLAWED. I CAN MAKE IT PERFECT.

I'VE DONE IT BEFORE. I KNOW HOW THIS SOUNDS, BUT I'VE SEEN IT. WITH A JUST RULER IN CONTROL OF EVERYTHING... IT ELIMINATES SO MUCH POTENTIAL FOR HARM IN THE WORLD.

AND DON'T YOU KNOW ME TO BE A JUST PERSON?

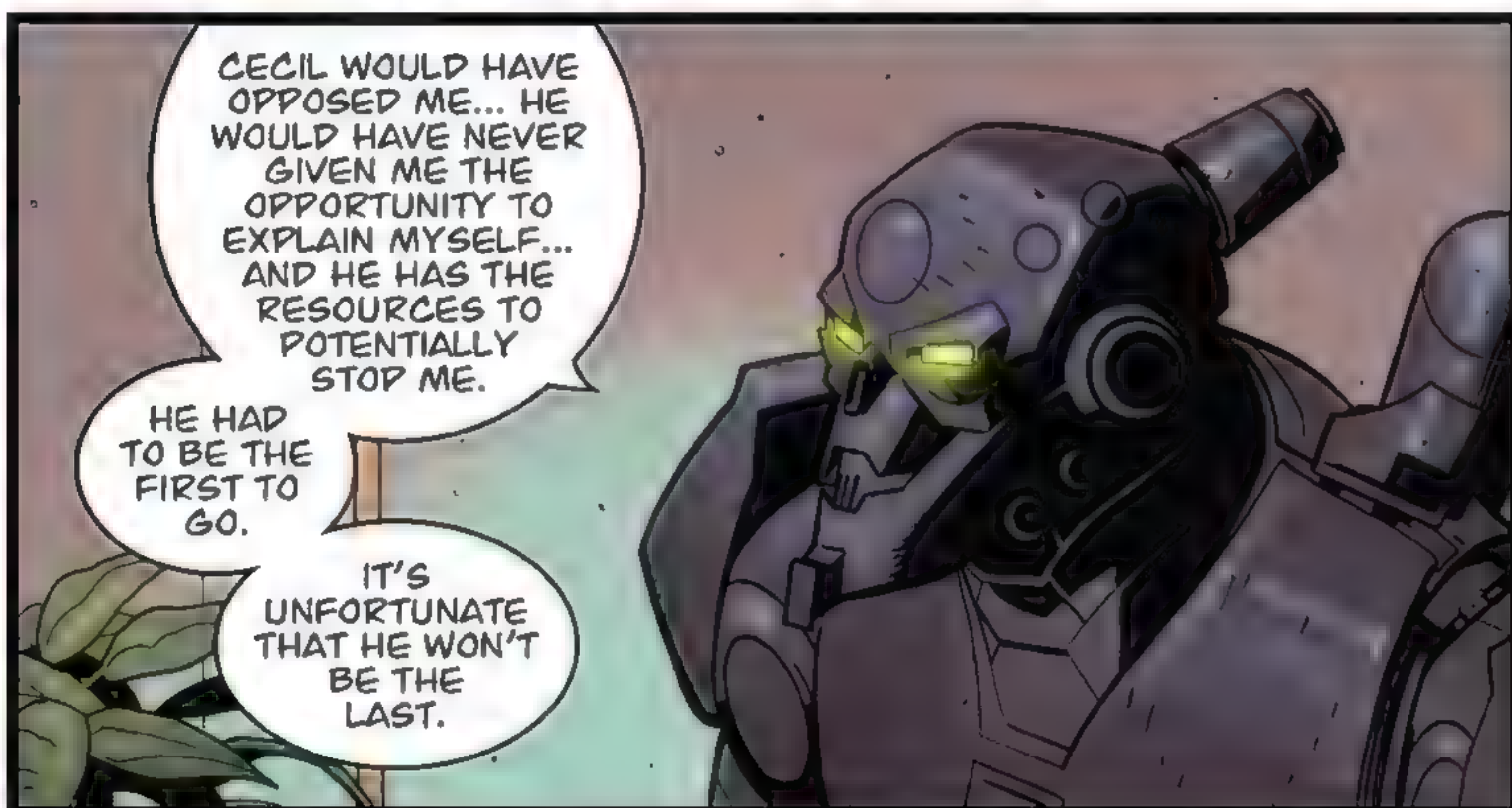


I JUST WATCHED YOU MURDER CECIL!

THIS IS HIS BLOOD ON ME!



OH, GOD--?!



CECIL WOULD HAVE OPPOSED ME... HE WOULD HAVE NEVER GIVEN ME THE OPPORTUNITY TO EXPLAIN MYSELF... AND HE HAS THE RESOURCES TO POTENTIALLY STOP ME.

HE HAD TO BE THE FIRST TO GO.

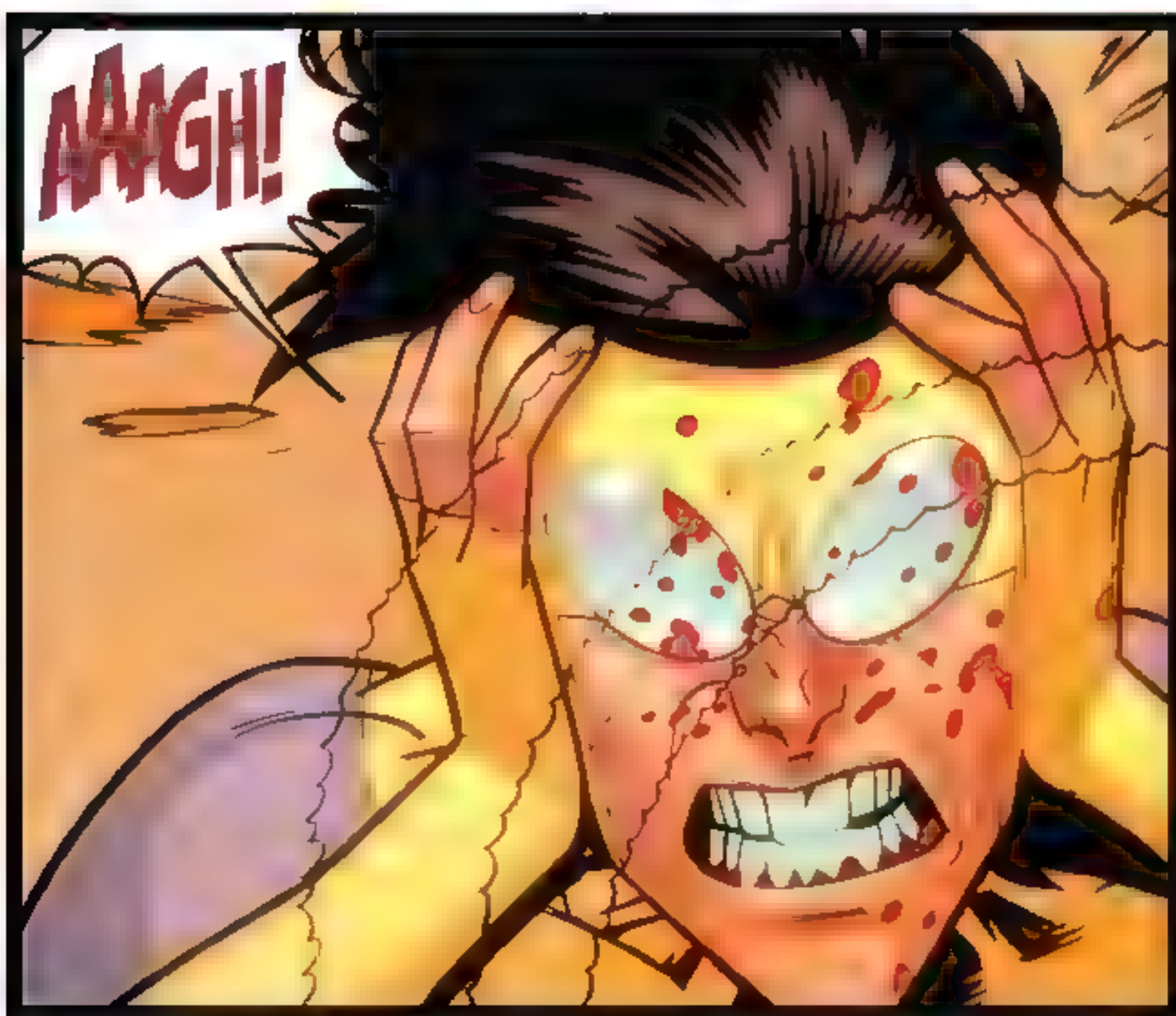
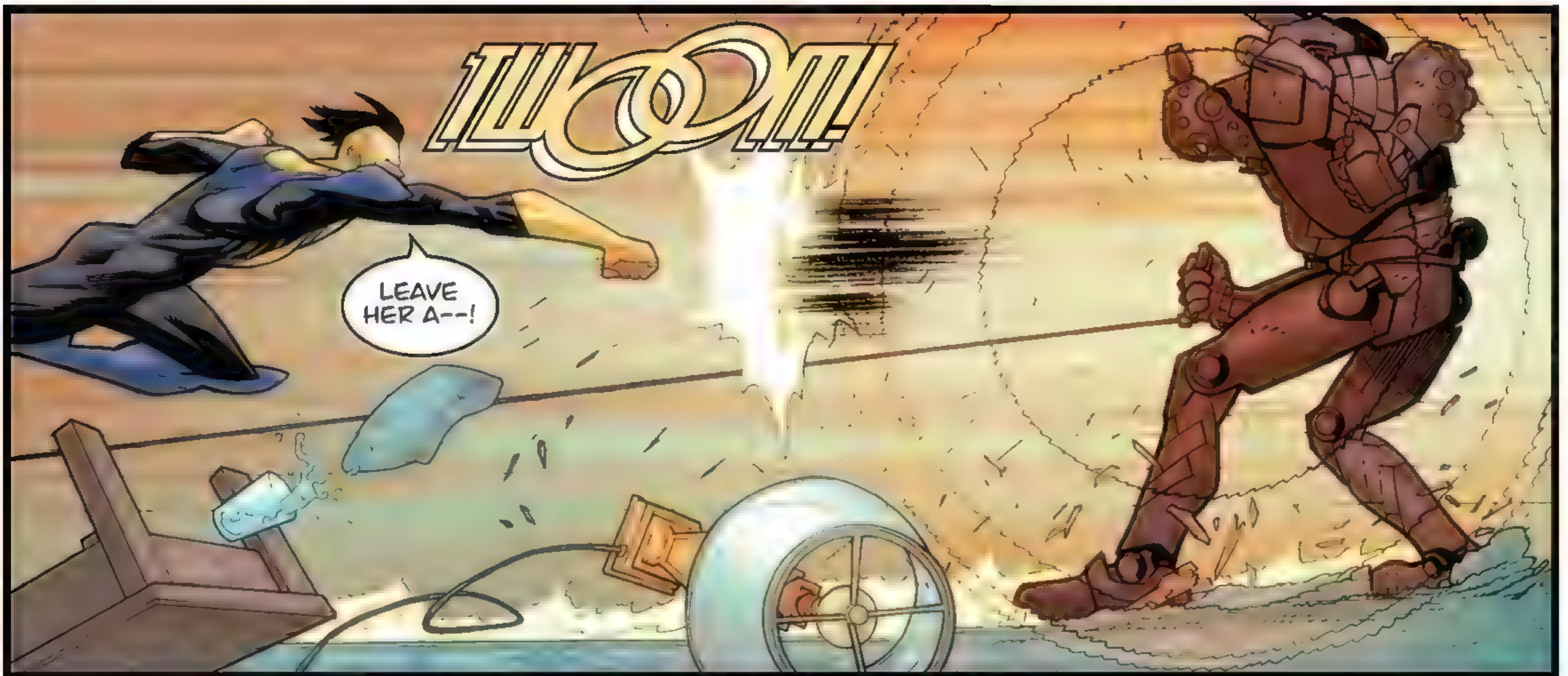
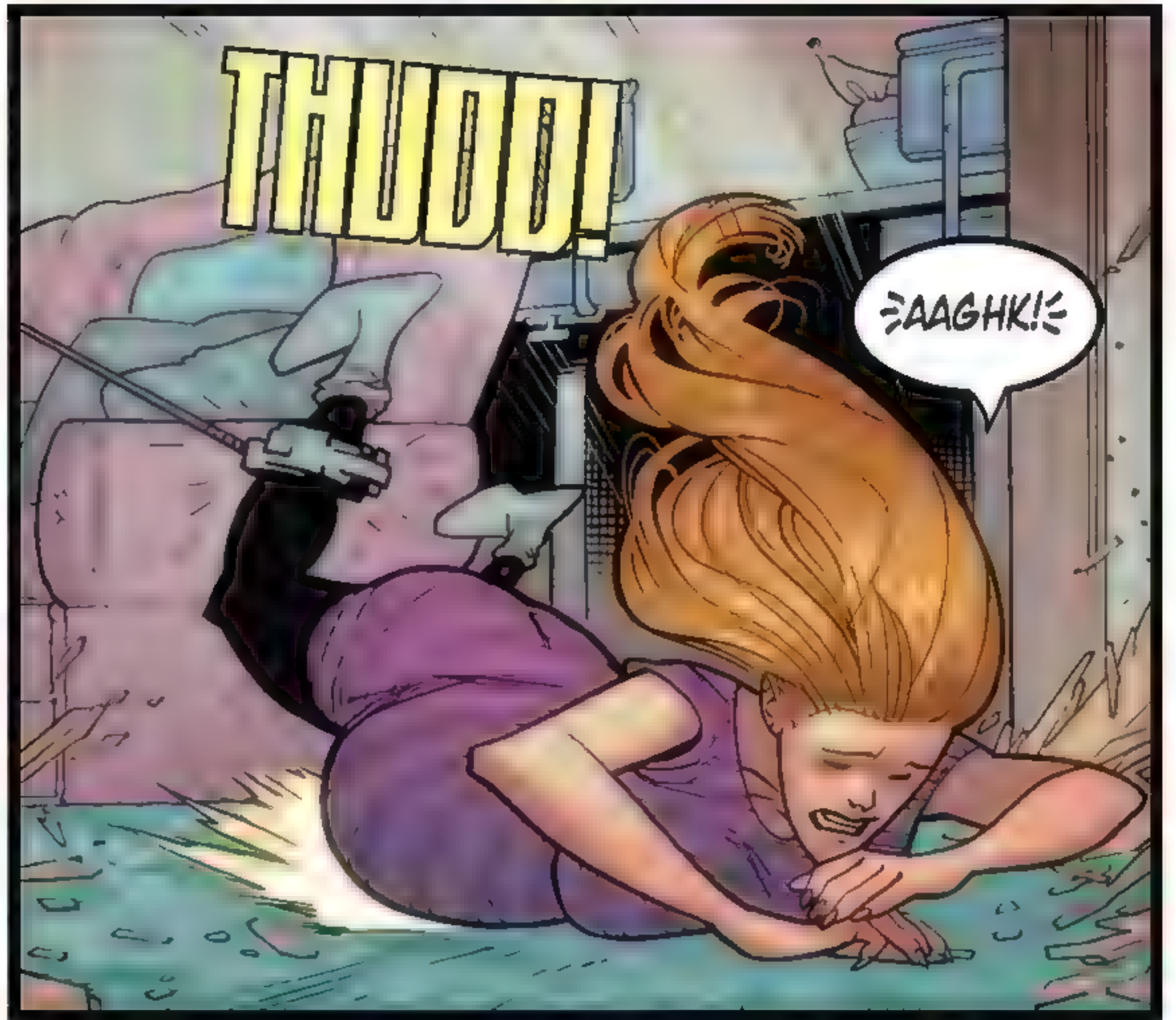
IT'S UNFORTUNATE THAT HE WON'T BE THE LAST.



YOU'VE LOST YOUR MIND. YOU'RE A MANIAC. YOU KNOW I HAVE TO STOP YOU.

I KNOW WHAT HAPPENS NEXT... AND YOU'RE NOT GOING TO LIKE IT.

REX, DON'T DO THIS. NOT HERE... THIS IS CRAZY. WE DON'T HAVE TO FIGHT.

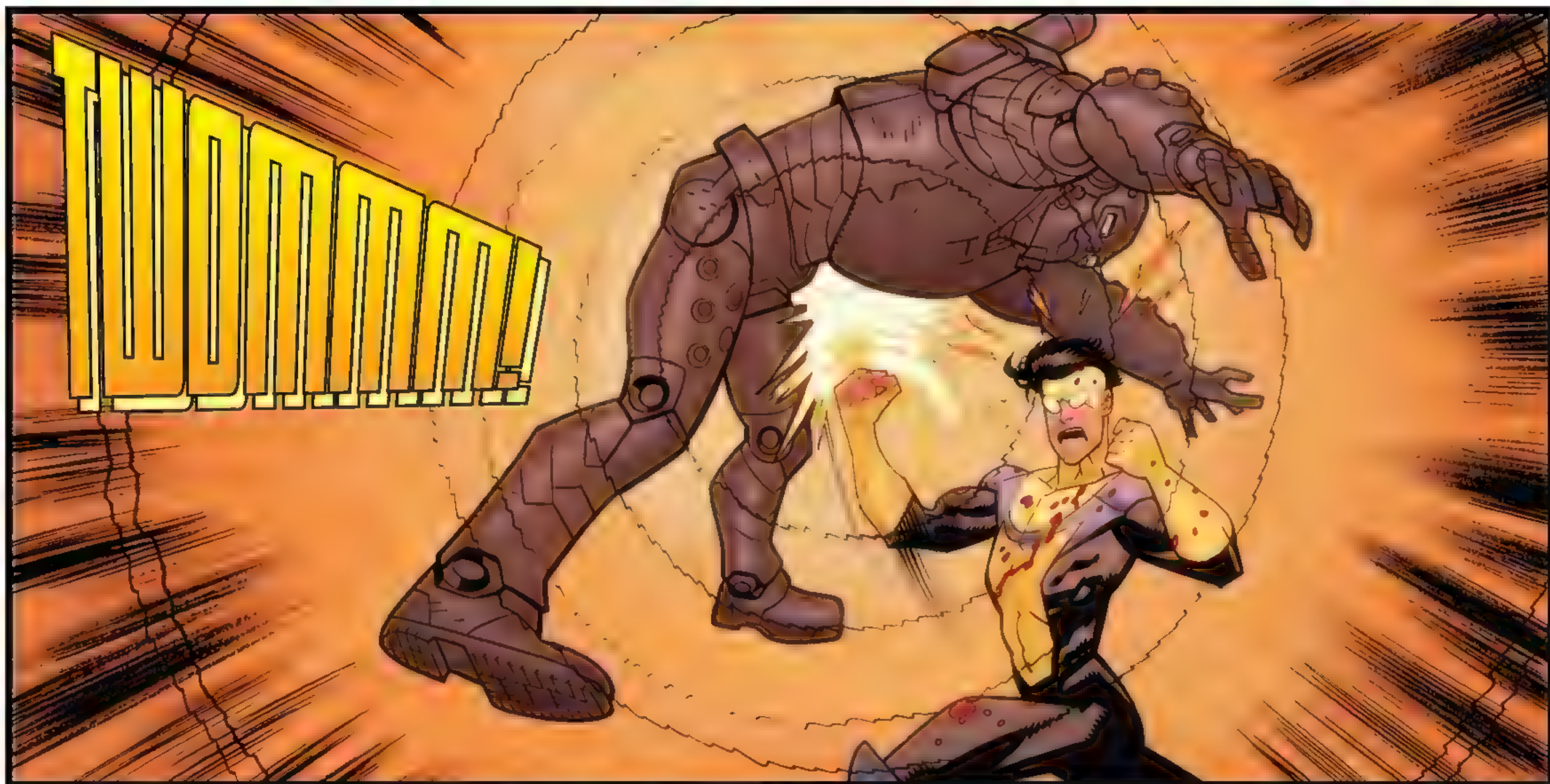


WHILE I'VE BEEN ABLE TO INCREASE THE STRENGTH OF THIS SUIT, I KNEW IT WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE TO CONSTRUCT ARMOR YOU COULDN'T DESTROY.

I FASHIONED THIS ARMOR FROM A VOLCANIC TEMPERED TITANIUM ALLOY I CREATED, WHICH I BELIEVE TO NOW BE THE STRONGEST METAL ON EARTH. BUT I KNEW THAT WOULDN'T BE ENOUGH...

SO I FASHIONED ALL THE PANELS TO THE EXACT ANGLES NEEDED TO PRODUCE A HIGH-PITCHED TONE UPON IMPACT THAT CAN BE DEADLY TO VILTRUMITES.

IF YOU HIT ME HARD ENOUGH -- IT COULD KILL YOU.



OKAY, SEE FOR YOURSELF IF YOU DON'T BELIEVE ME.



WHY ARE YOU DOING THIS, REX?!

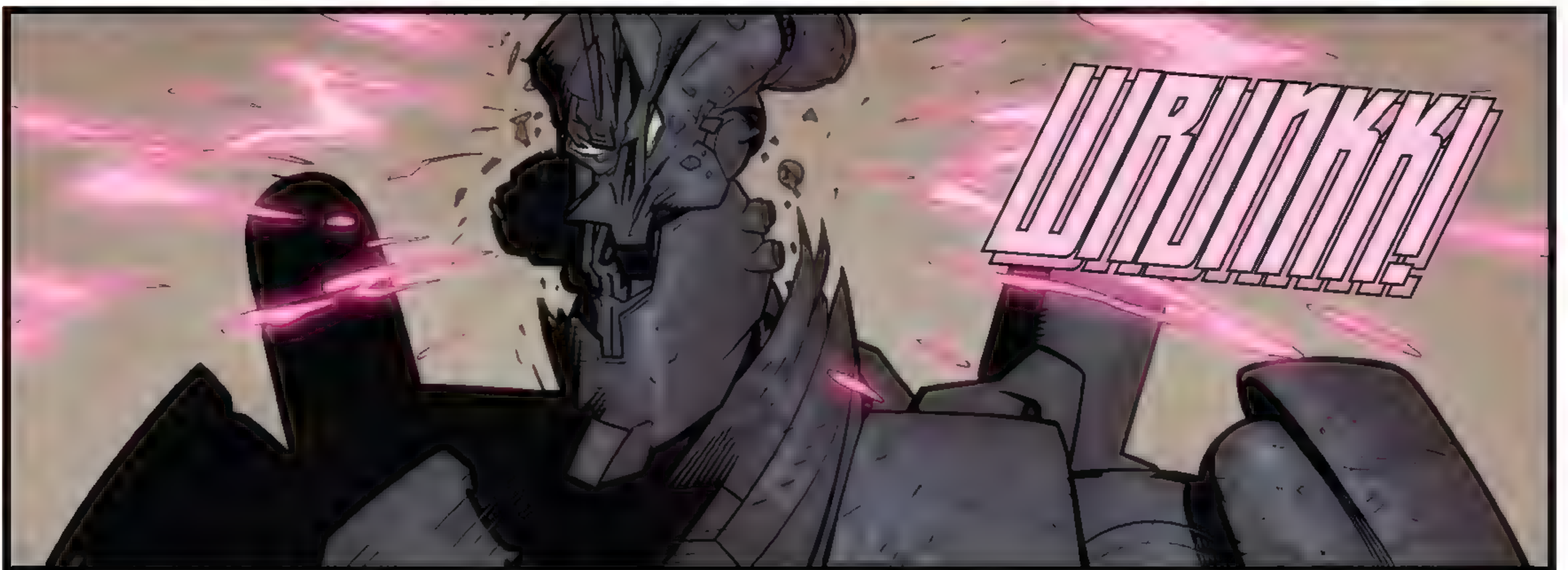
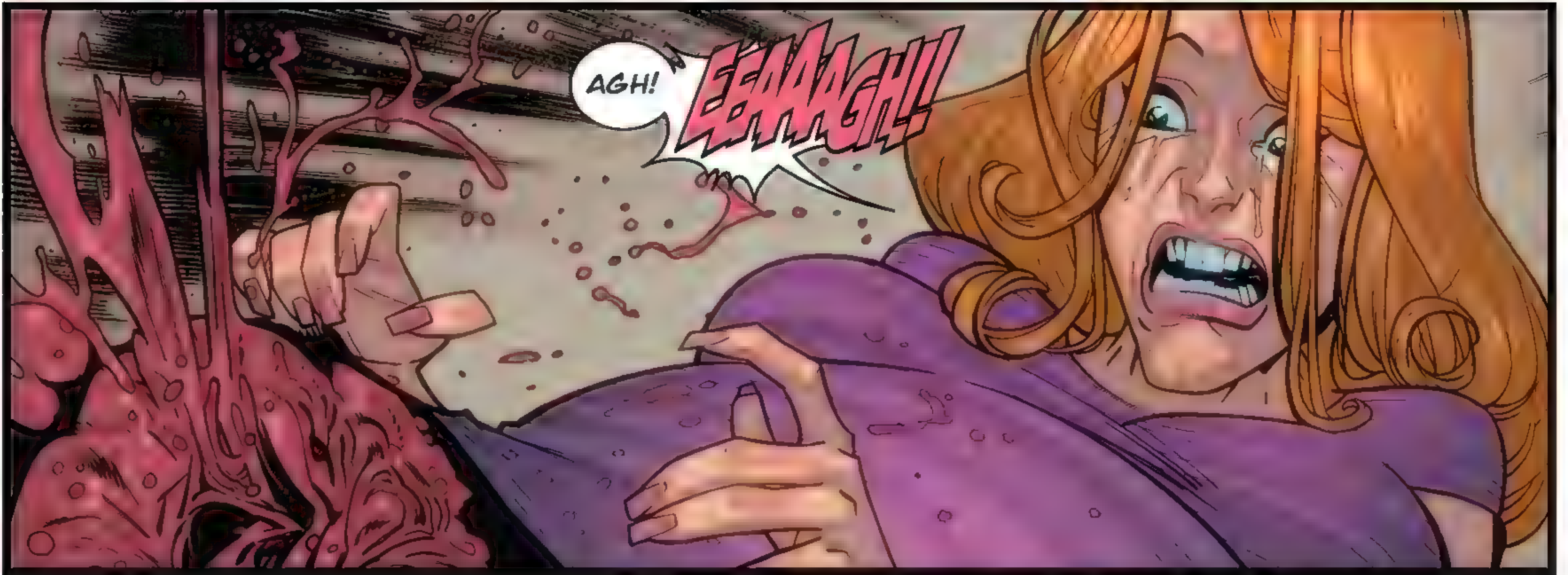
WHY?!

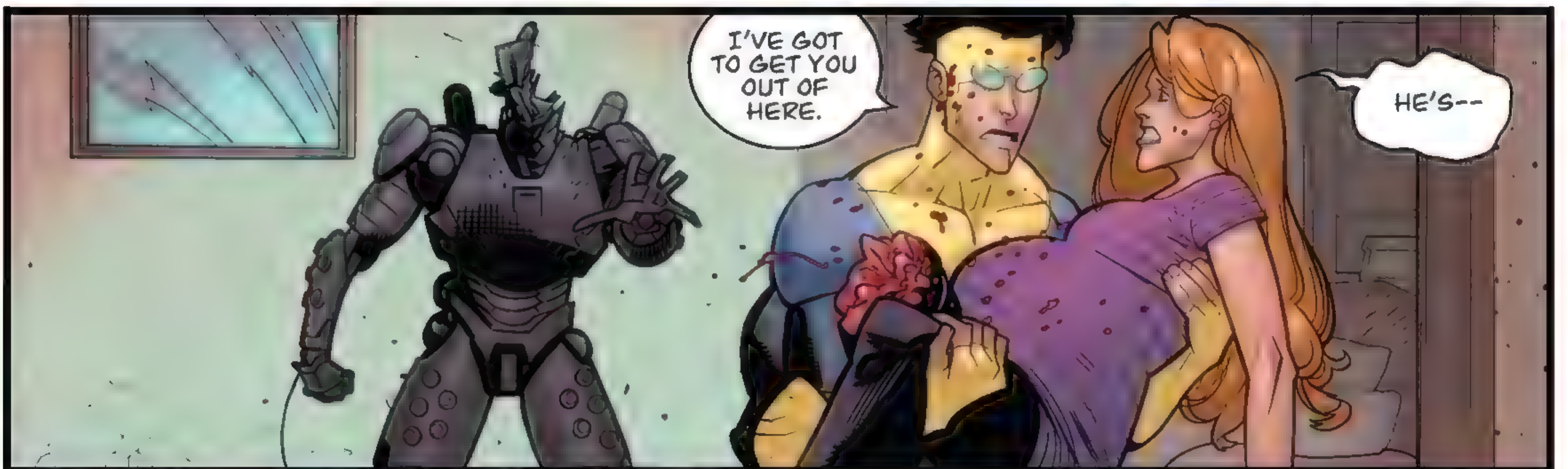
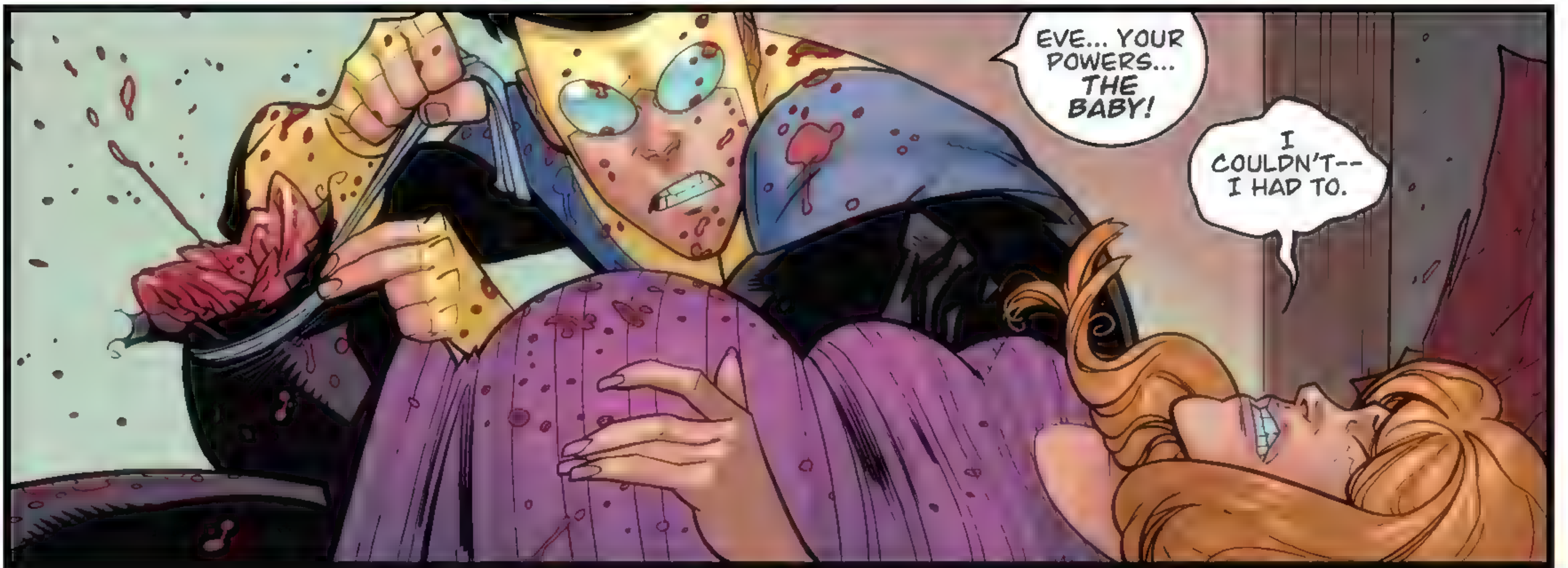
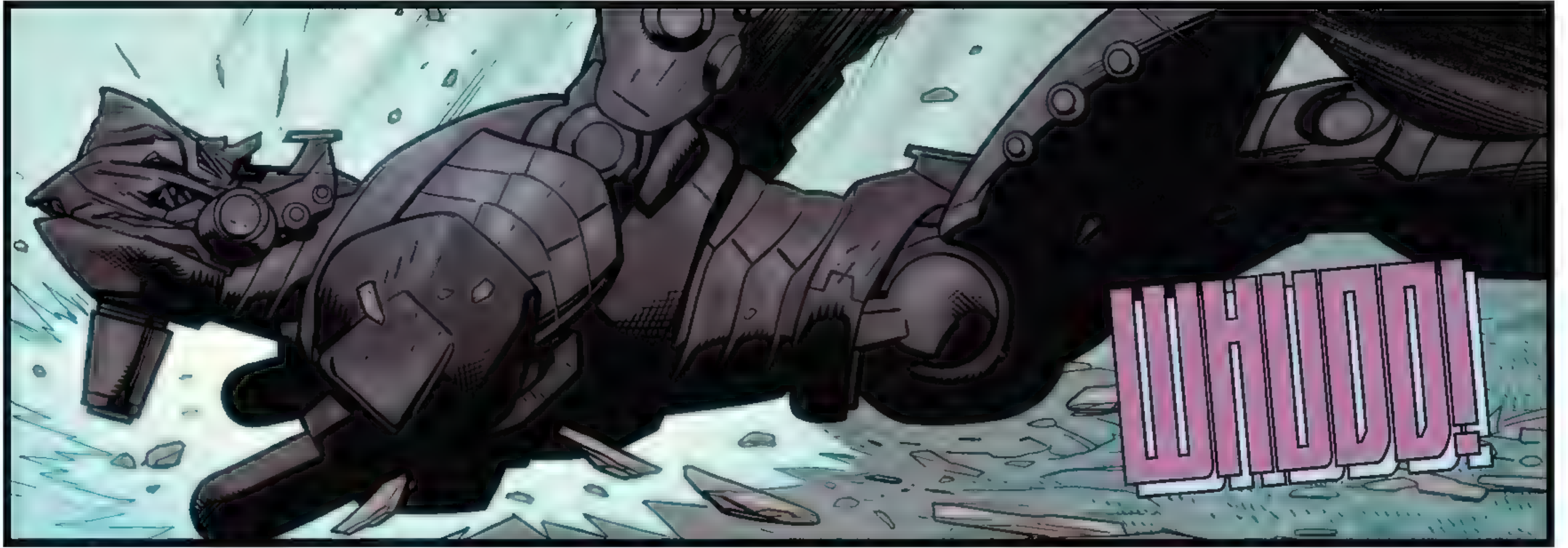


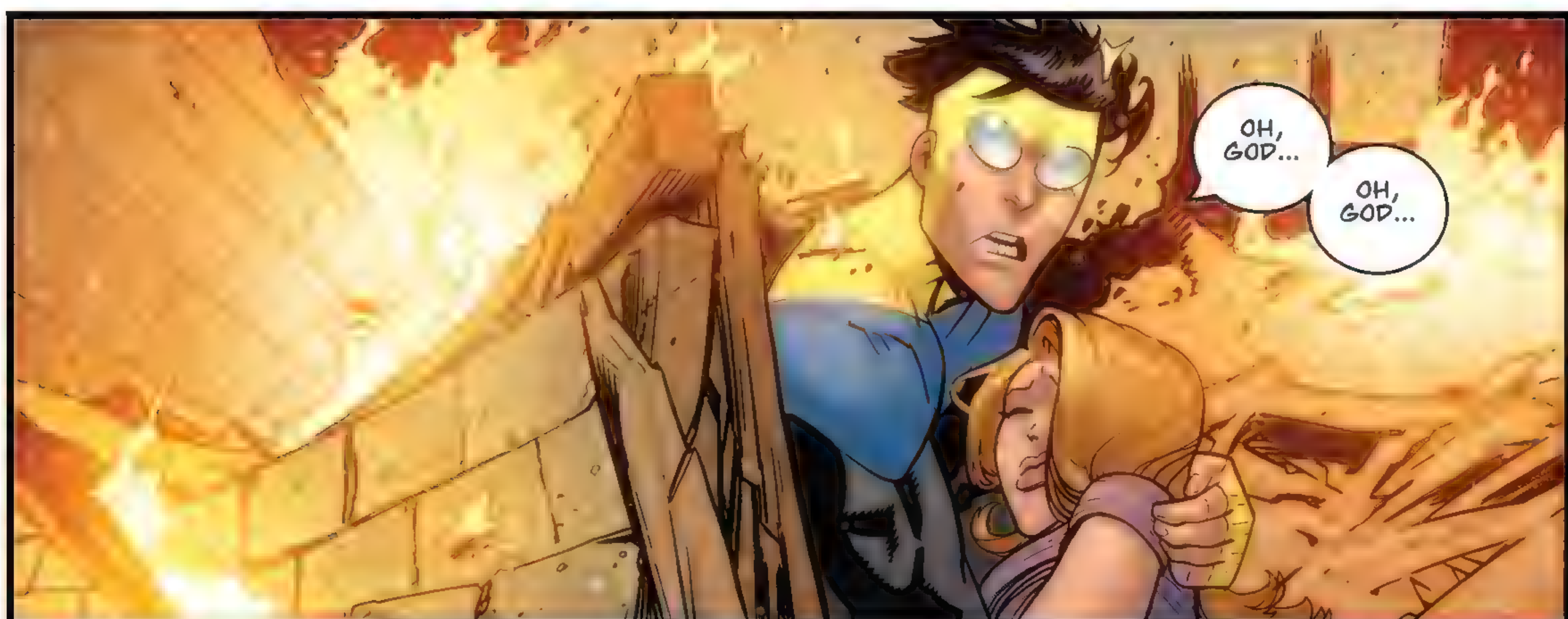


SHUT
UP.

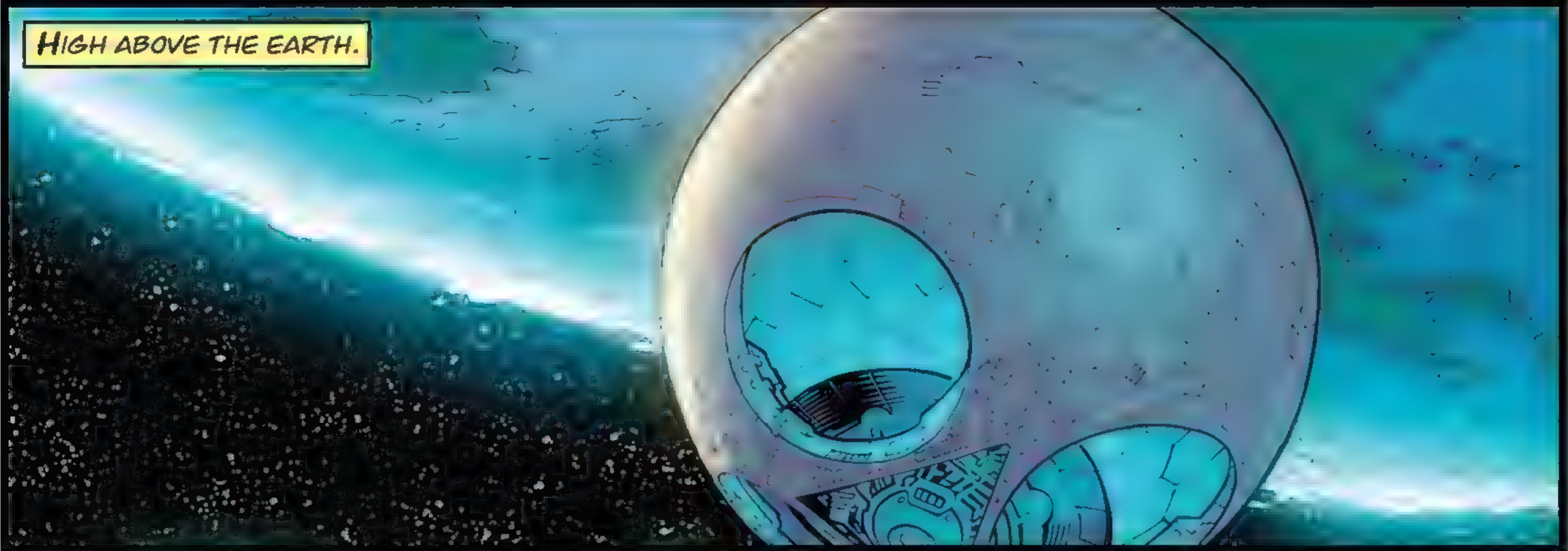
SPANGKE

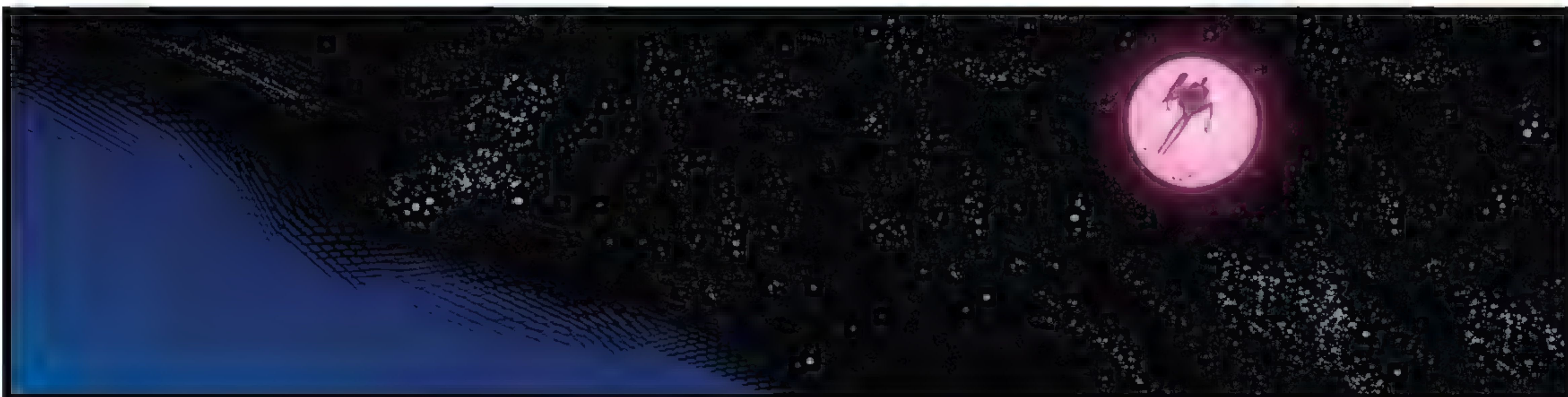
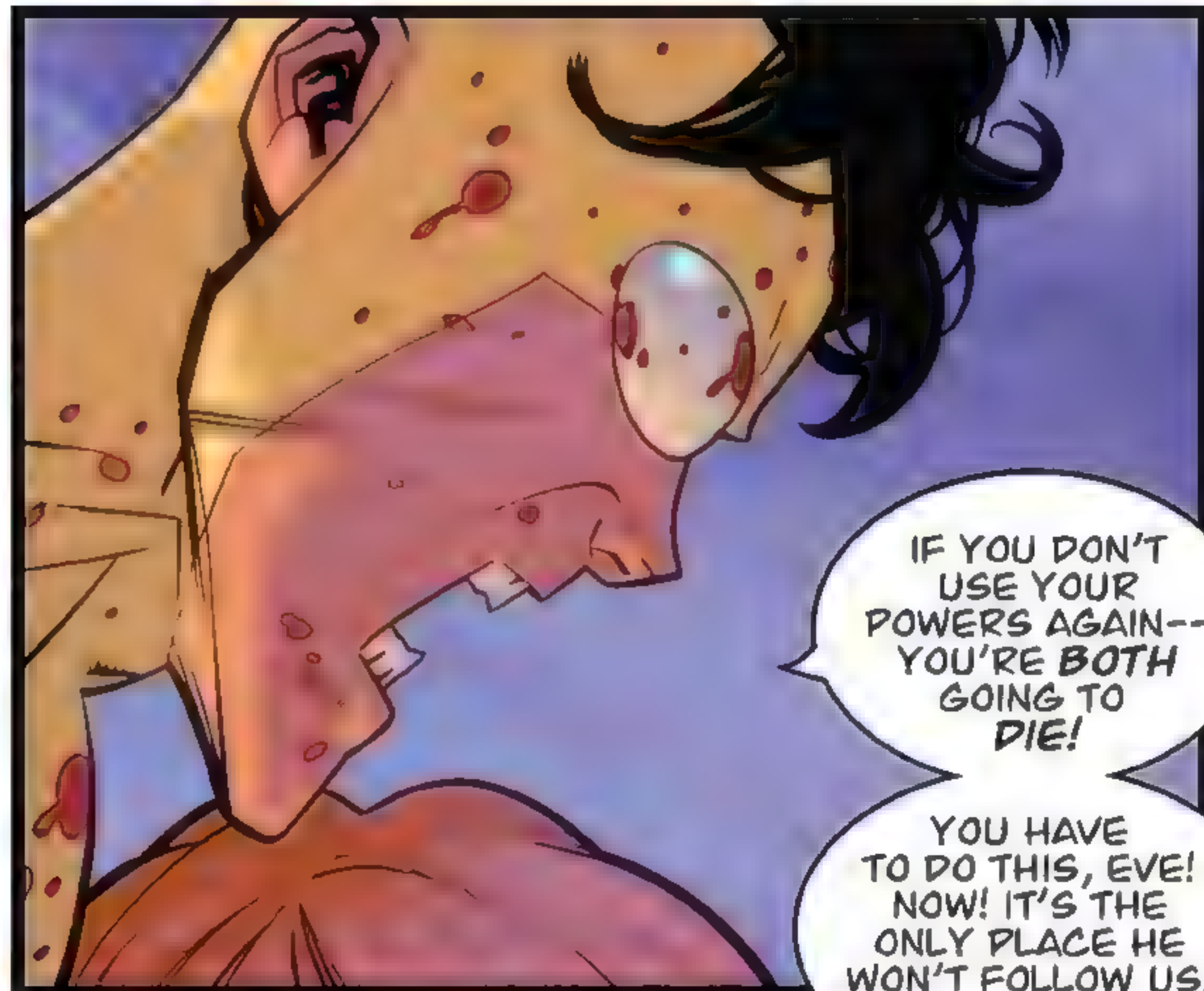


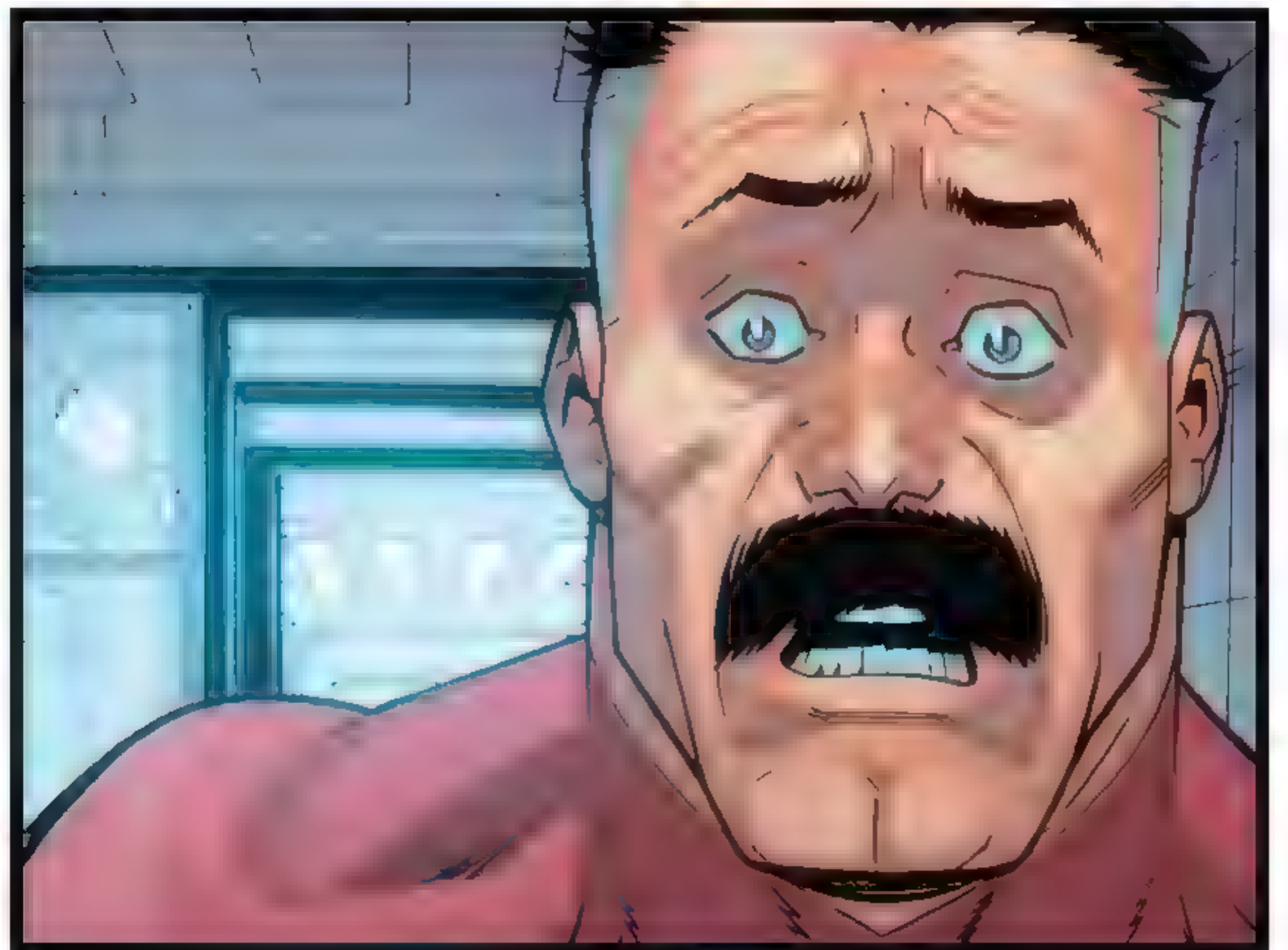
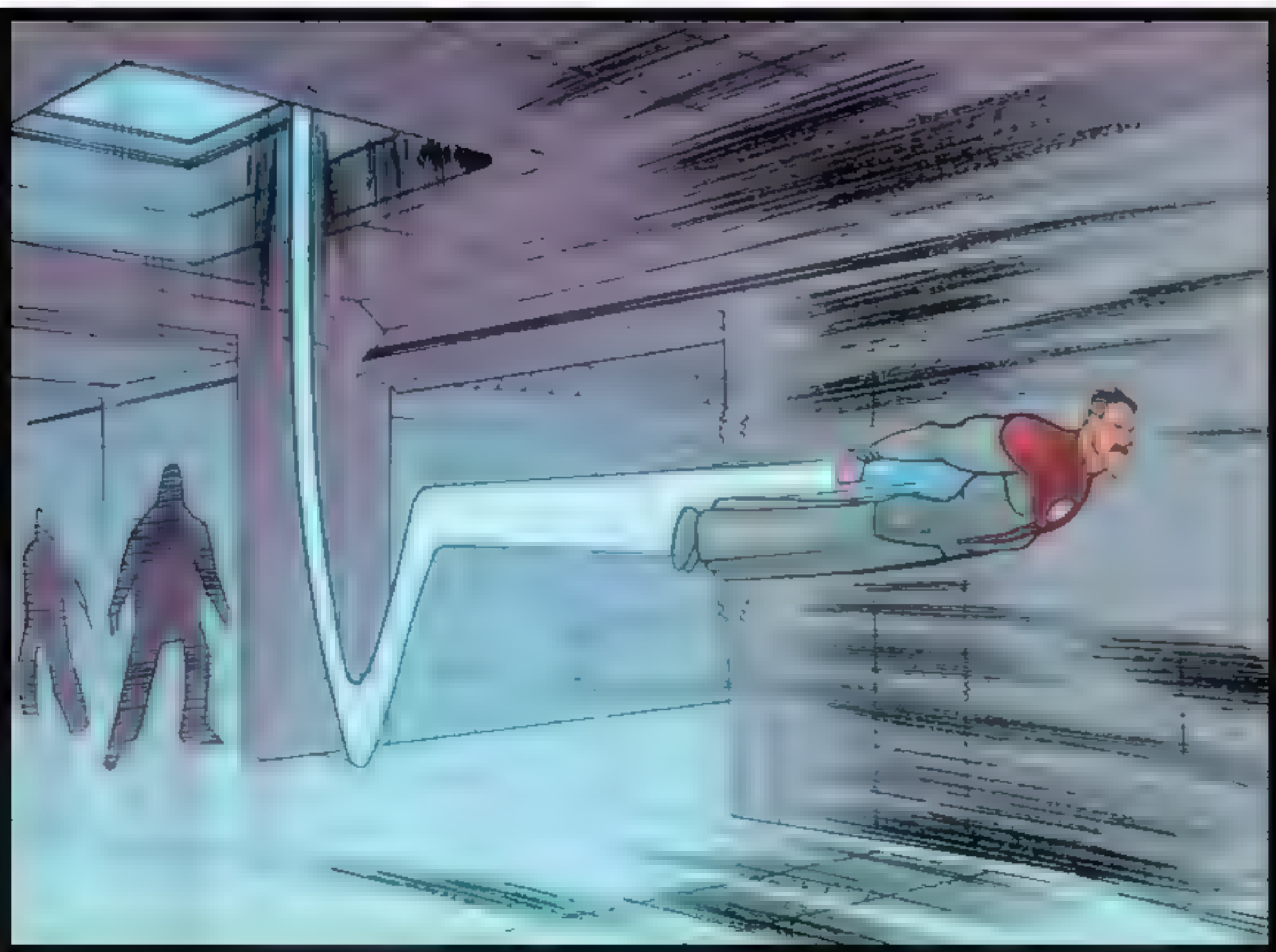
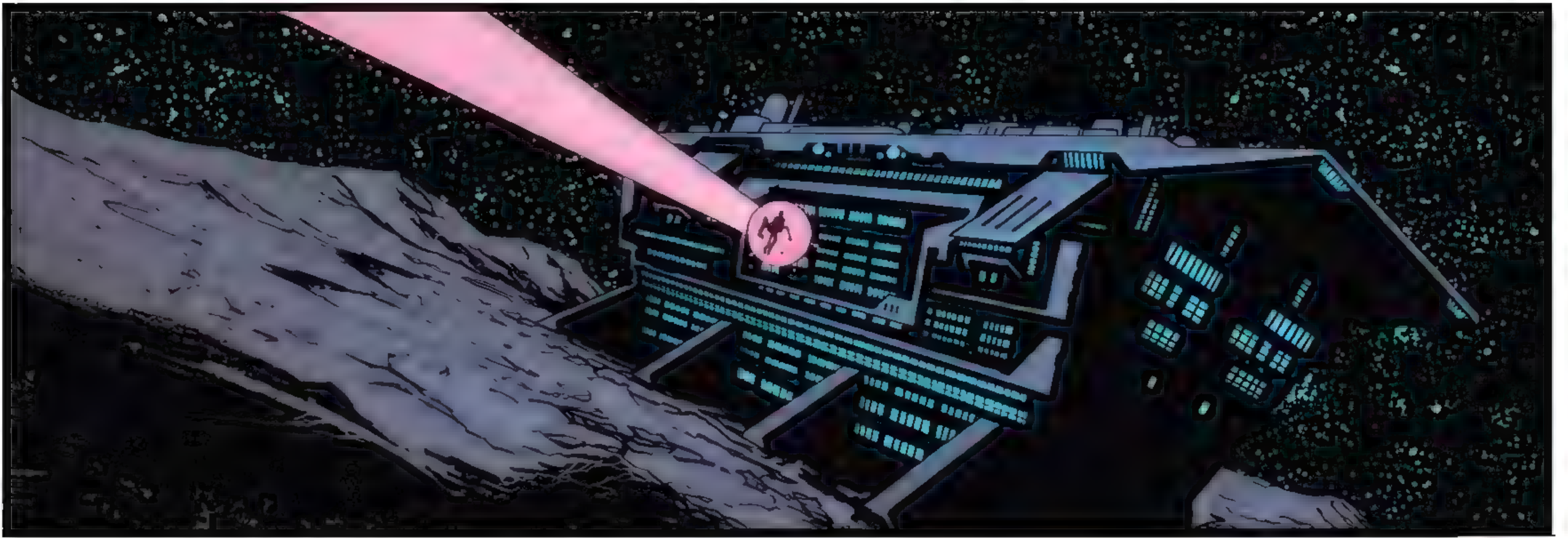














HELP...





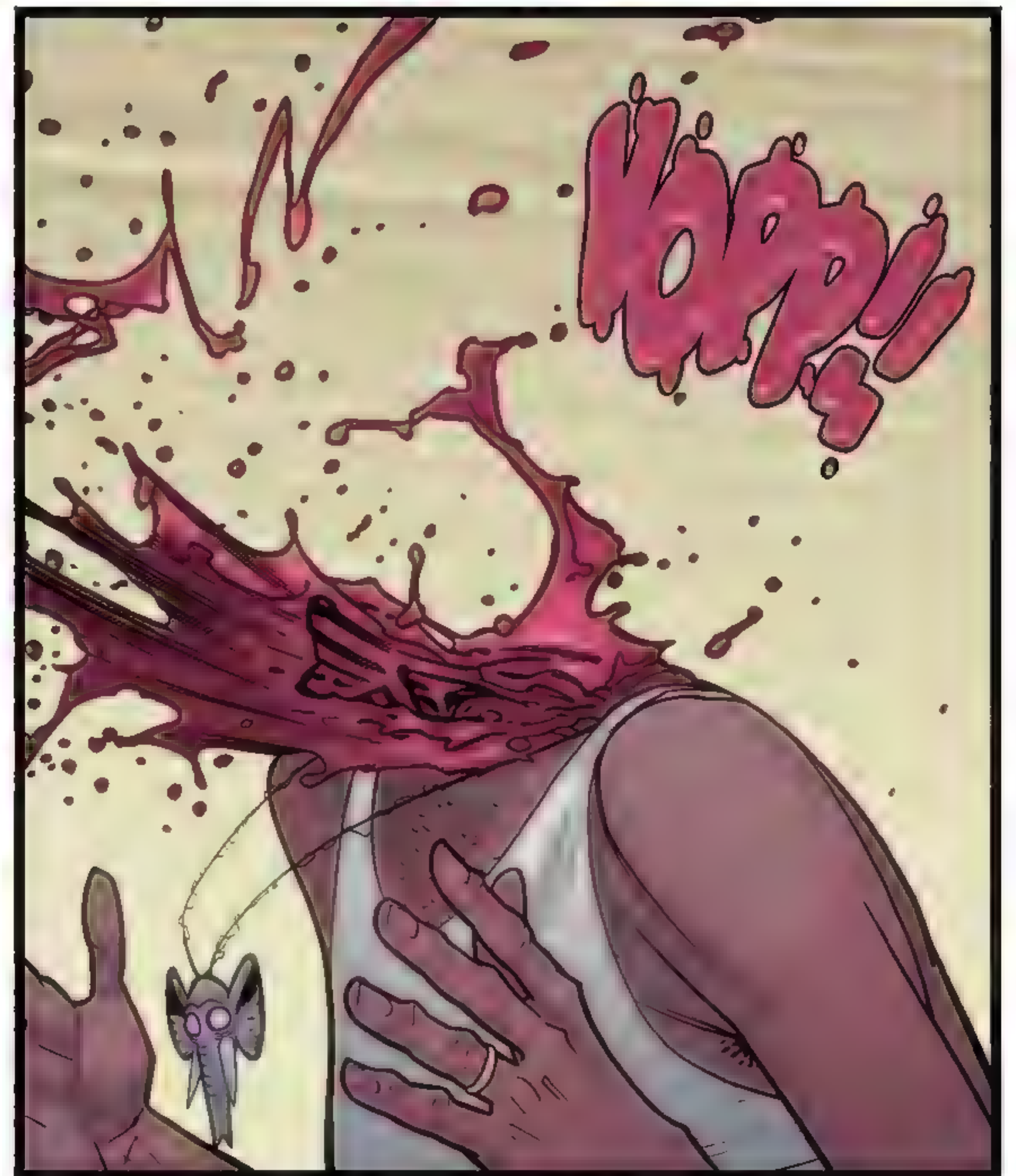
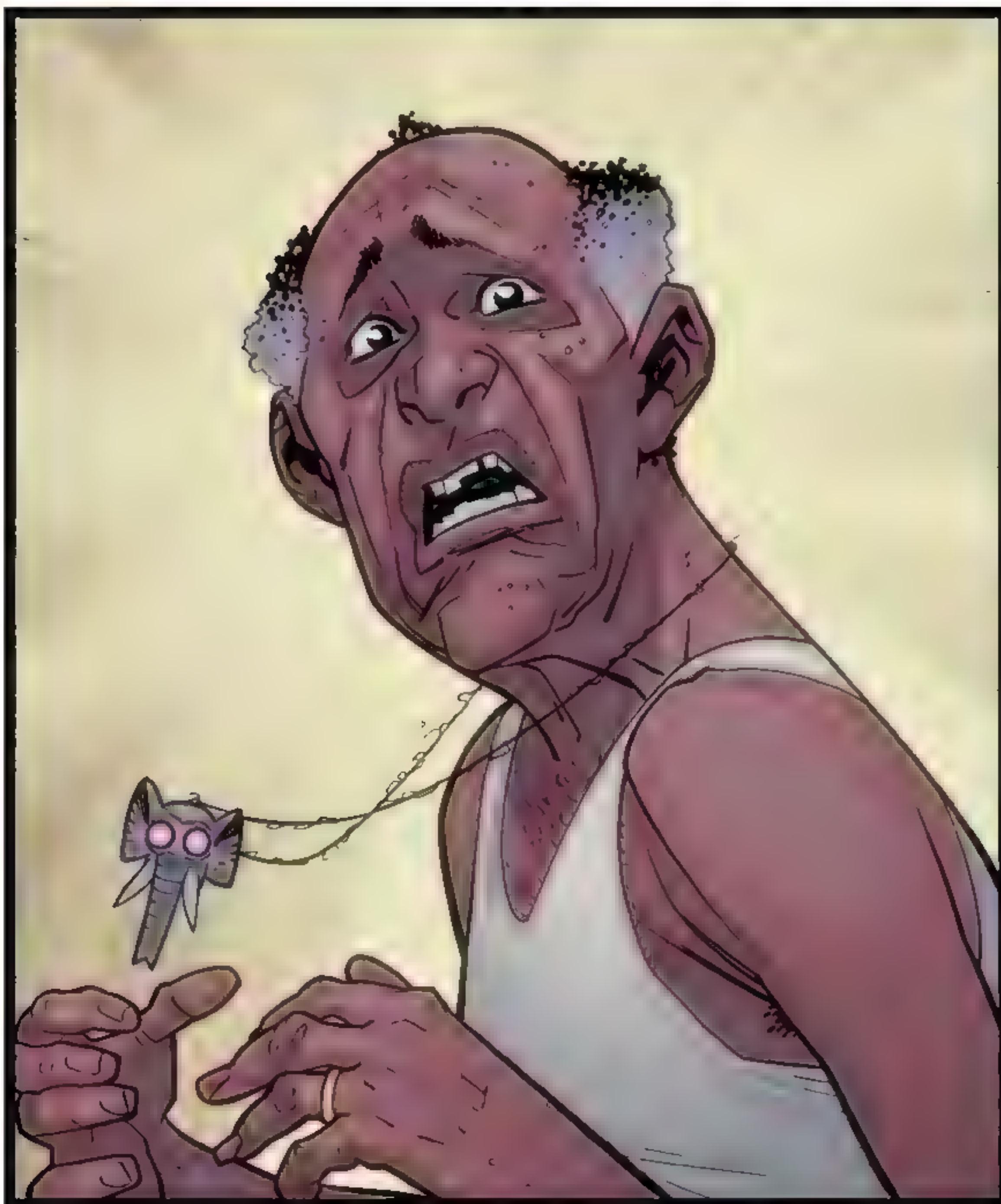
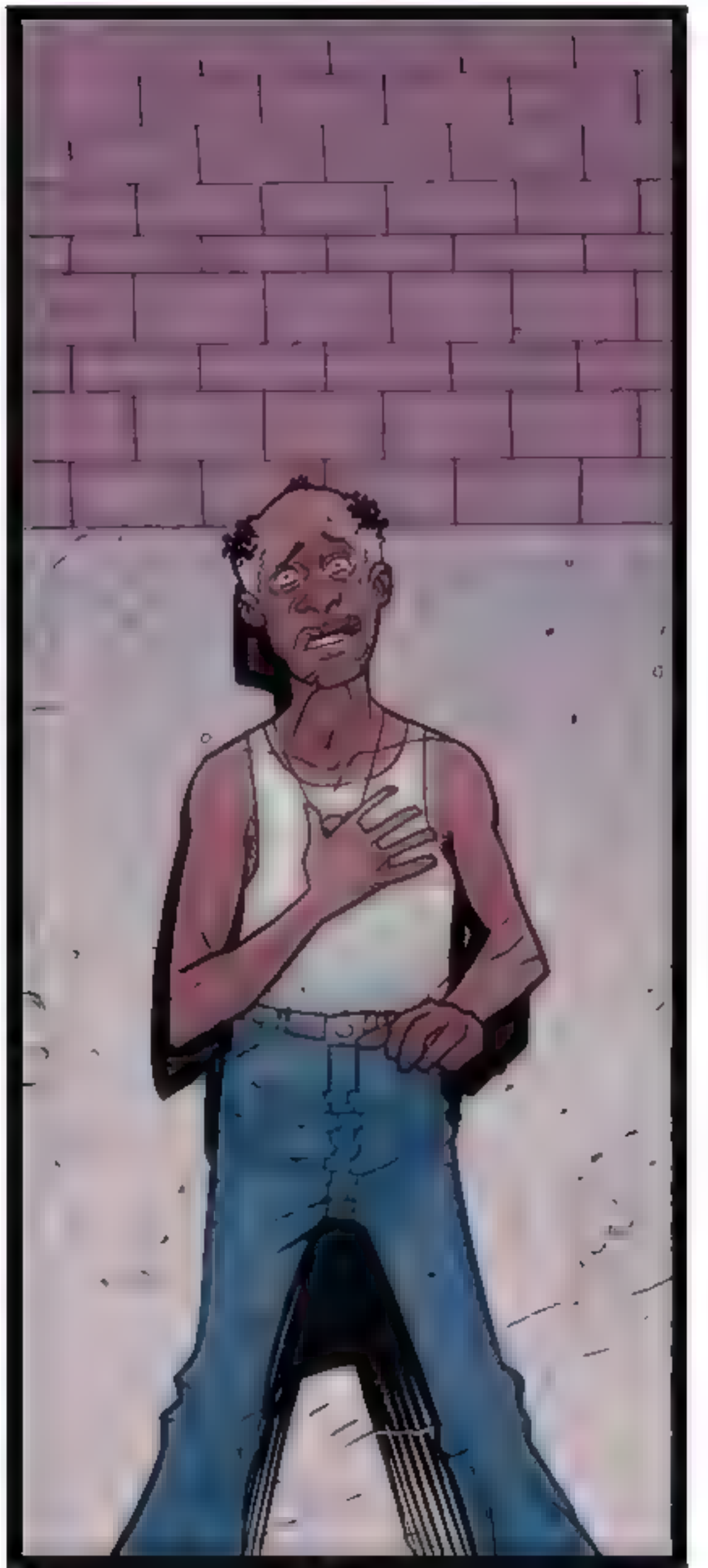
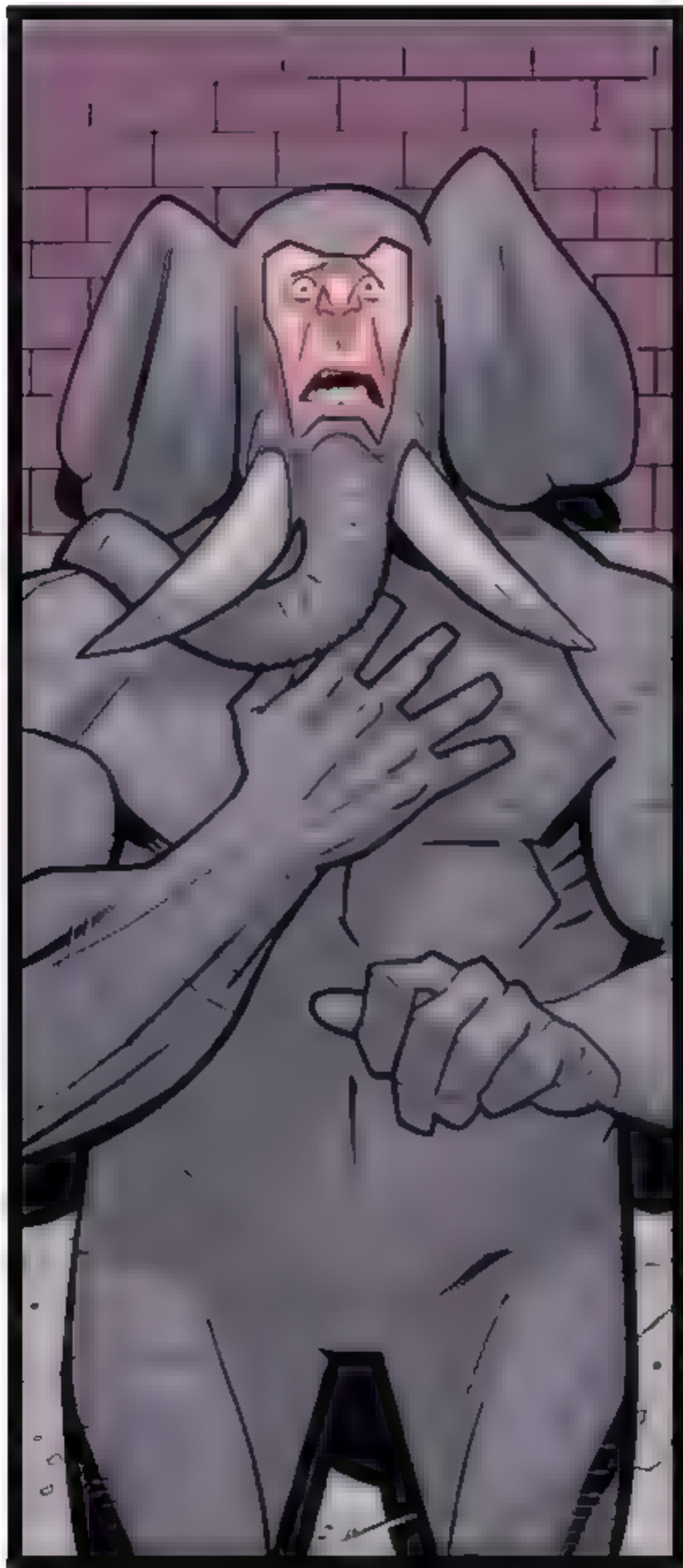
CHAPTER 12

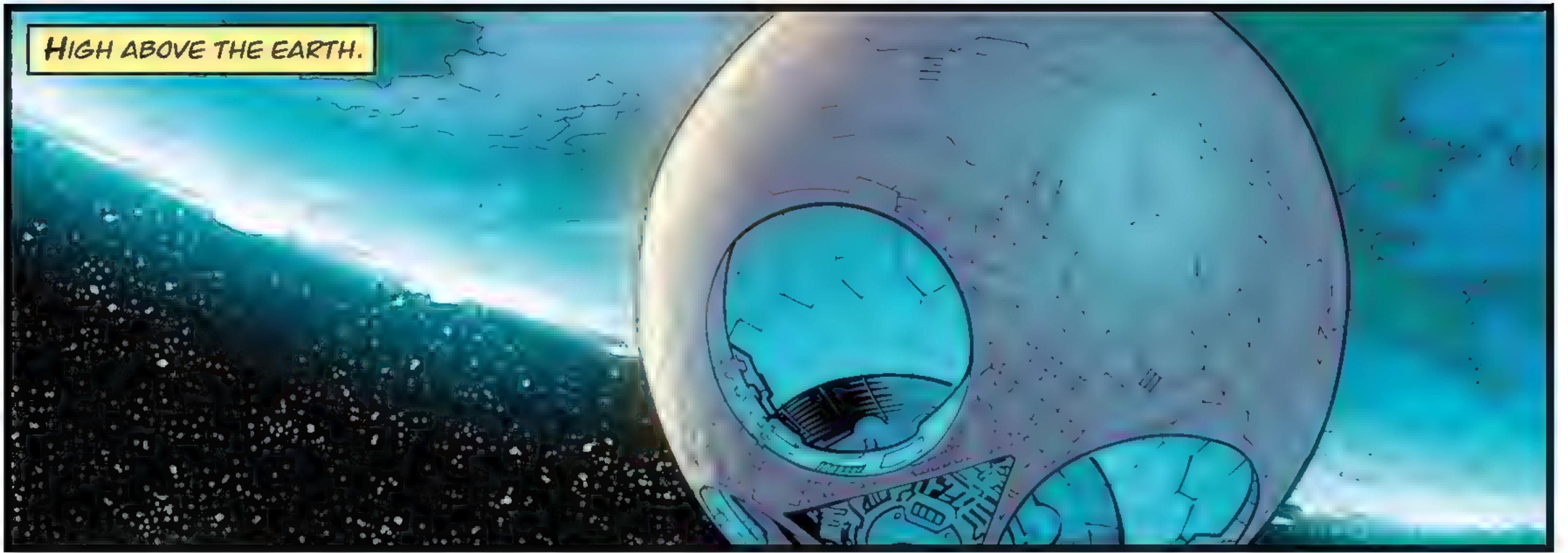














GOOD TO SEE YOU, AMANDA.
I'M SORRY I'VE BEEN
WORKING SO MUCH LATELY...
THERE'S JUST... BEEN SO
MUCH TO DO.

WOULD
YOU LIKE
TO SIT
DOWN?



UH...
SURE.

IS
EVERYTHING
OKAY, REX?



EVERYTHING
IS FINE.

OR RATHER...
EVERYTHING **WILL**
BE FINE. THAT'S
ACTUALLY WHAT I
WANTED TO TALK
TO YOU ABOUT.



IT'S ONE OF
THOSE DAYS, IS IT?
BEEN LOST IN YOUR
HEAD FOR A WHILE?
OKAY. I'M GAME.
LET'S HEAR
WHAT YOU'RE
THINKING
ABOUT.

DO YOU
EVER THINK
ABOUT OUR
TIME IN
THE FLAXAN
DIMENSION?

REX... WE SPENT THE
VAST MAJORITY OF OUR
VERY LONG LIVES THERE.
SO WHILE IT WASN'T ENTIRELY
PLEASANT, AND YEAH... IT
CERTAINLY PUT US THROUGH
SOME TRIALS... I CAN'T
HELP BUT THINK OF IT
OFTEN.

IT'S ALWAYS IN
THE BACK OF MY
MIND. SOMETIMES
I WONDER ABOUT
WHAT'S HAPPENED
THERE SINCE WE
LEFT.

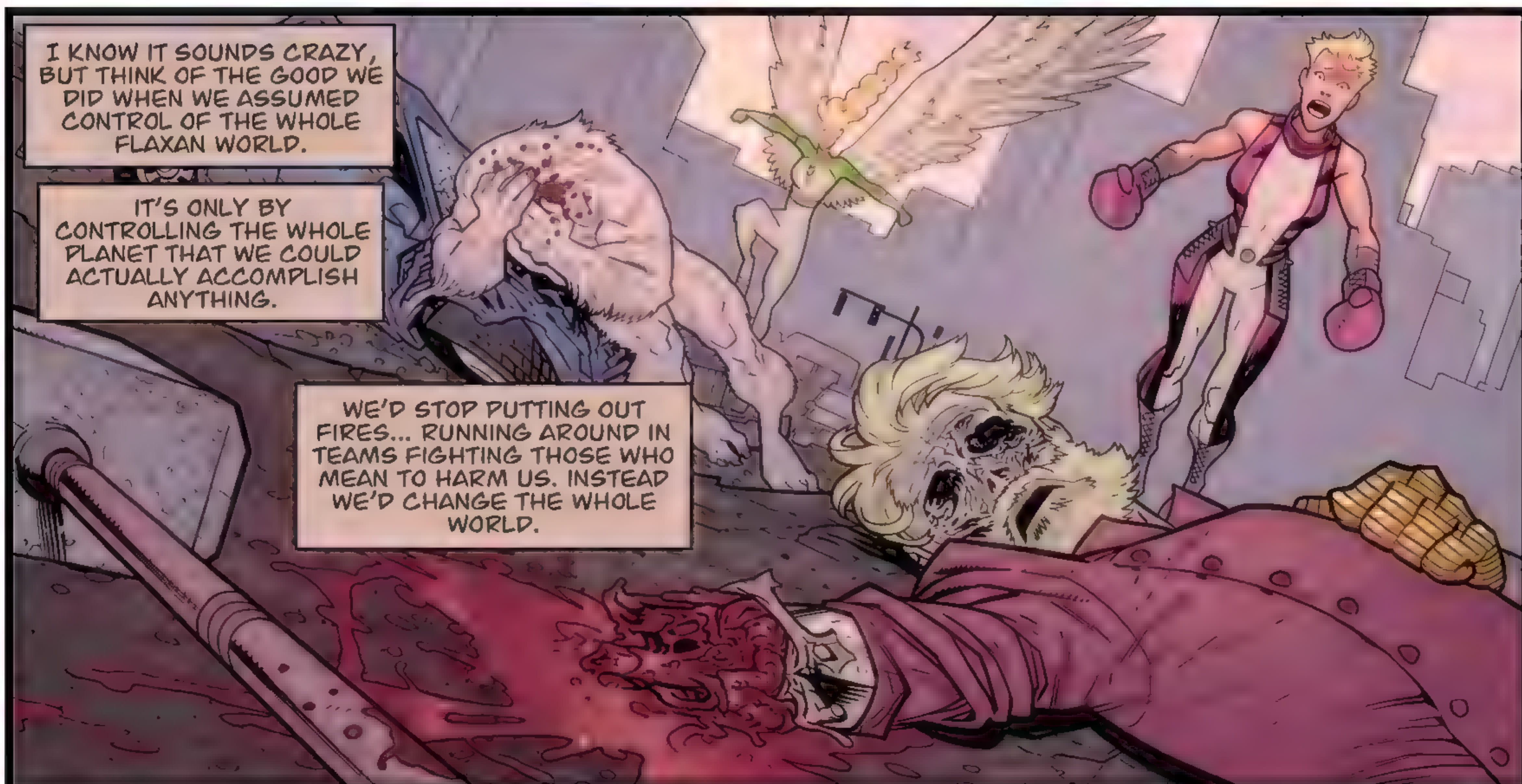
DO YOU
EVER THINK
WE SHOULD
HAVE GONE
BACK?



NO. I THINK
MORE ABOUT
THIS DIMENSION,
HERE... OUR
HOME.

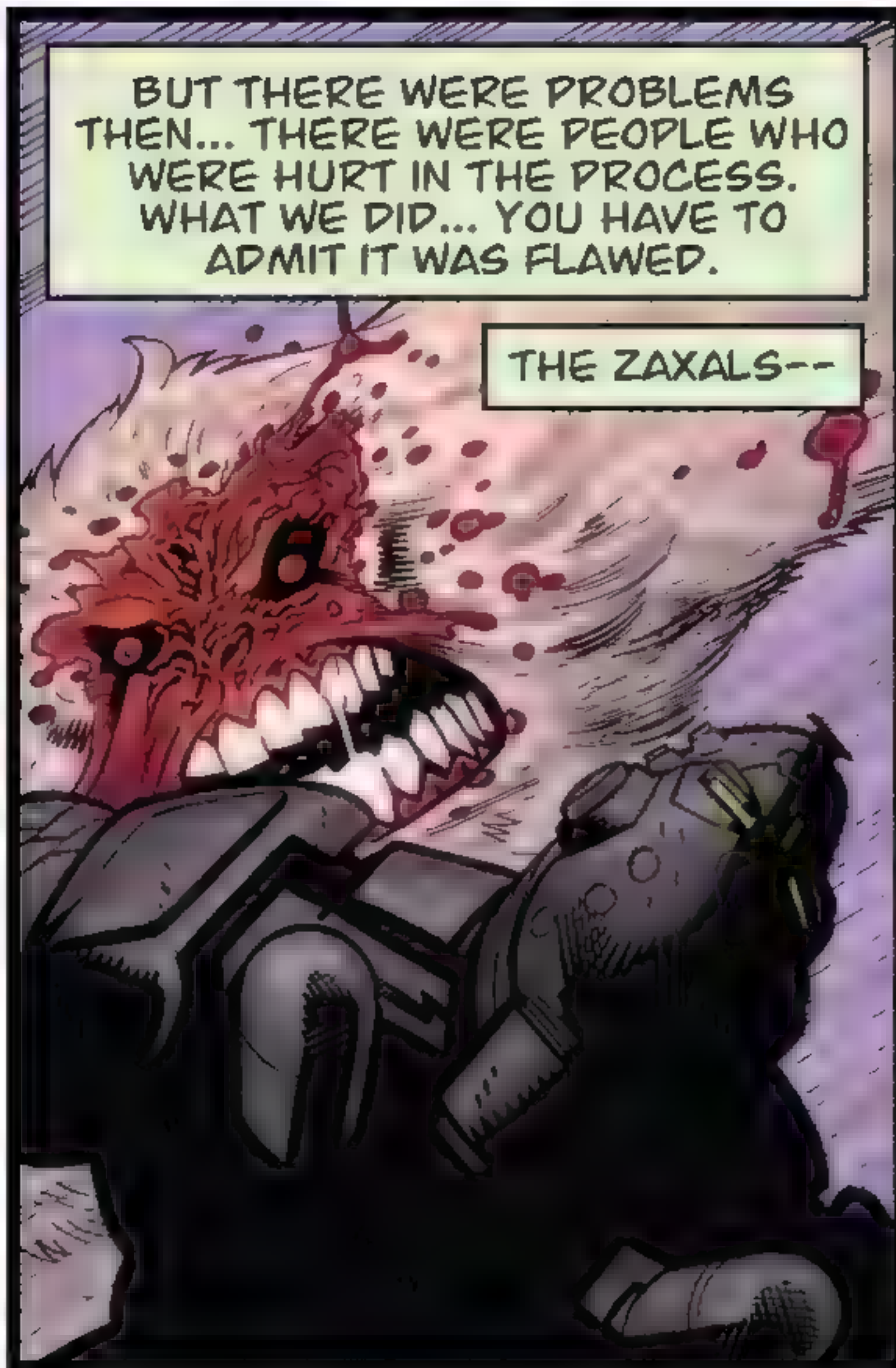
WE FIXED
THINGS... WE
REALLY DID. THE
FLAXANS' WORLD
WAS TRANSFORMED
BY US. WE REALLY
MADE THINGS
BETTER.

WHY
WOULDN'T
WE TRY
TO DO THAT
HERE?





IT SOUNDS CRAZY UNTIL YOU ACKNOWLEDGE THAT WE'VE DONE IT BEFORE.



BUT THERE WERE PROBLEMS THEN... THERE WERE PEOPLE WHO WERE HURT IN THE PROCESS. WHAT WE DID... YOU HAVE TO ADMIT IT WAS FLAWED.

THE ZAXALS--



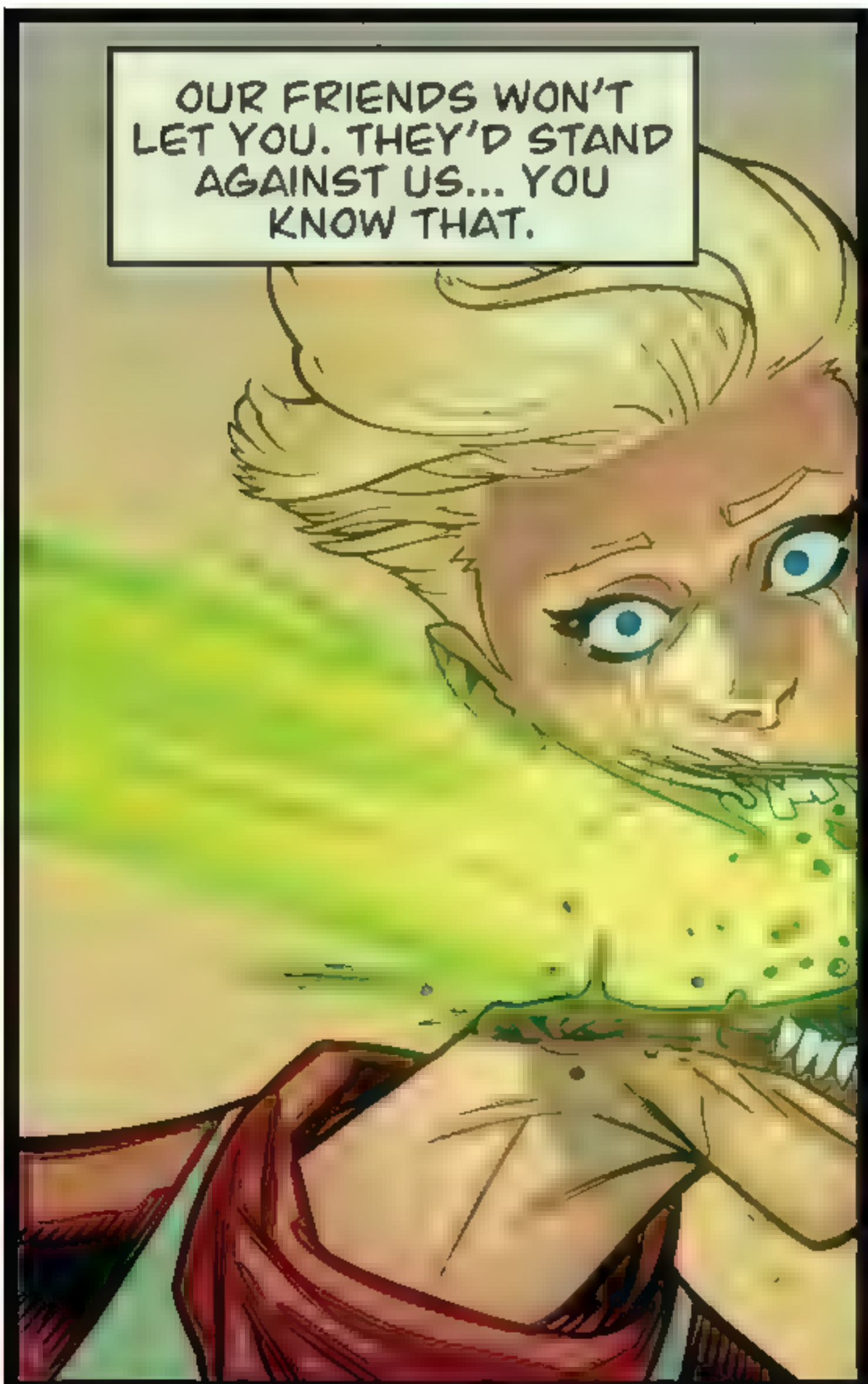
AMANDA, PLEASE... DON'T TELL ME YOU BUY INTO MONAX'S LIES. I KNOW HE'S... YOUR SON, BUT YOU HAVE TO ADMIT THAT HE'S CRAZY. HE TRIED TO KILL YOU.



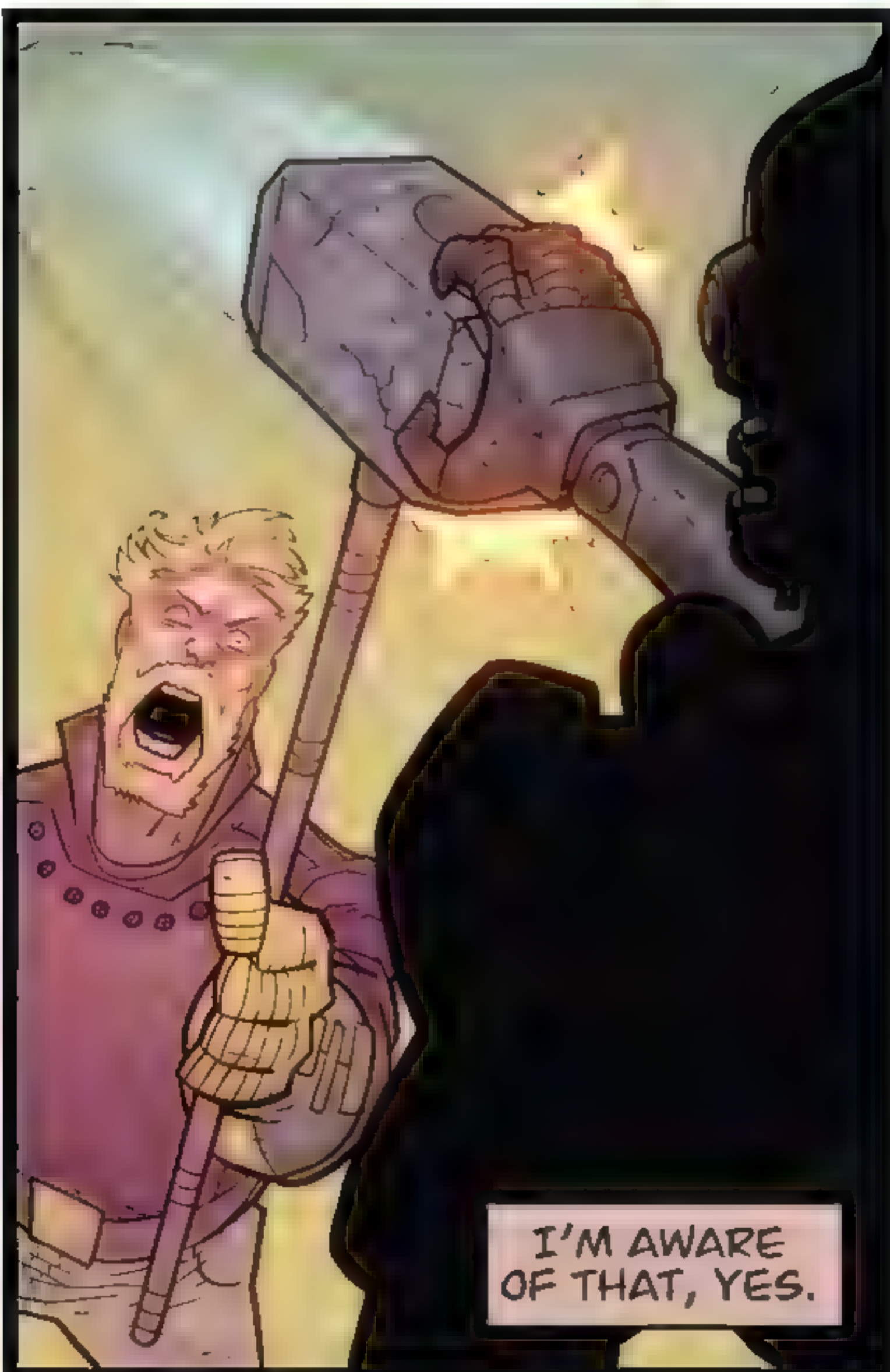
HE TRIED TO KILL YOU. HE FOUGHT BACK WHEN I TRIED TO STOP HIM.

REGARDLESS, THE FLAXAN WORLD WAS FLAWED FAR MORE THAN THIS ONE. THE PEOPLE YEARNED FOR A CHANGE, FOR SECURITY, FOR SOME KIND OF IMPROVEMENT TO THEIR LIVES.

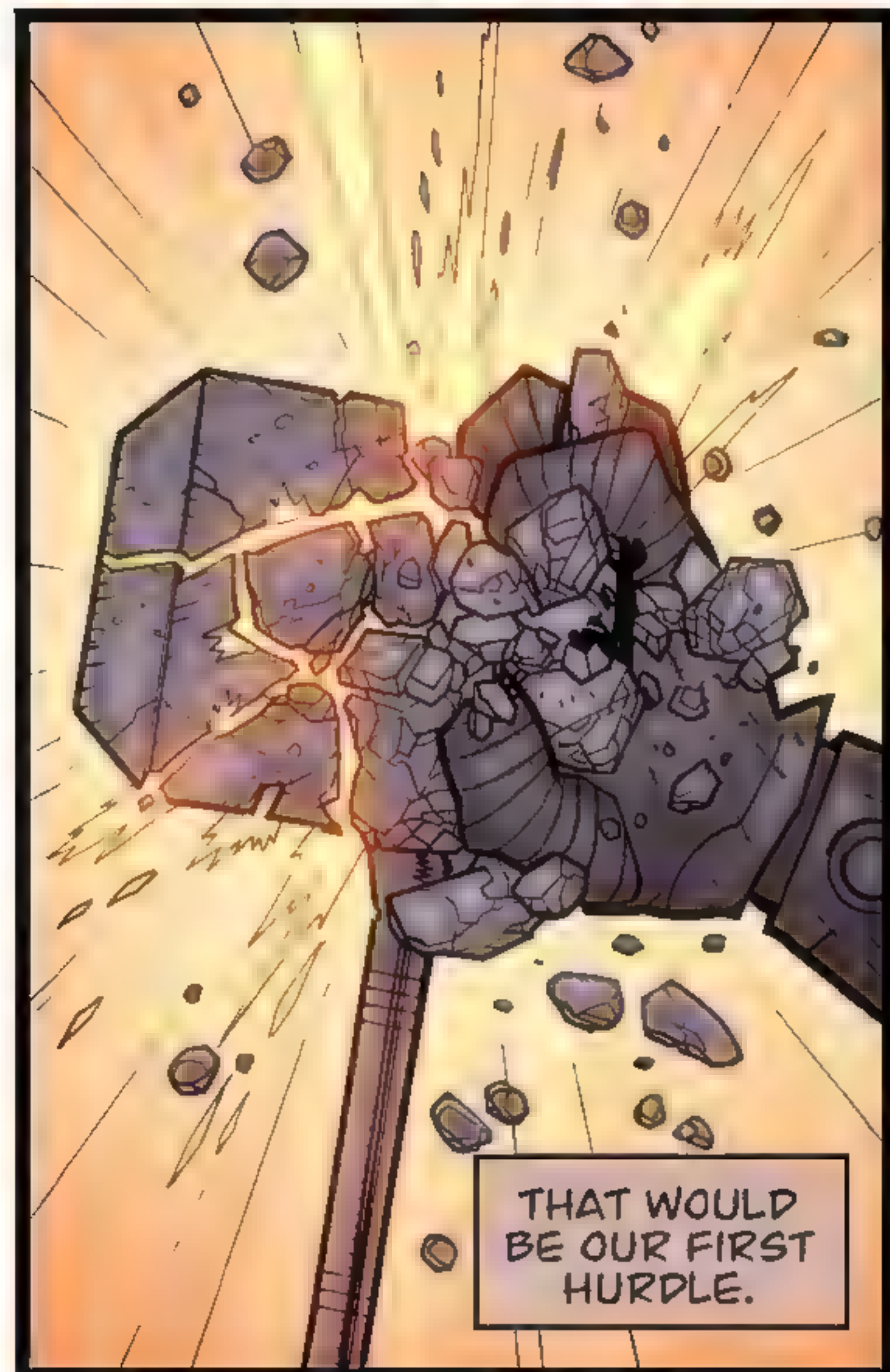
THINGS ARE DIFFERENT HERE. THE PEOPLE WON'T WANT THIS, THEY WON'T LET YOU DO THIS.



OUR FRIENDS WON'T LET YOU. THEY'D STAND AGAINST US... YOU KNOW THAT.



I'M AWARE OF THAT, YES.



THAT WOULD BE OUR FIRST HURDLE.

ANYTHING THAT COULD
POTENTIALLY STAND IN
OUR WAY WOULD NEED TO
BE DEALT WITH FIRST.



HOW? I THOUGHT YOU DIDN'T WANT THEM KNOWING HOW LONG WE WERE IN THAT DIMENSION.

DO YOU THINK YOU COULD EXPLAIN YOURSELF TO THEM? I MEAN... HOW WOULD YOU SIT THEM DOWN ONE BY ONE AND SELL THEM ON THIS IDEA?

YOU'RE RIGHT, THAT ABSOLUTELY WOULDN'T WORK. WE'D NEED TO TRY SOMETHING ELSE.

BUT...

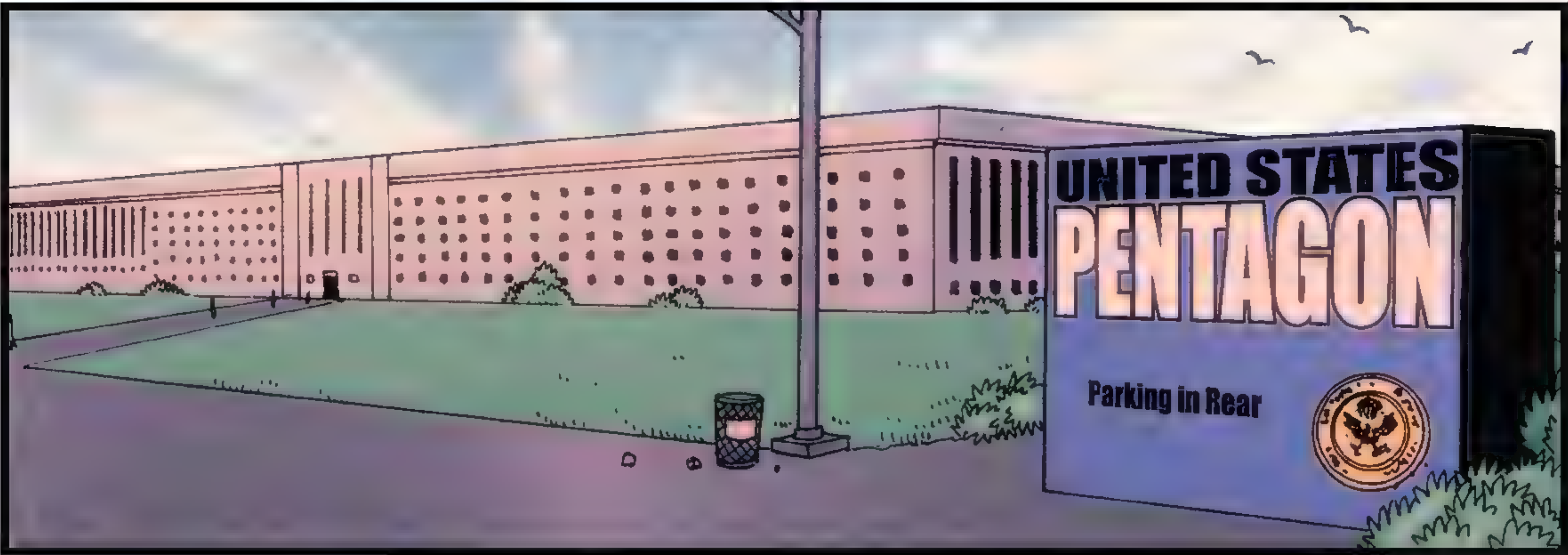
BUT...

I THOUGHT WE WERE FRIENDS.

WE WERE... IT'S NOTHING PERSONAL.

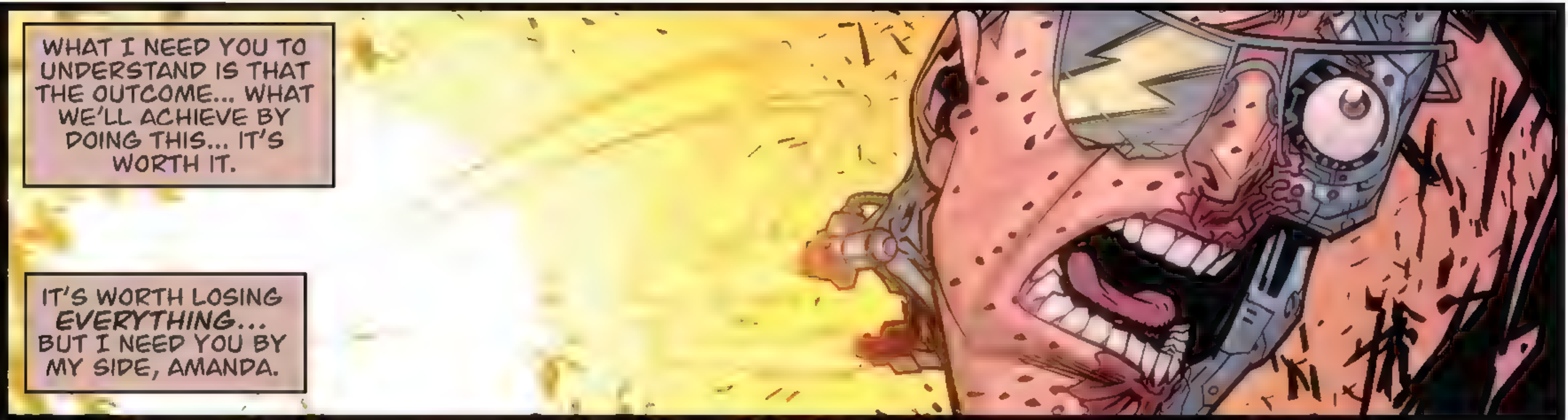
I'M SORRY.

SWIRL



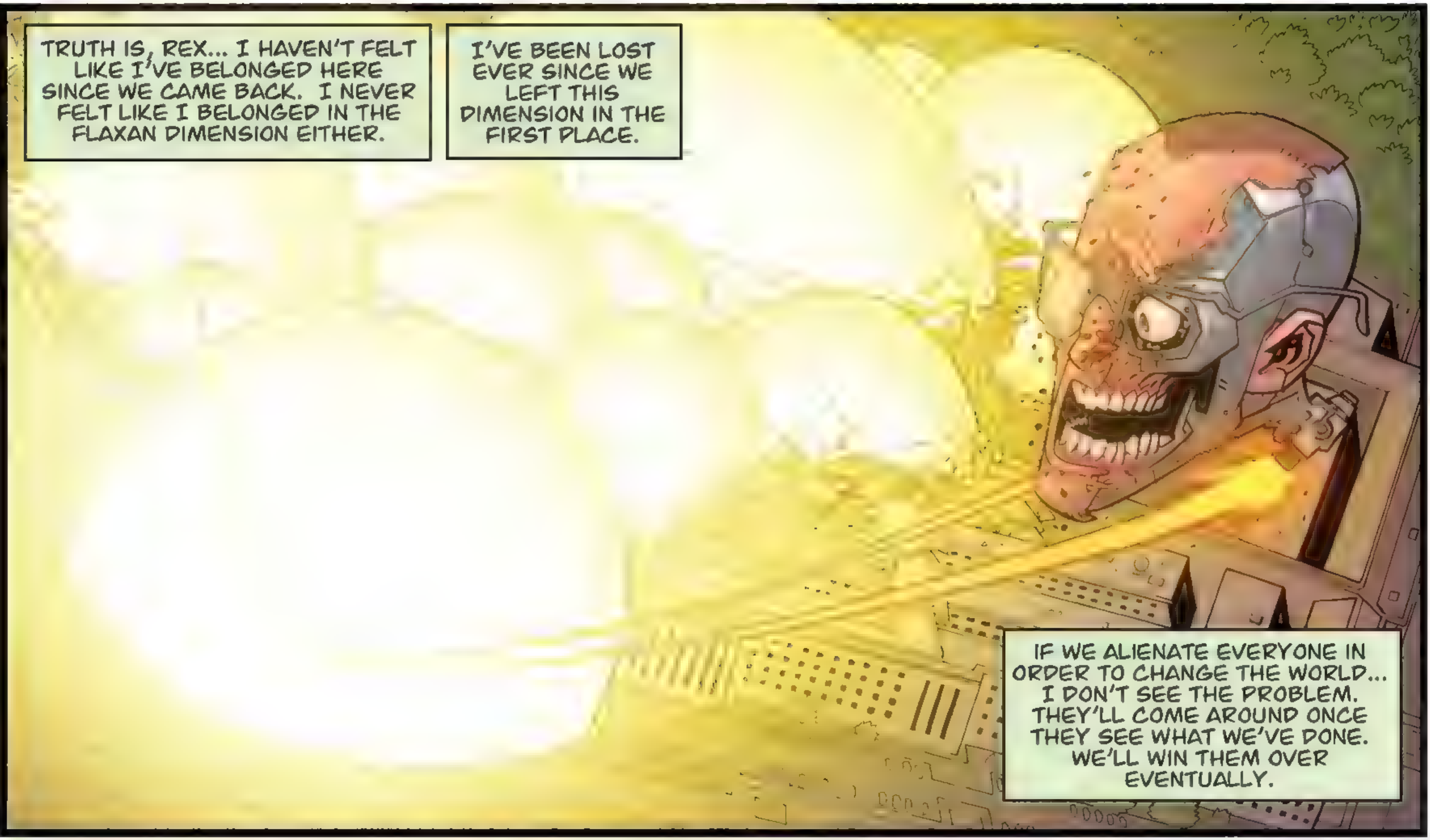


WHAT I AM PROPOSING
WOULD PUT US AT ODDS
WITH OUR CLOSEST
FRIENDS AND ALLIES.



WHAT I NEED YOU TO
UNDERSTAND IS THAT
THE OUTCOME... WHAT
WE'LL ACHIEVE BY
DOING THIS... IT'S
WORTH IT.

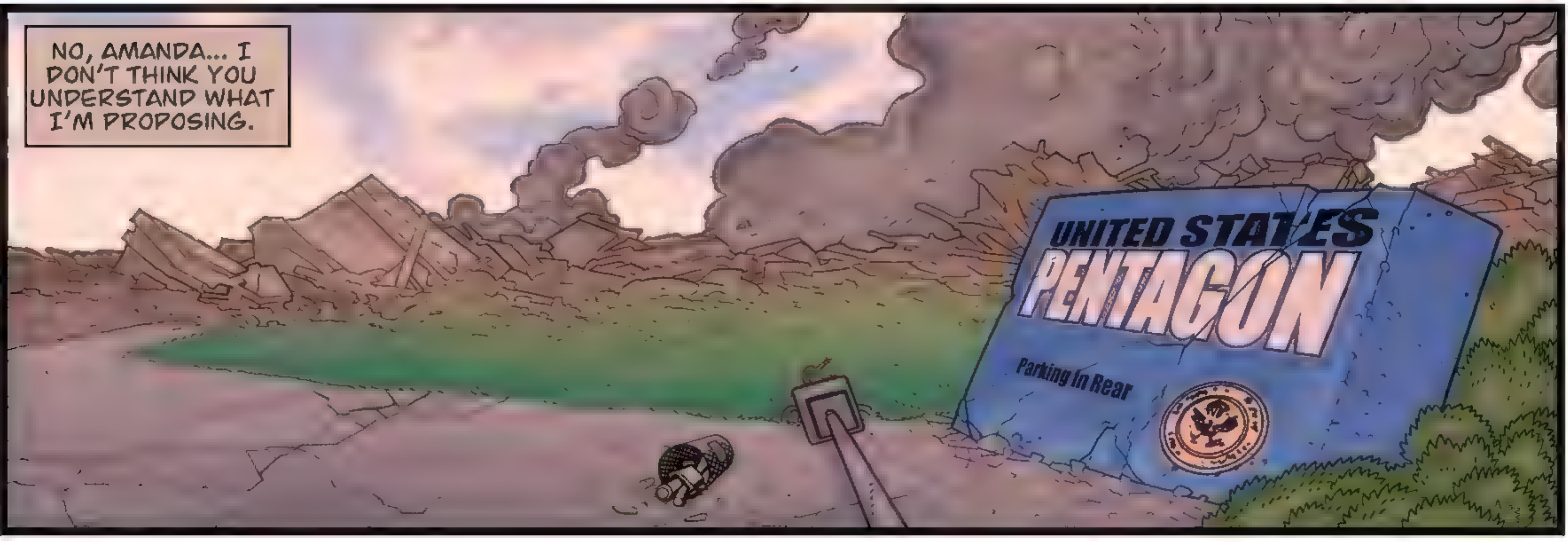
IT'S WORTH LOSING
EVERYTHING...
BUT I NEED YOU BY
MY SIDE, AMANDA.



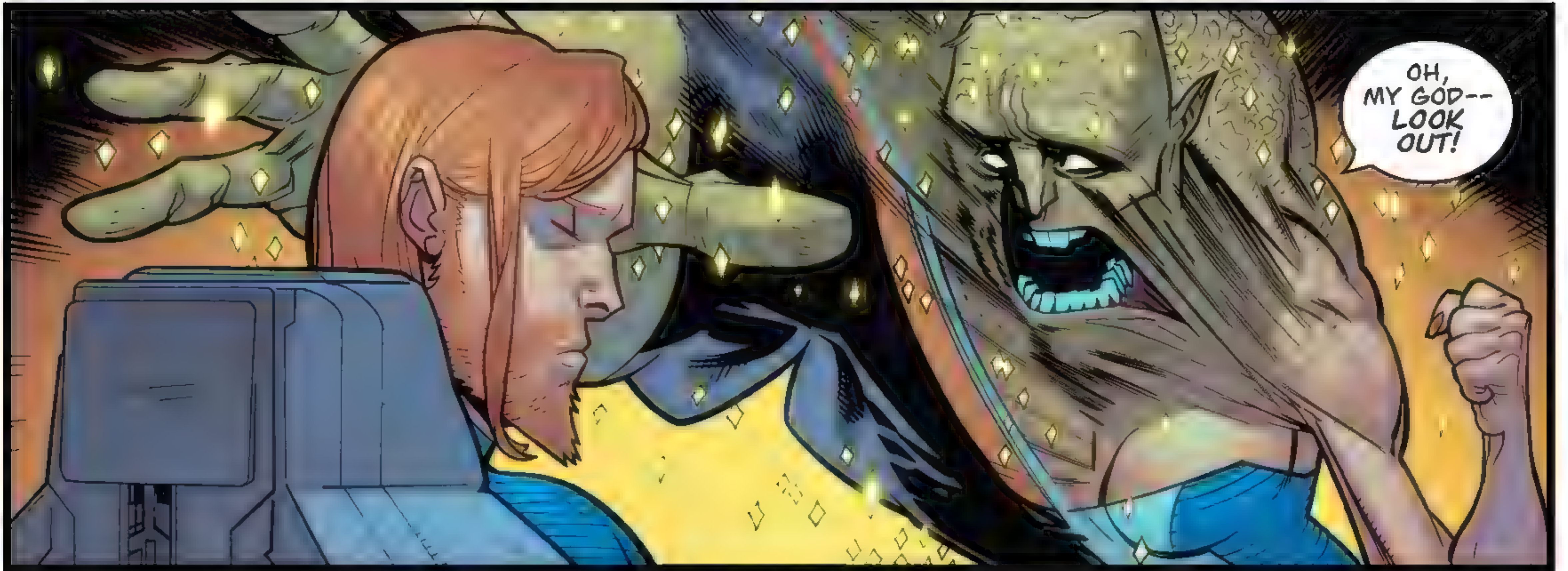
TRUTH IS, REX... I HAVEN'T FELT
LIKE I'VE BELONGED HERE
SINCE WE CAME BACK. I NEVER
FELT LIKE I BELONGED IN THE
FLAXAN DIMENSION EITHER.

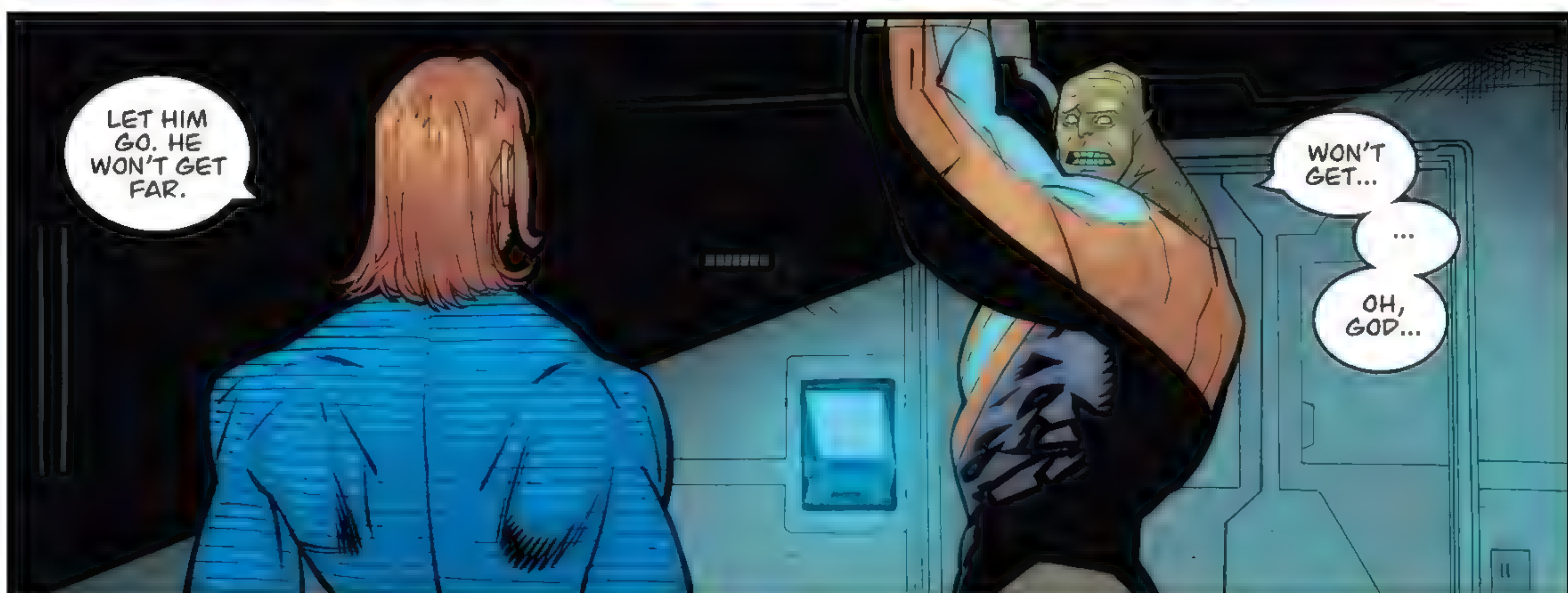
I'VE BEEN LOST
EVER SINCE WE
LEFT THIS
DIMENSION IN THE
FIRST PLACE.

IF WE ALIENATE EVERYONE IN
ORDER TO CHANGE THE WORLD...
I DON'T SEE THE PROBLEM.
THEY'LL COME AROUND ONCE
THEY SEE WHAT WE'VE DONE.
WE'LL WIN THEM OVER
EVENTUALLY.



NO, AMANDA... I
DON'T THINK YOU
UNDERSTAND WHAT
I'M PROPOSING.







MONAX... HE TOLD
ME WHAT YOU
ARE... AND I
DIDN'T BELIEVE
HIM.

YOU DID HUNT DOWN
AND KILL THE ZAXALS,
DIDN'T YOU? YOU
ARE A...



MONSTER?

THAT'S
WHAT HE SAID,
DIDN'T HE? I
KILLED THE ZAXALS,
THE ONE YOU MATED
WITH... ALL THE
OTHERS I COULD
FIND... I TRIED TO KILL
YOUR BABY, BEFORE
HE GREW INTO
MONAX.

SO YES, I KNEW
HOW DEEPLY YOU HAD
BETRAYED ME, THAT
YOU'D FATHERED A
CHILD. I FORGAVE YOU...
AND I TRIED TO ERASE IT.
THINKING BACK, I WAS
ALWAYS CAPABLE OF
DOING WHAT NEEDED TO
BE DONE, NO MATTER
HOW UGLY.

AM I A
MONSTER?
MAYBE I
ALWAYS WAS...
BENEATH THE
SURFACE.

WHO KNEW
WE HAD
SO MUCH IN
COMMON?



WHY,
REX?!

WHY?!

I
LOVED
YOU!

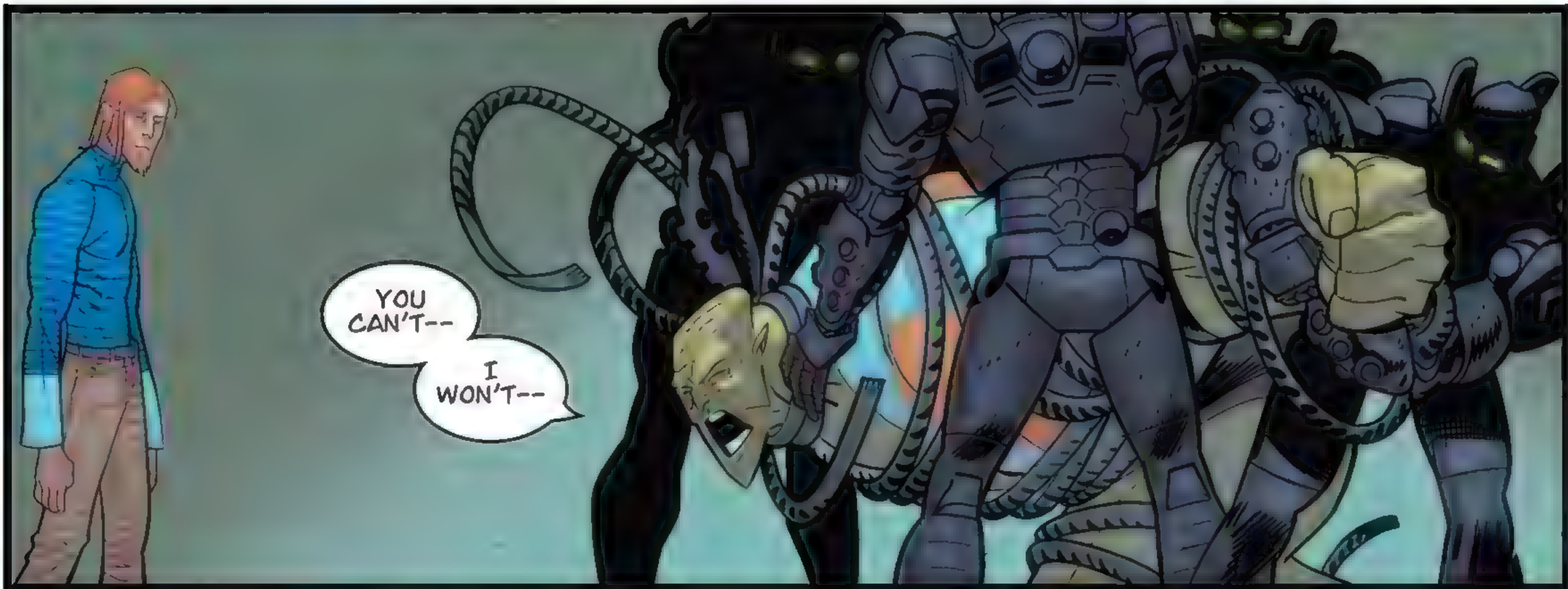


"LOVED?"

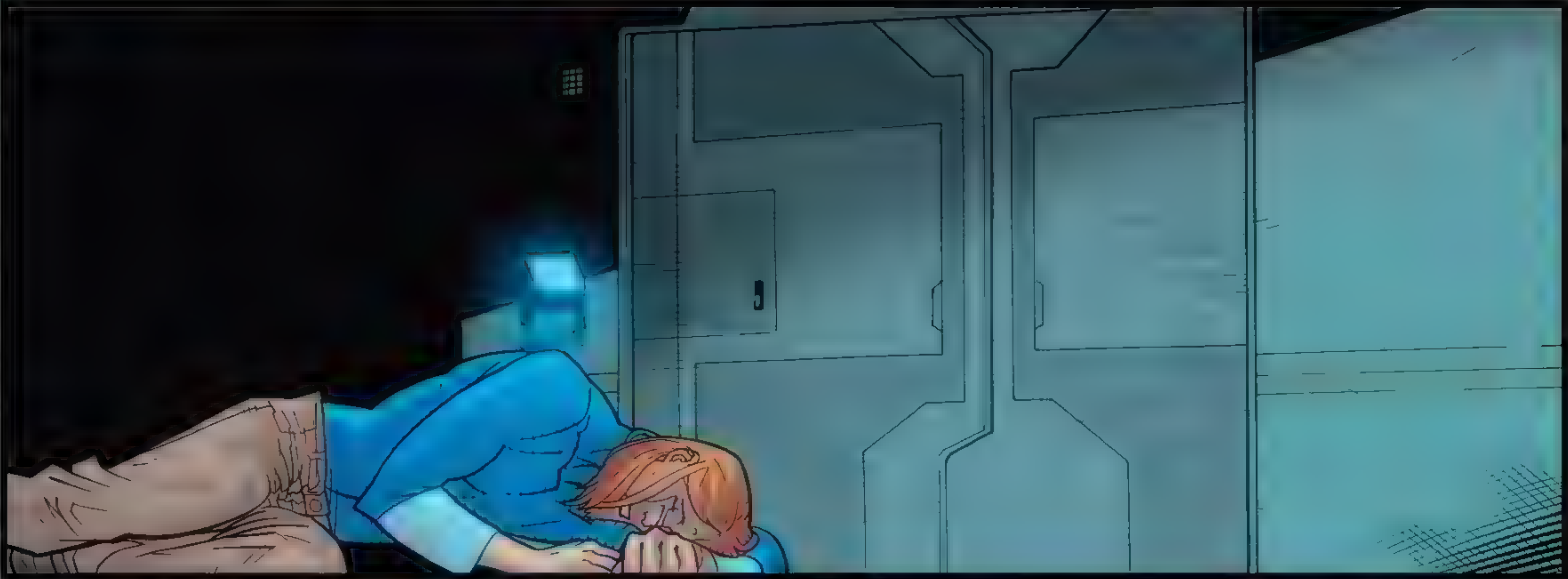
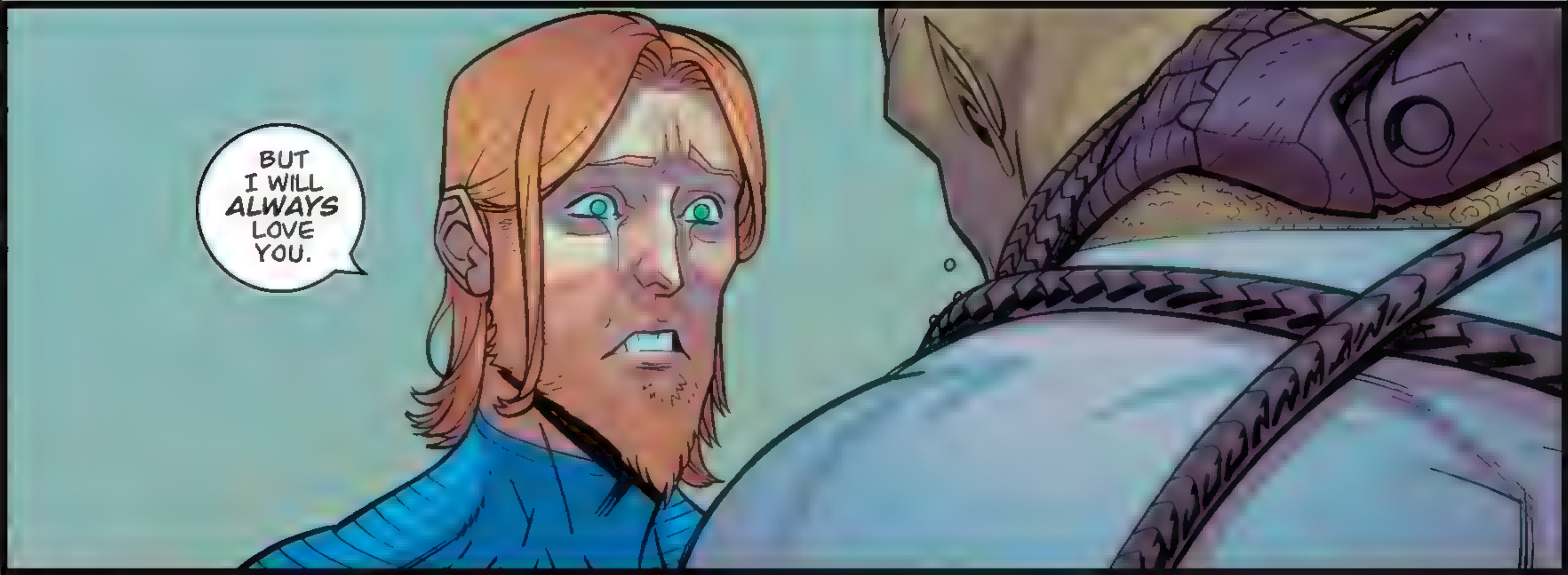
YOU'RE
REALLY NOT
GOING TO
HELP ME...

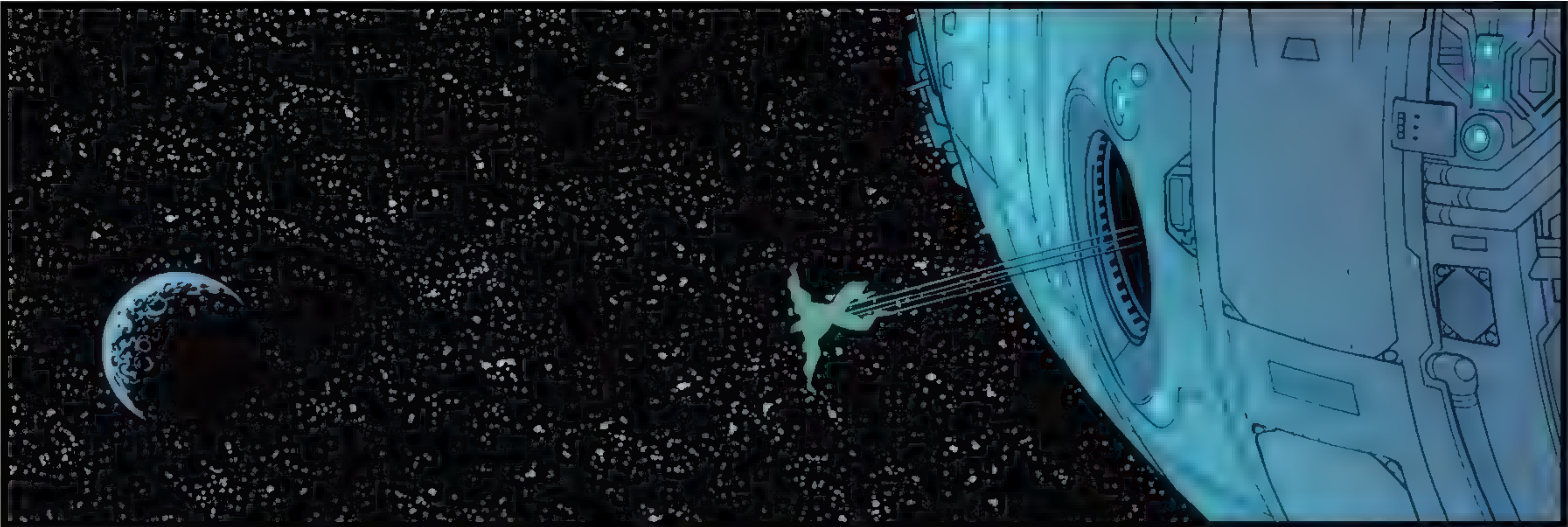
WHAT AN IDIOT
I'VE BEEN. I
NEVER CONSIDERED
WHAT THIS WOULD
DO TO US.

I DIDN'T
THINK IT
WOULD COME
TO THIS.









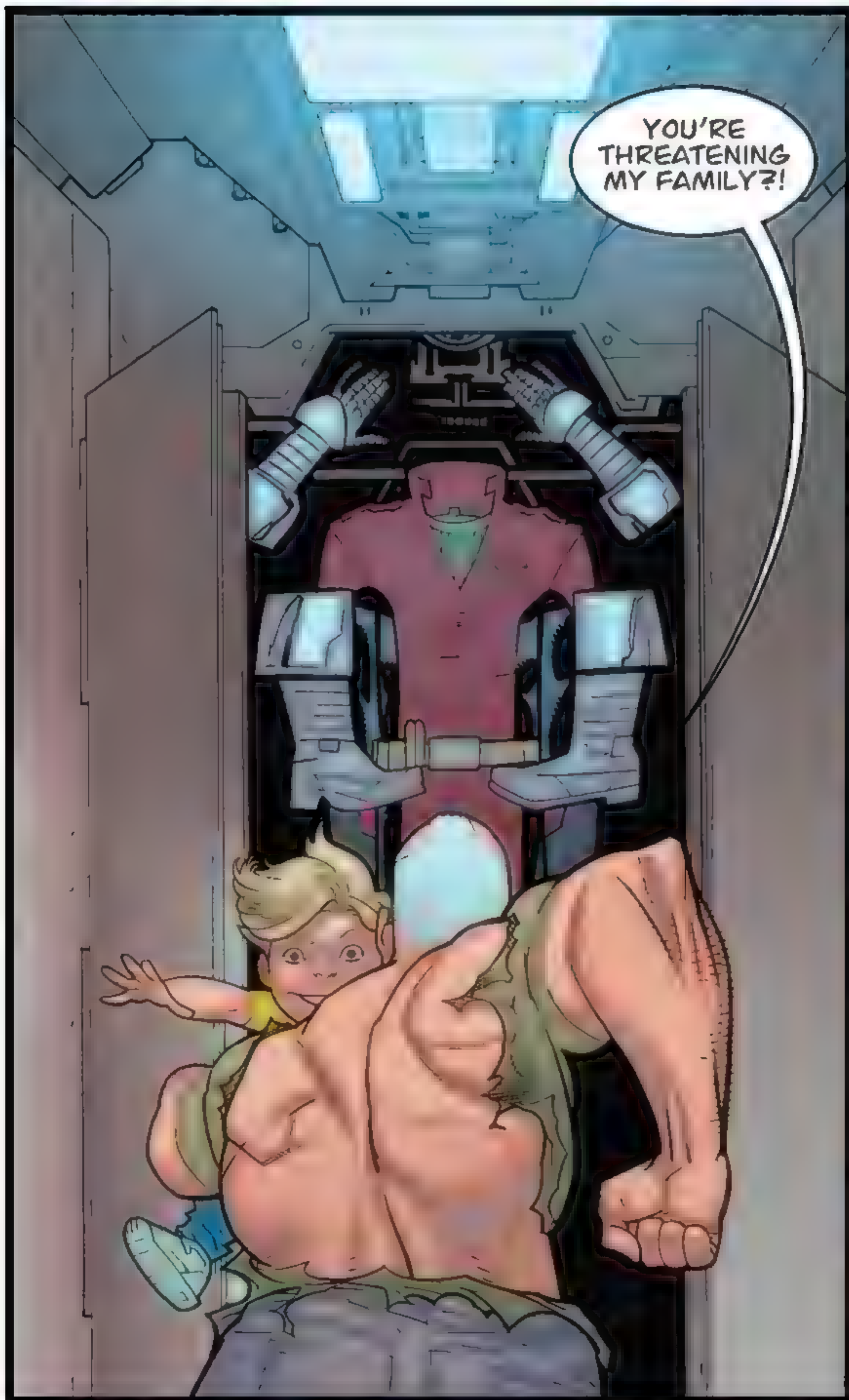
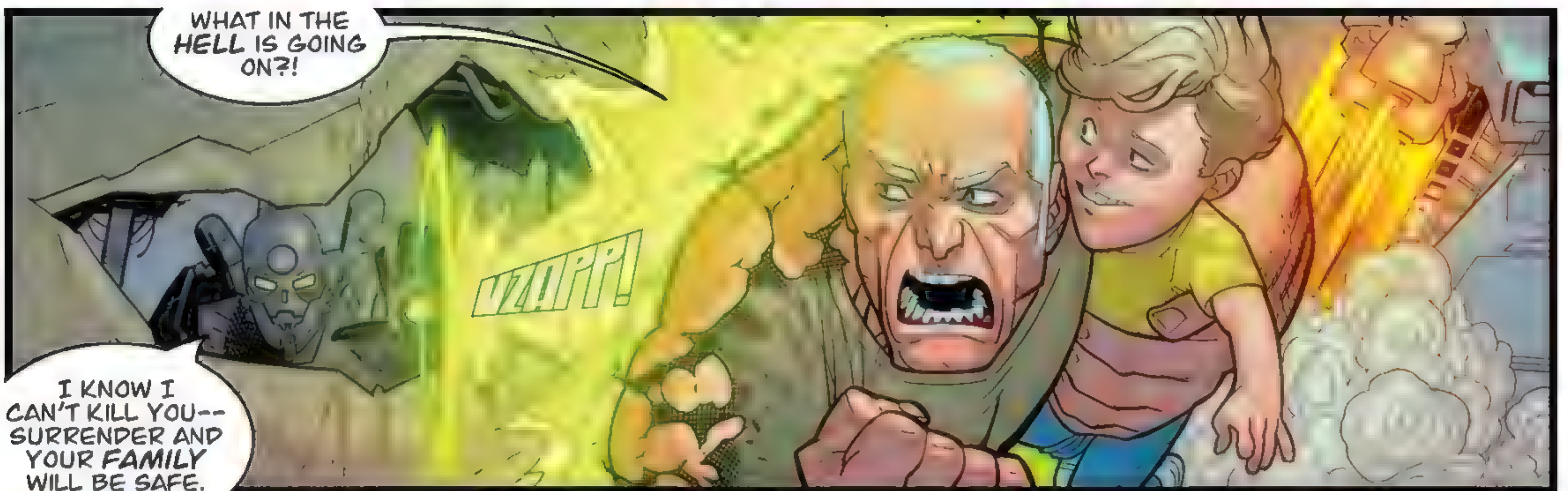


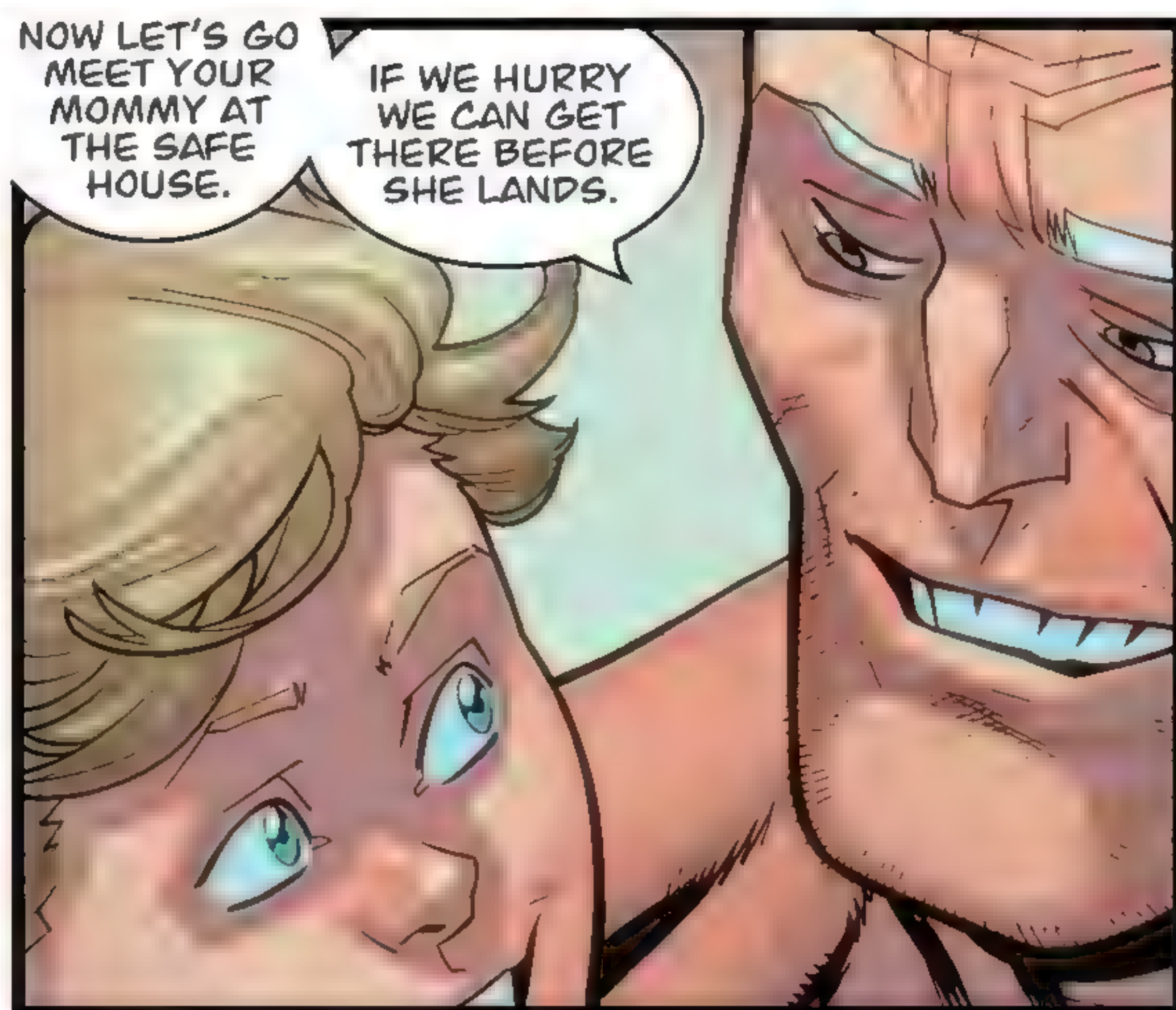
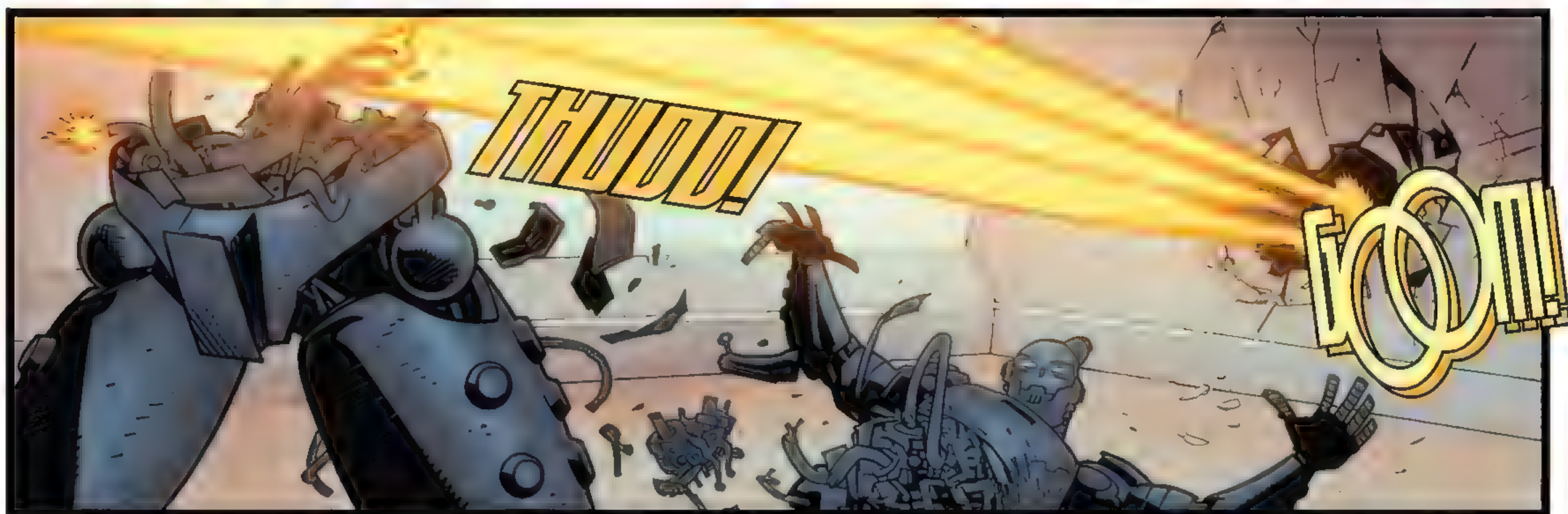
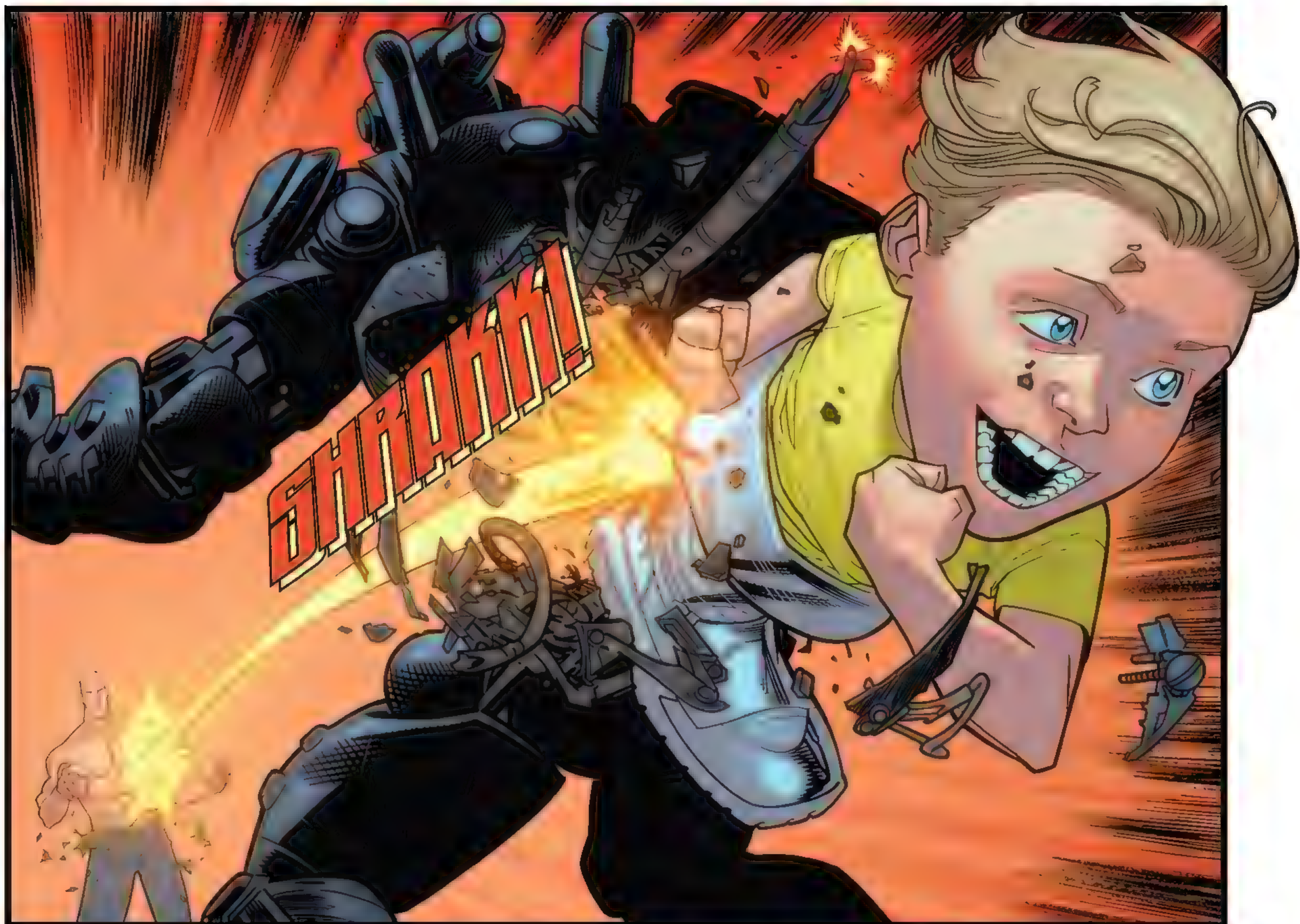


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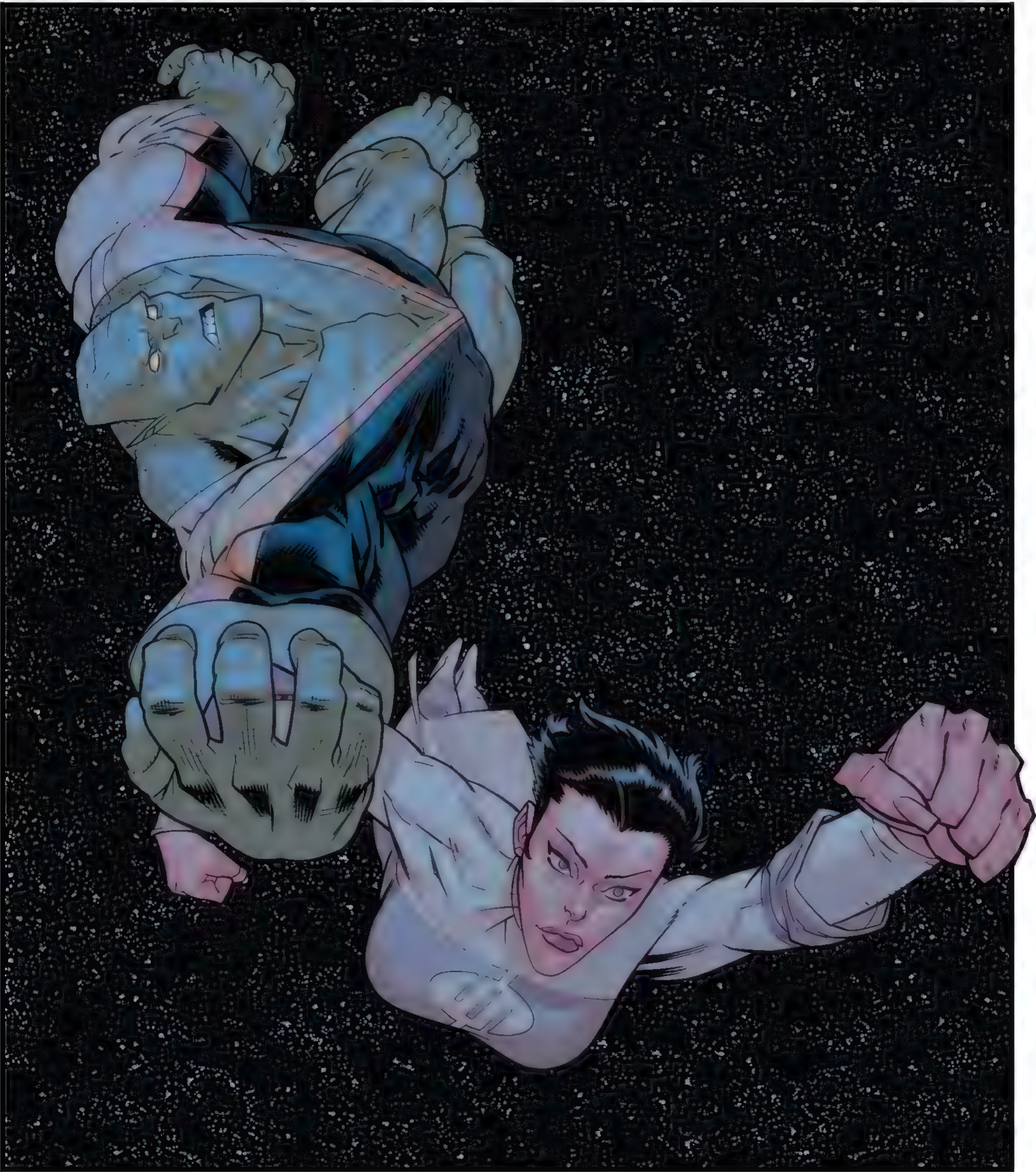
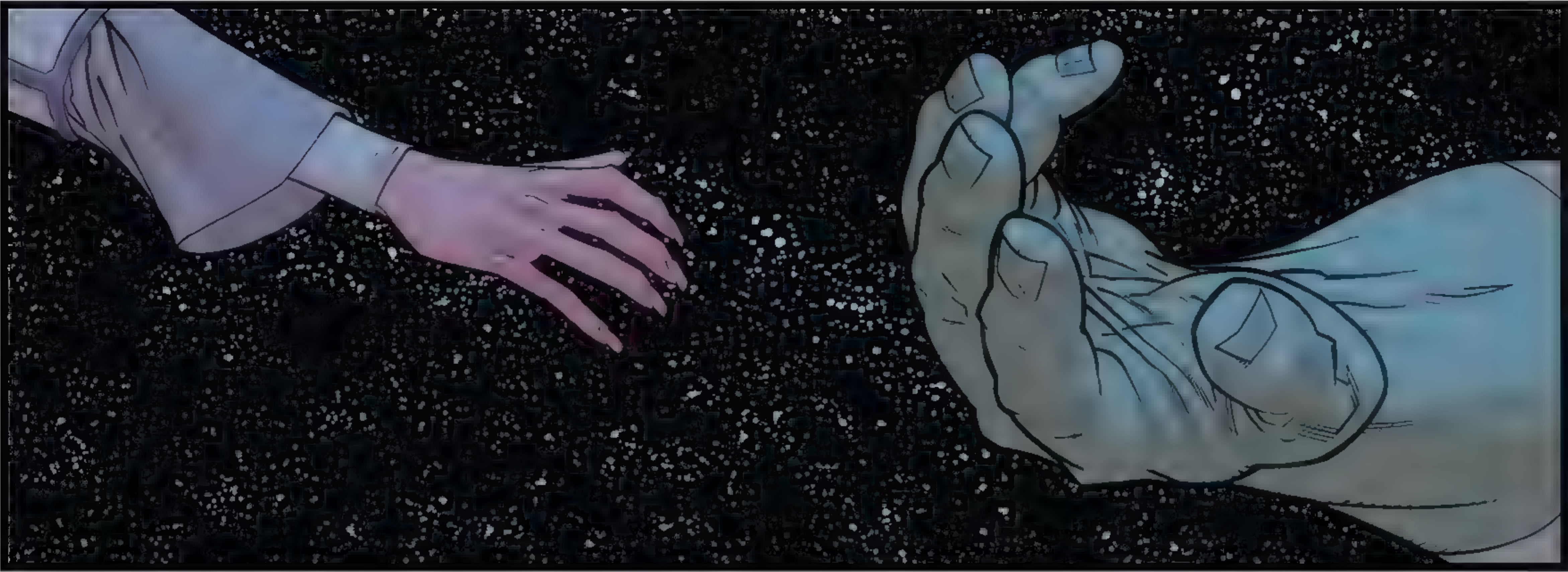


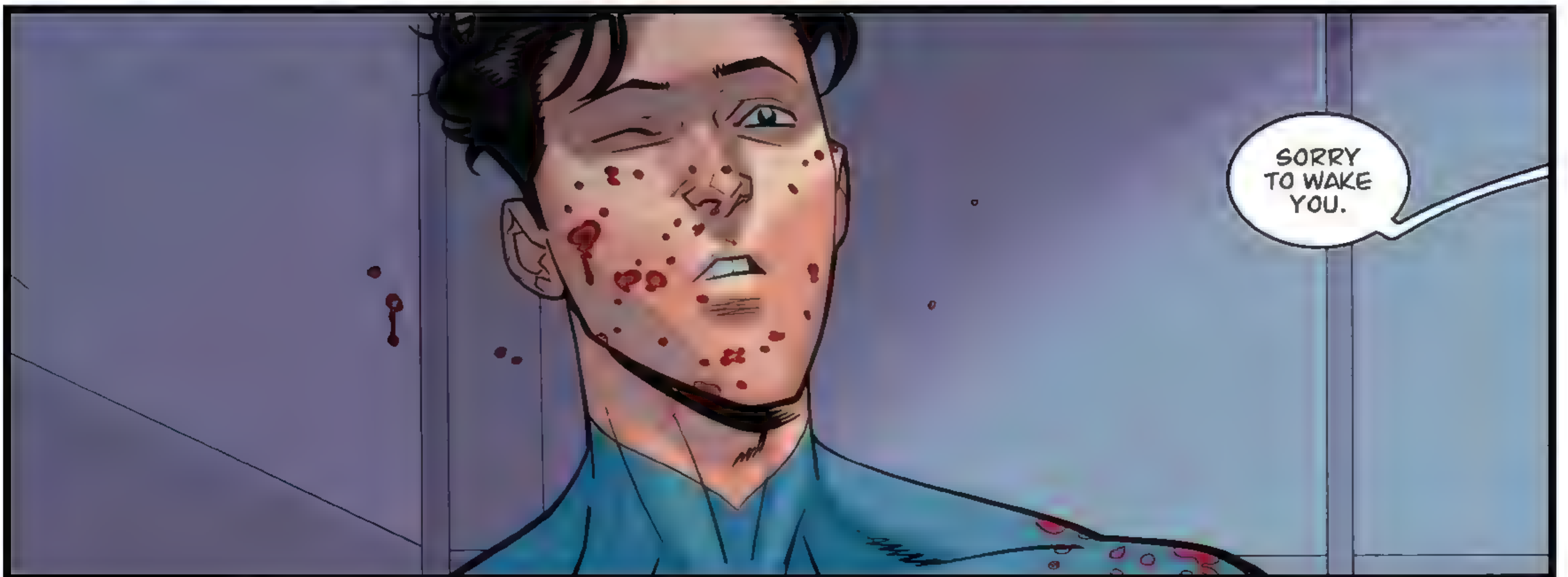
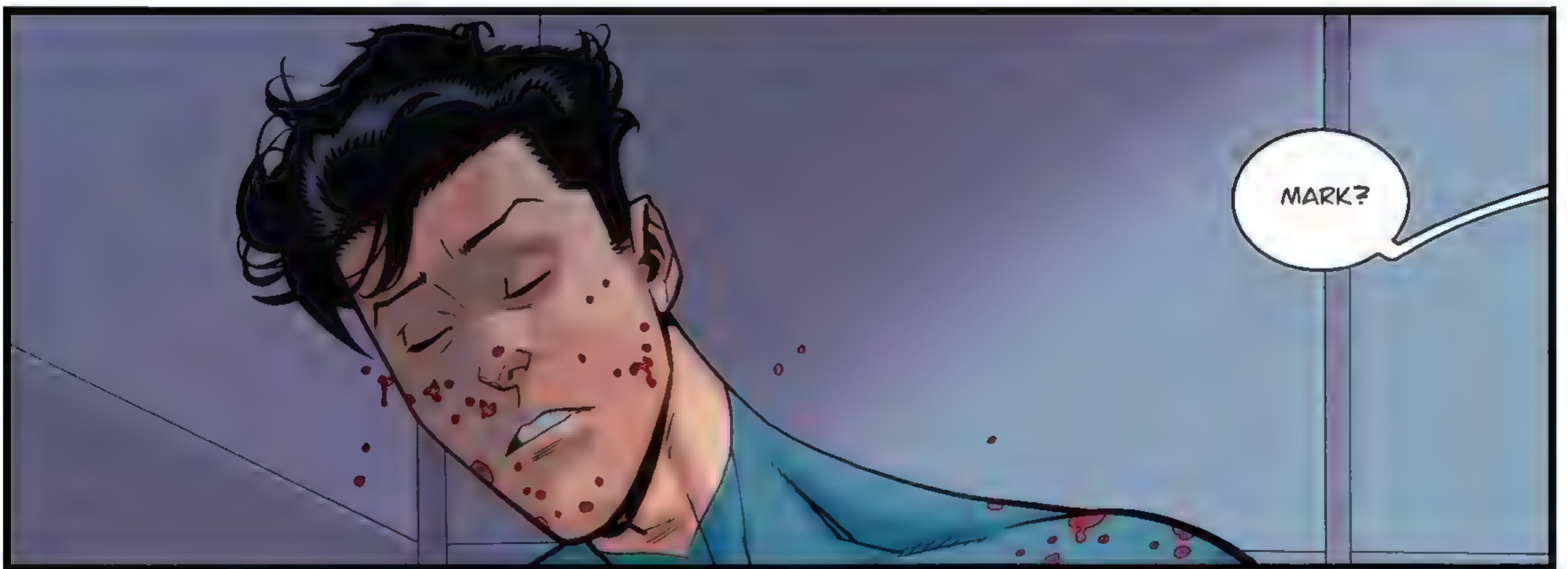
RUAN 14





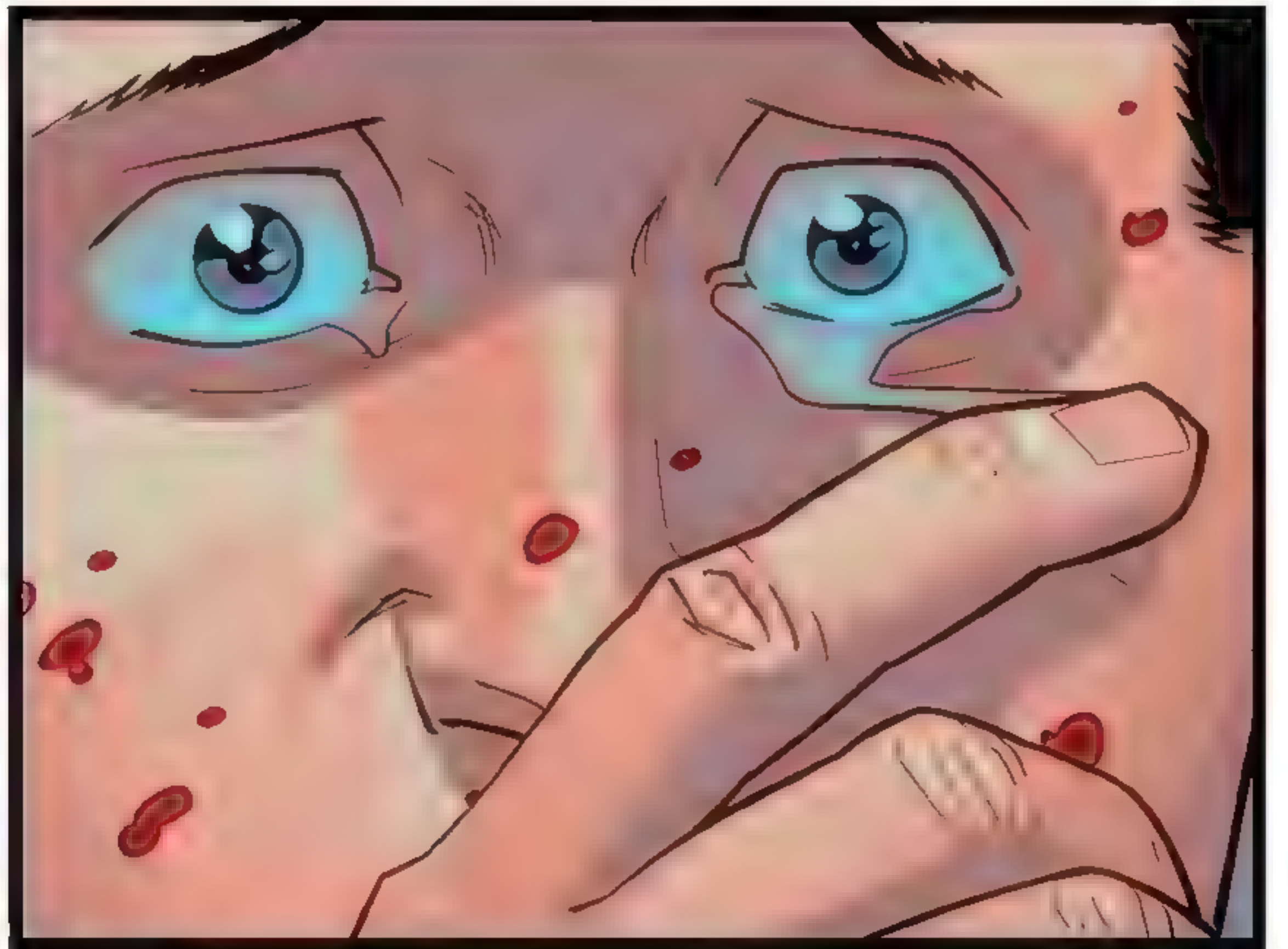
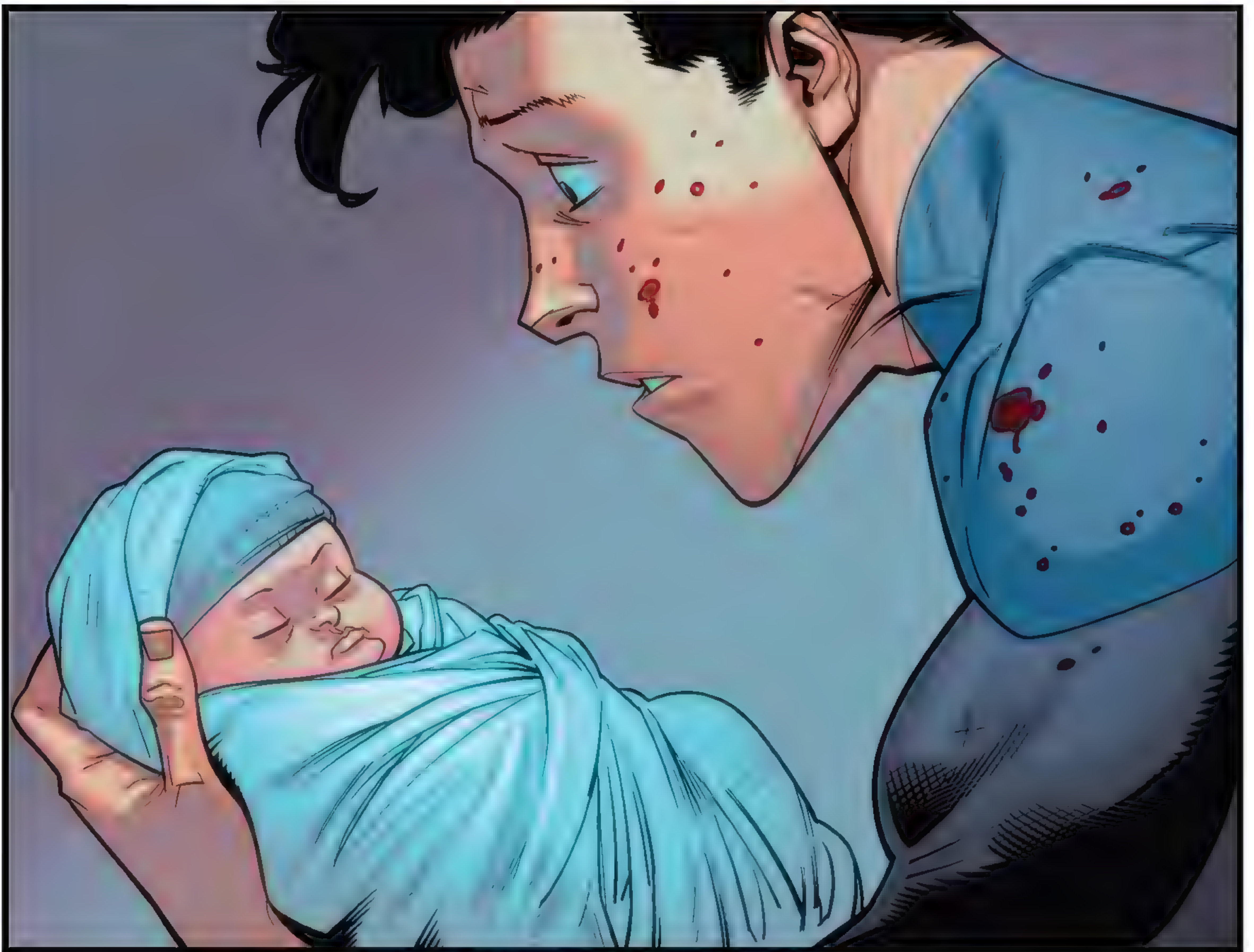


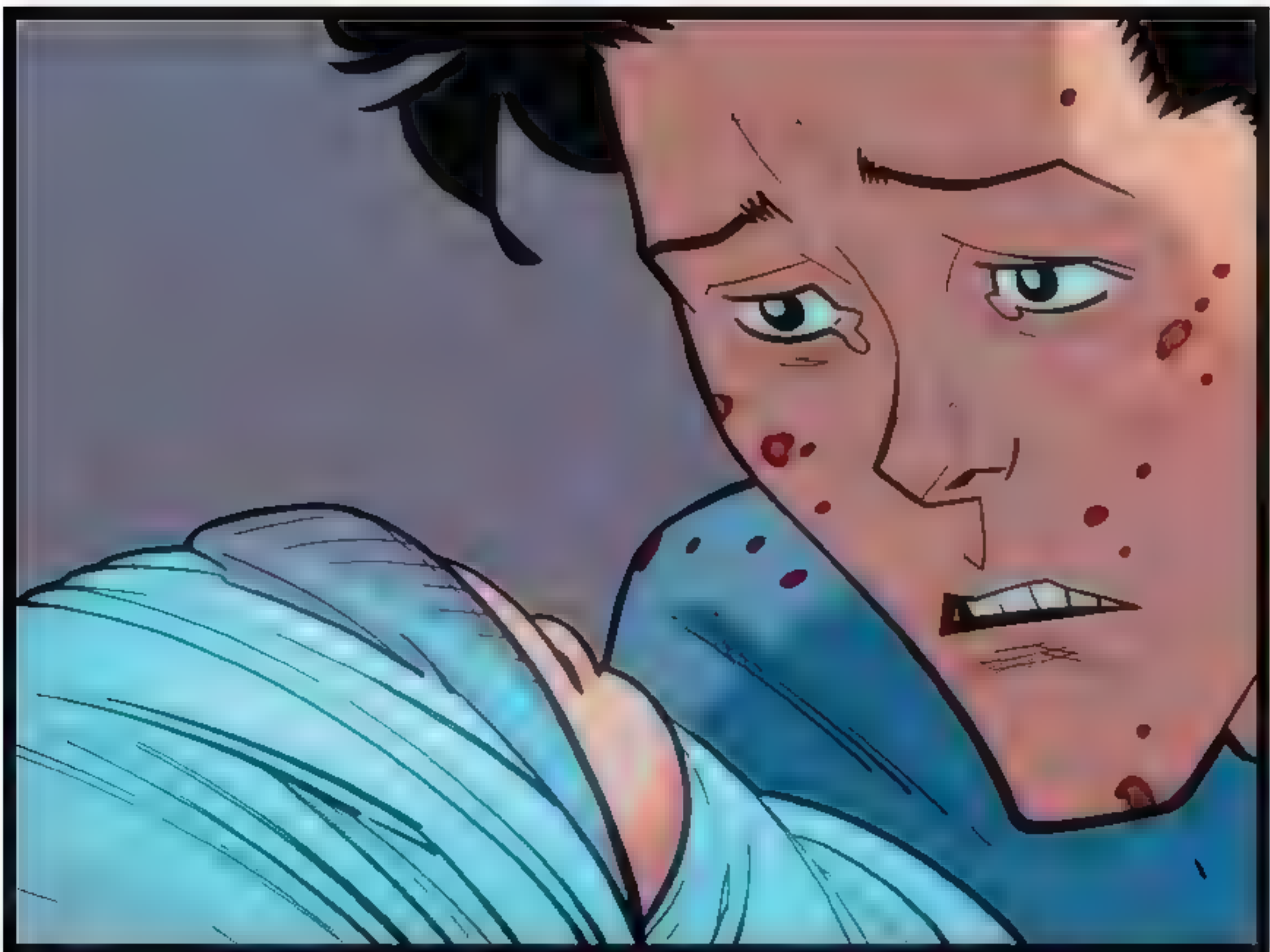
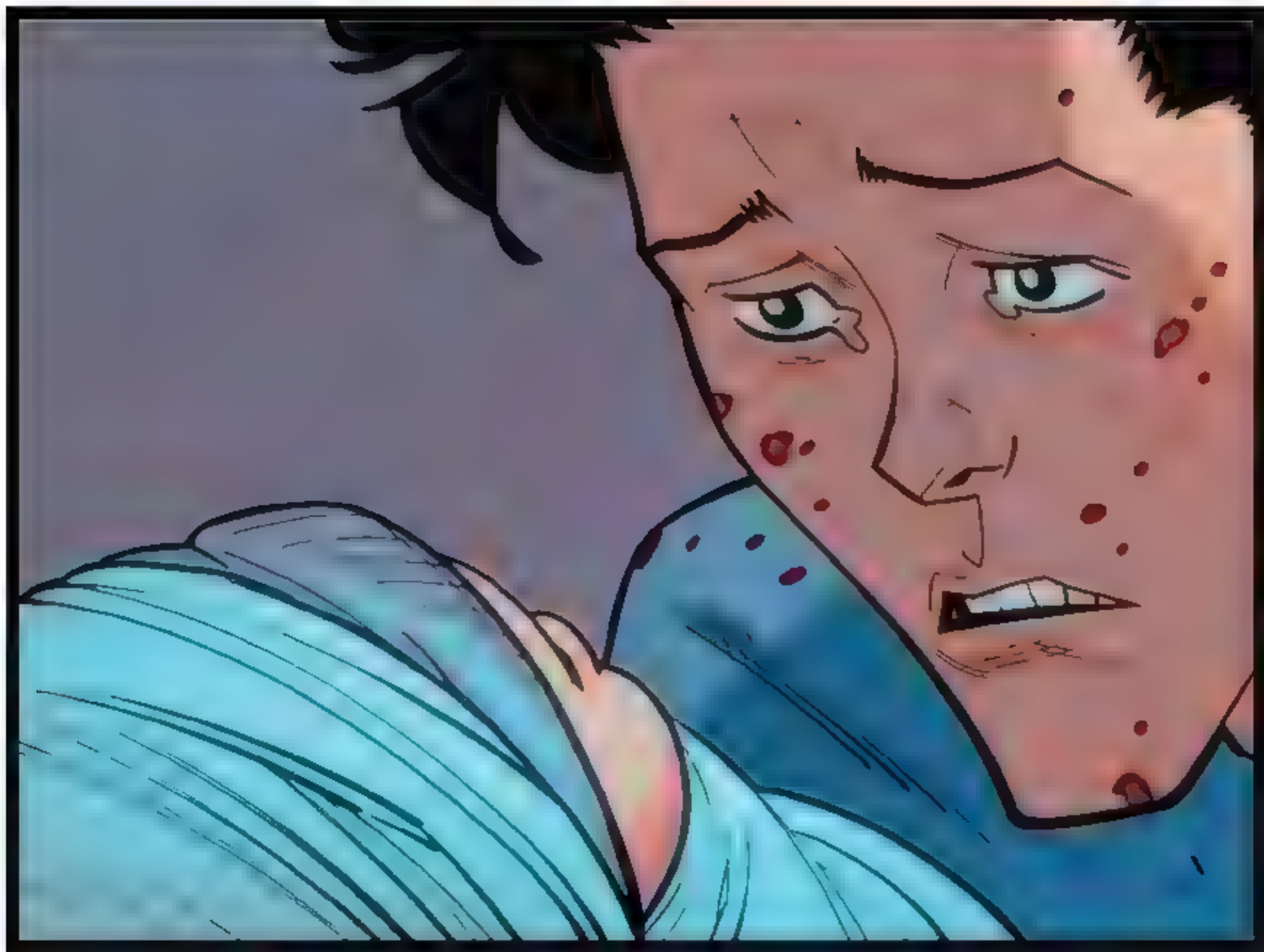


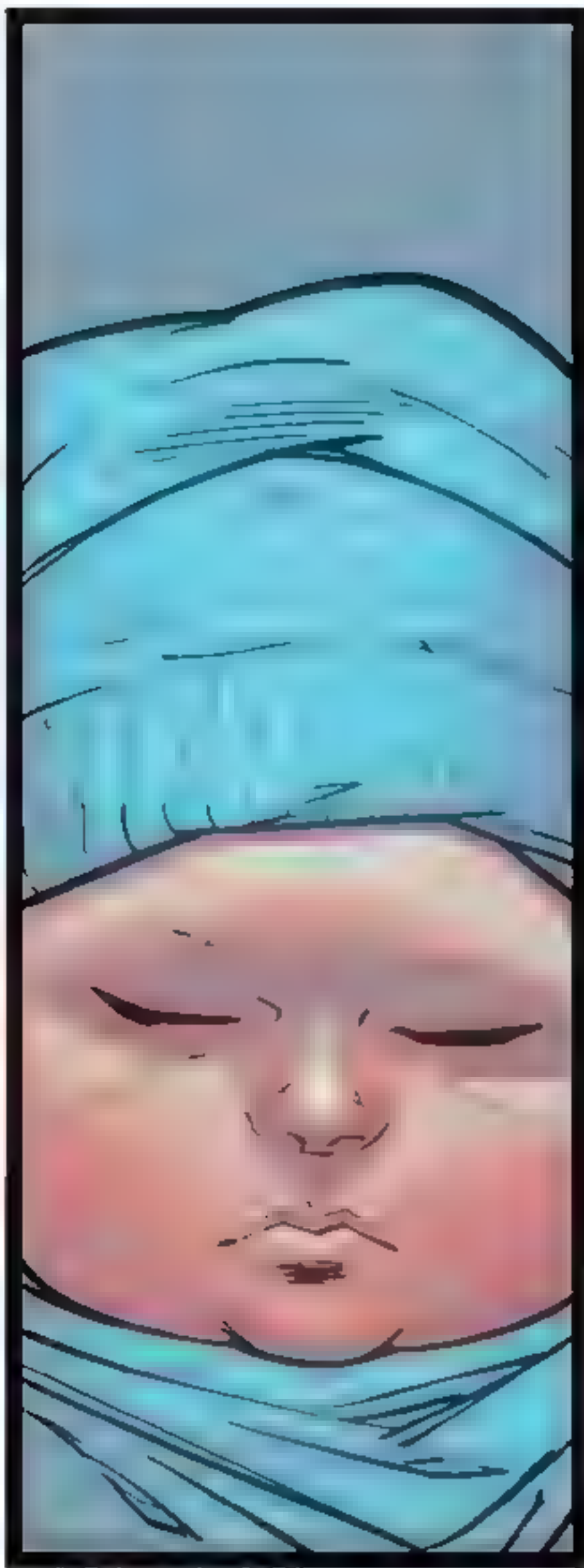
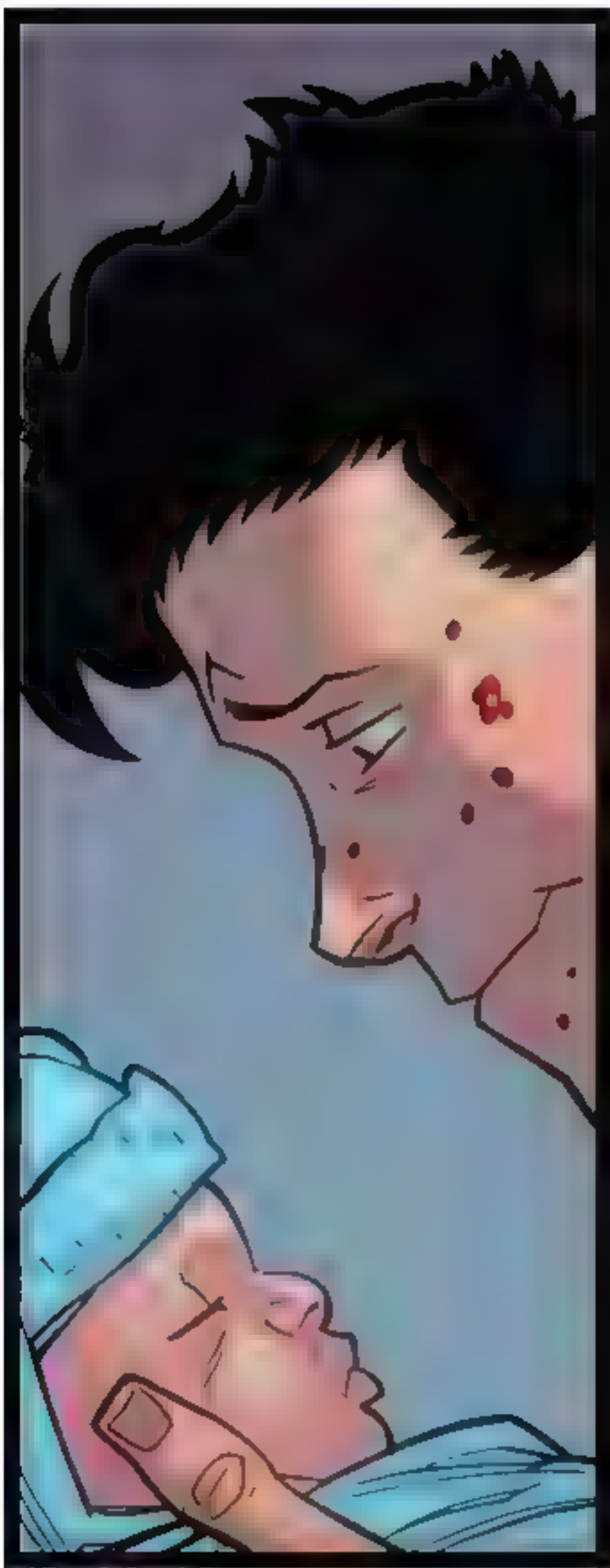
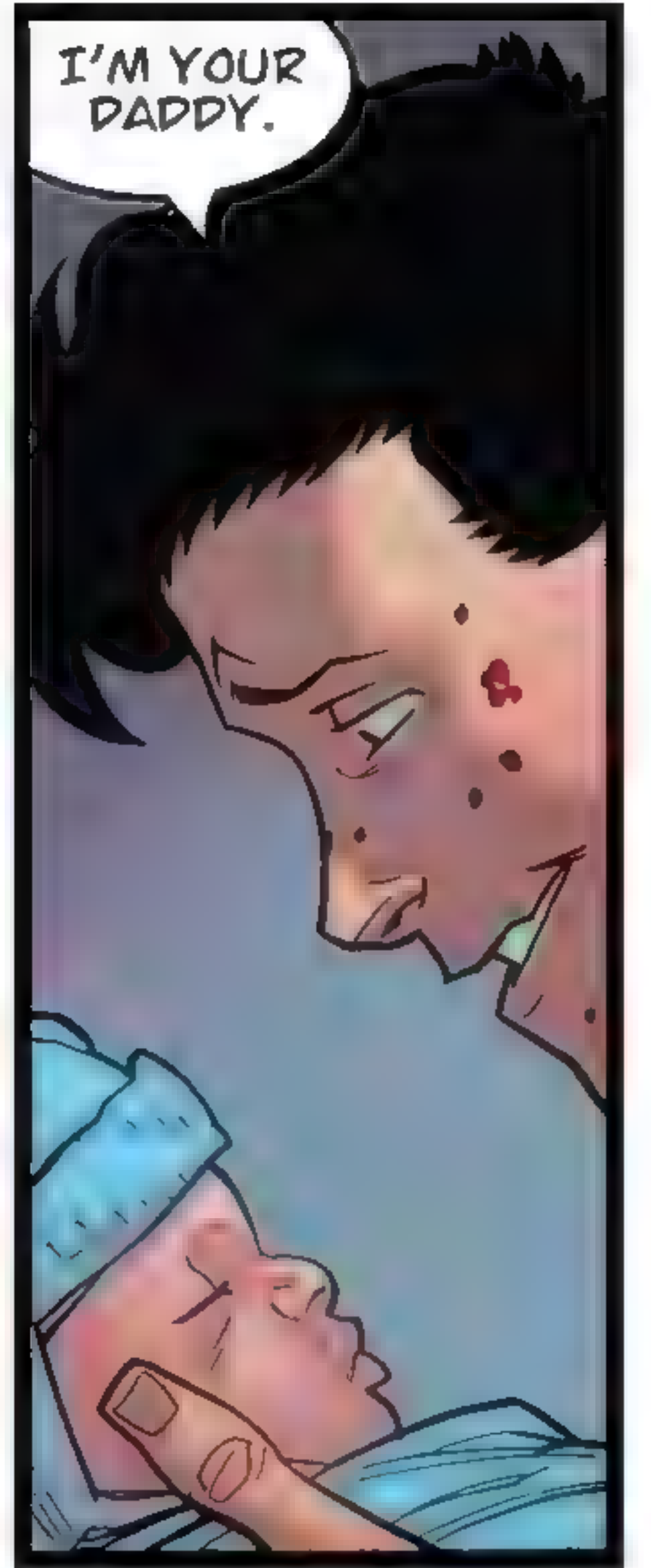
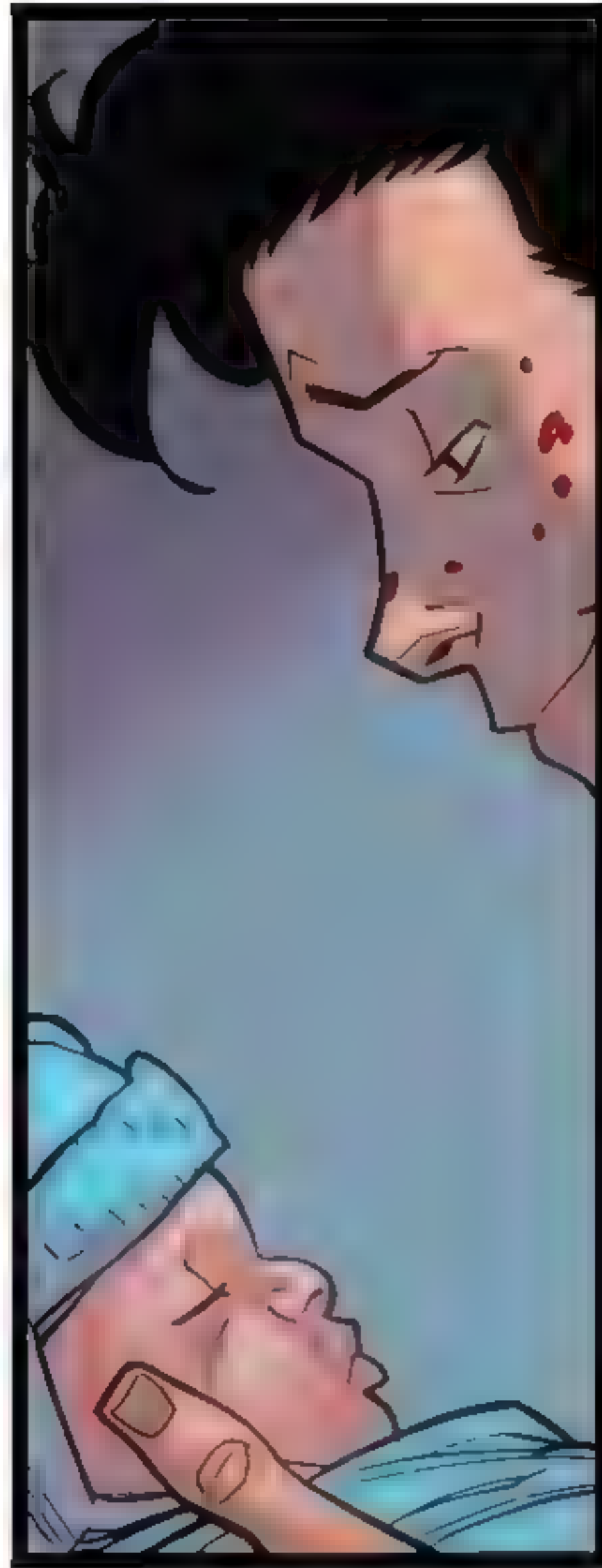
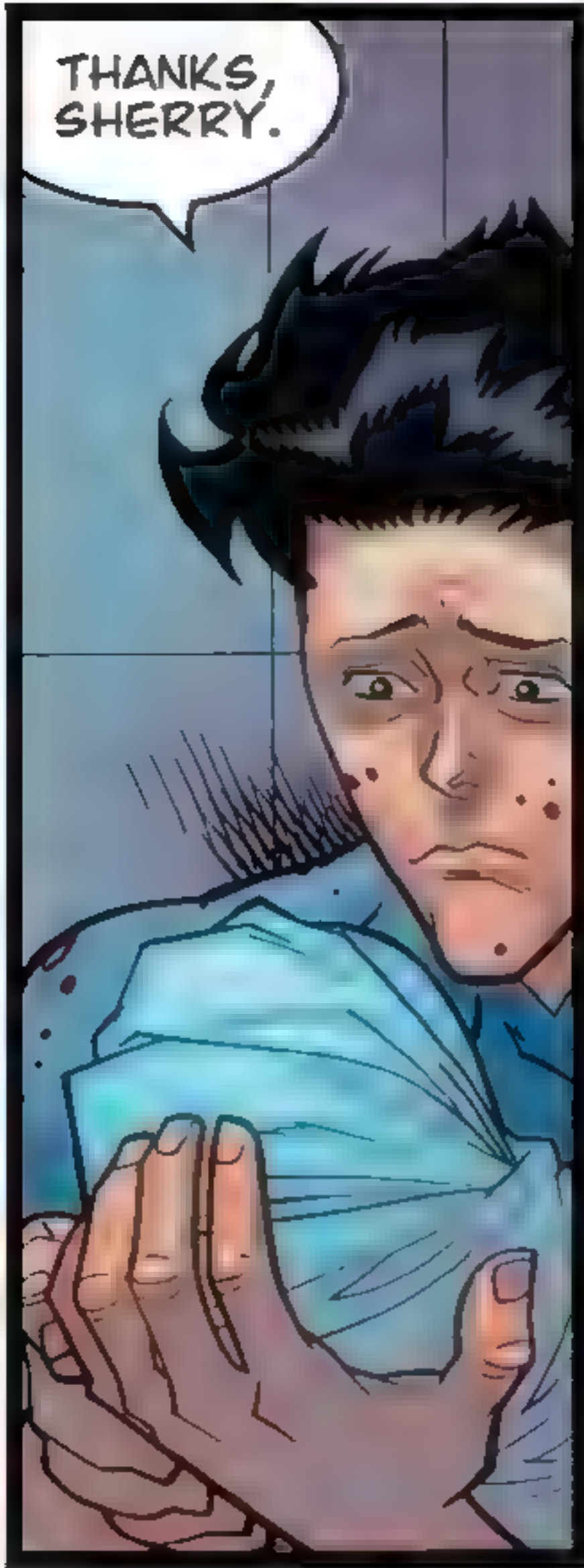
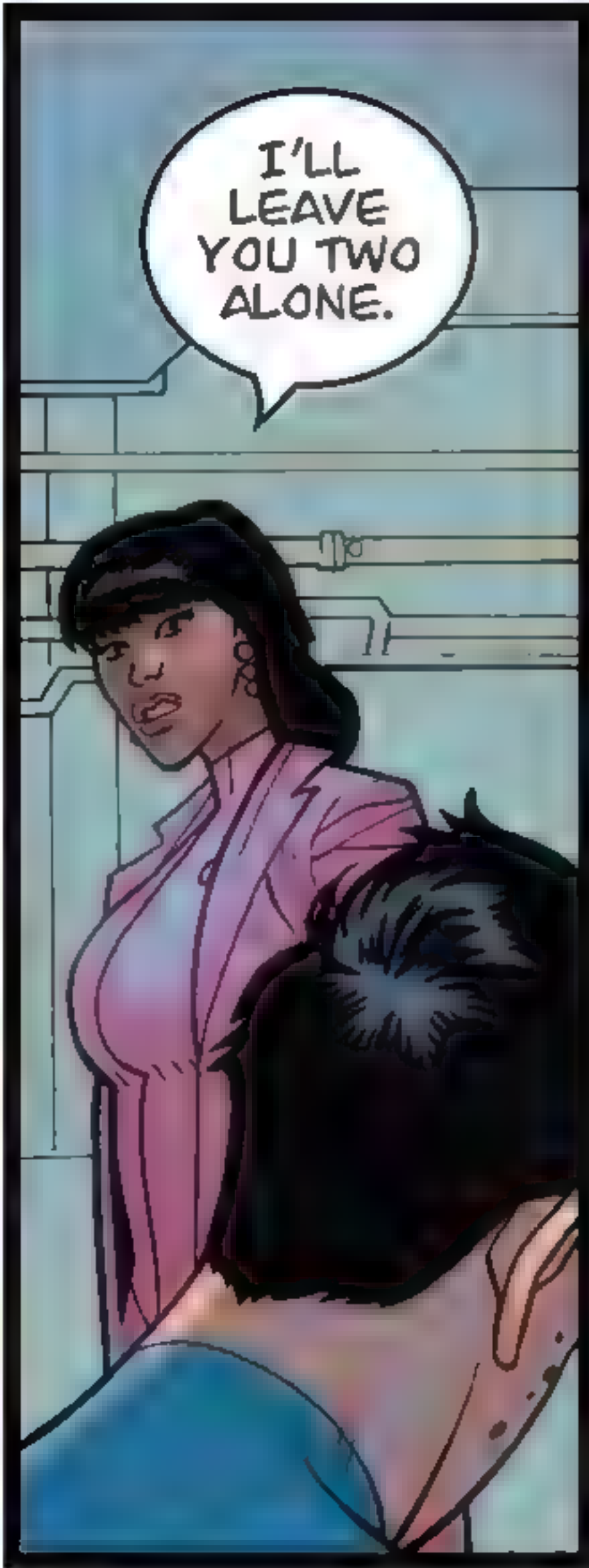
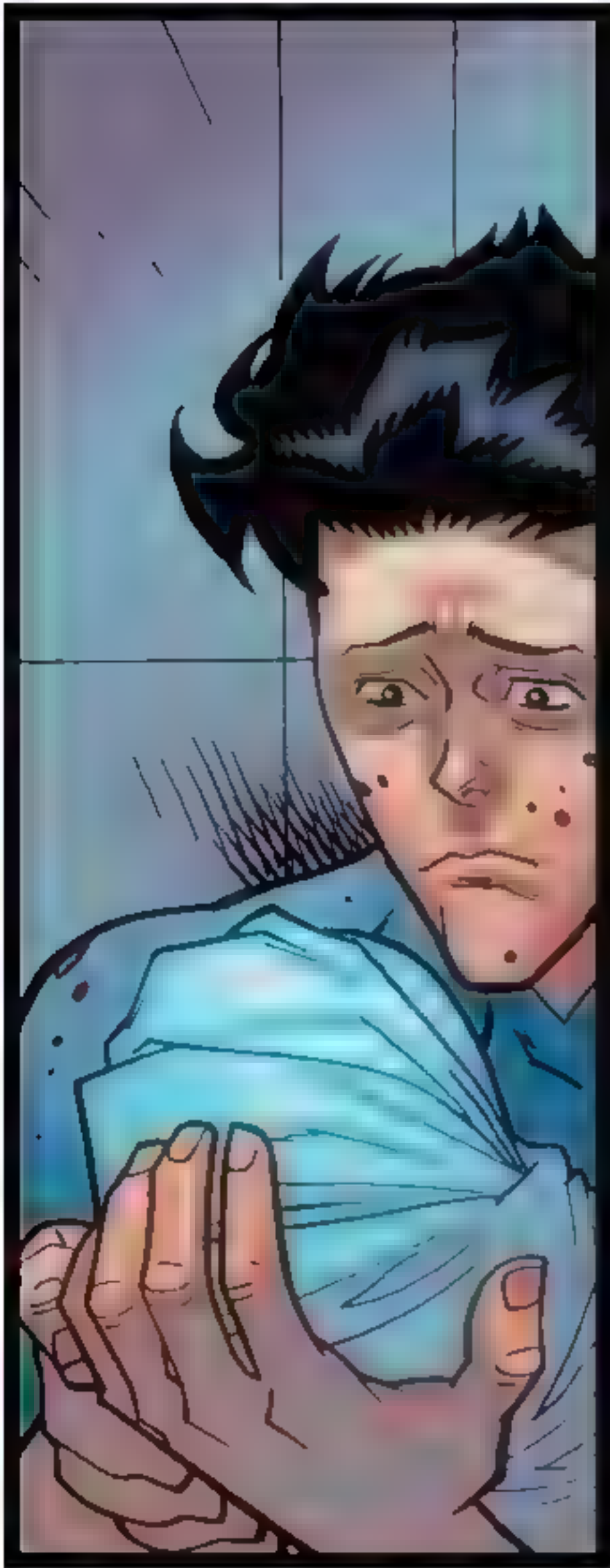


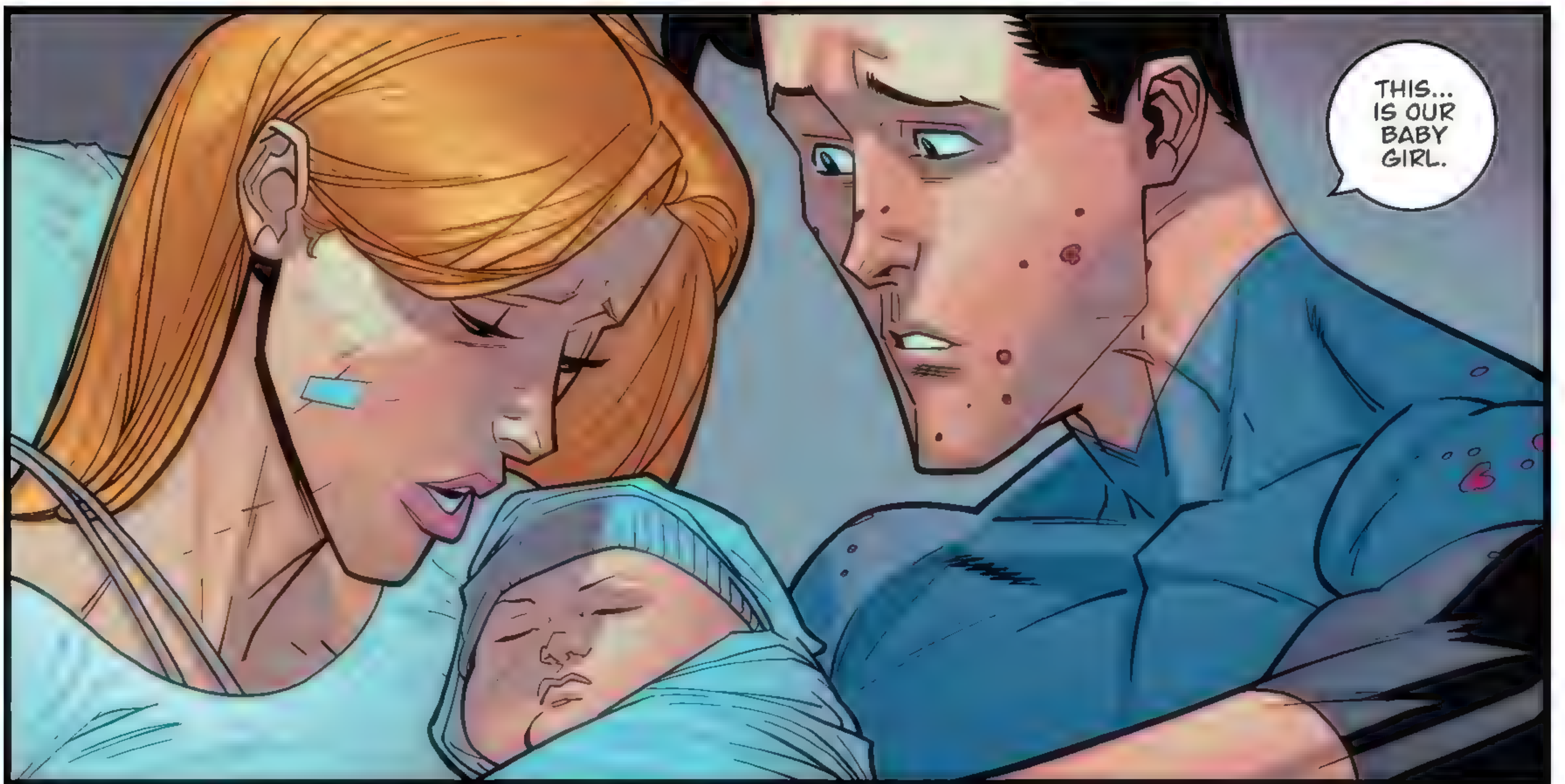
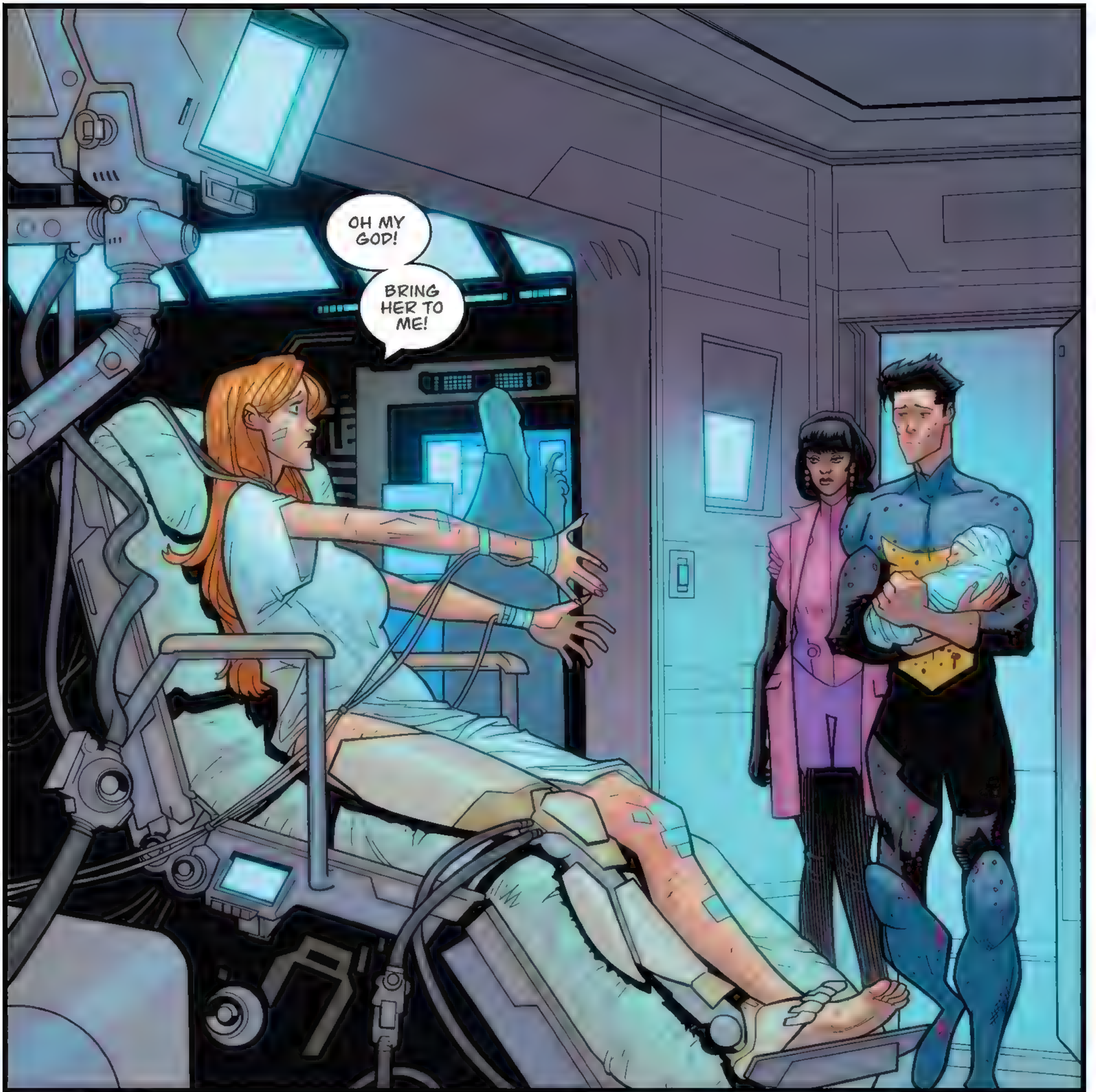


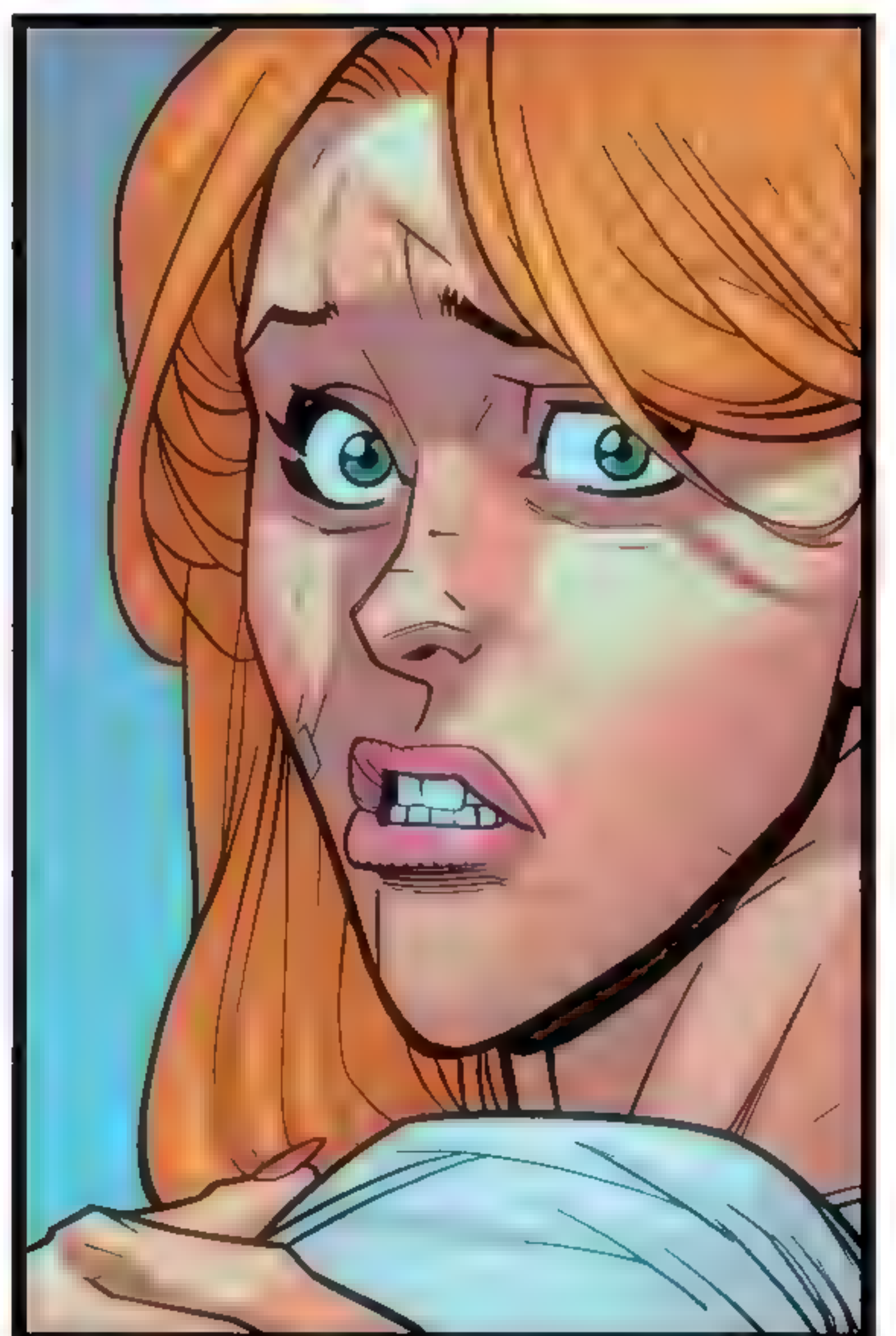
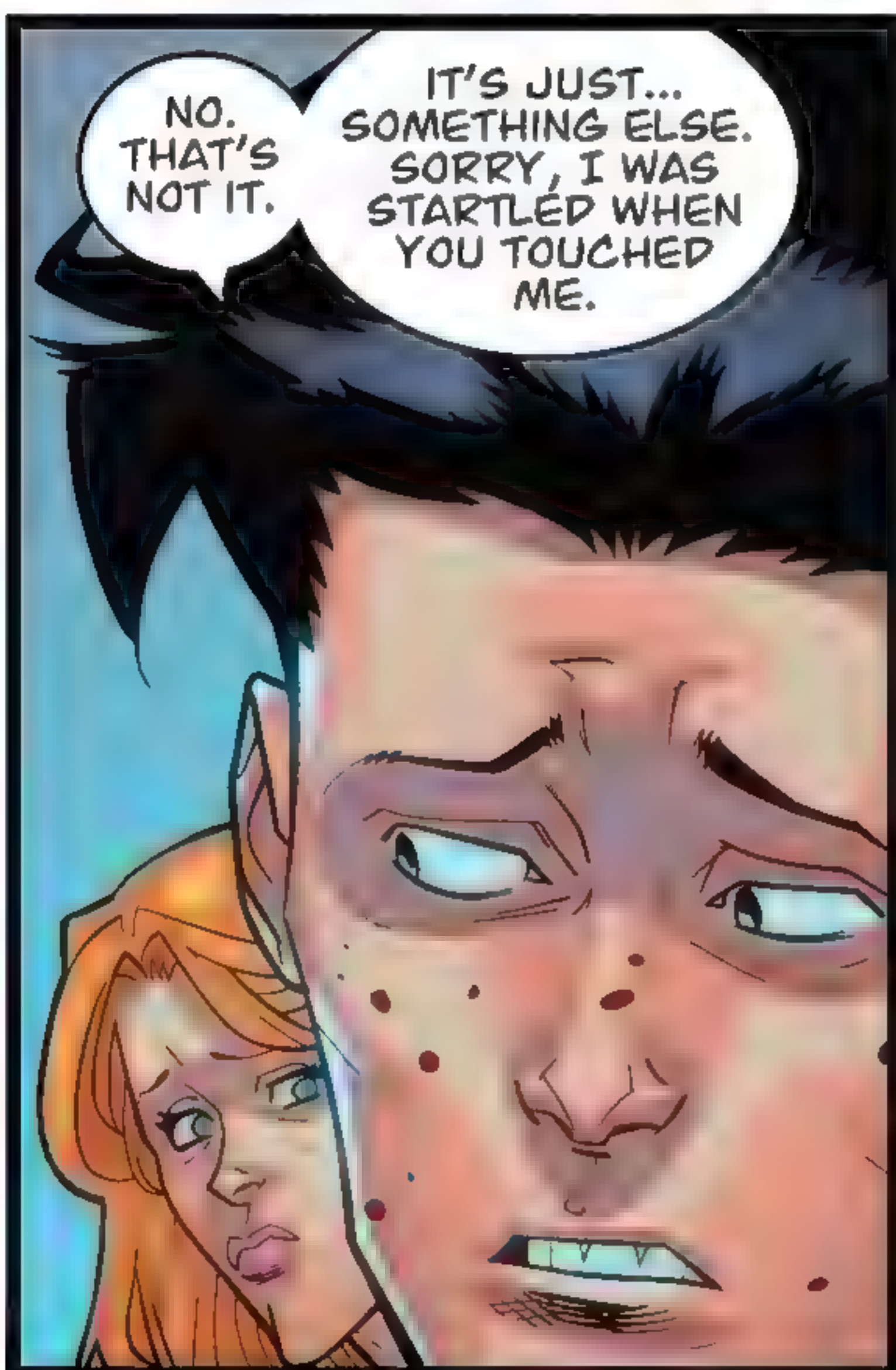
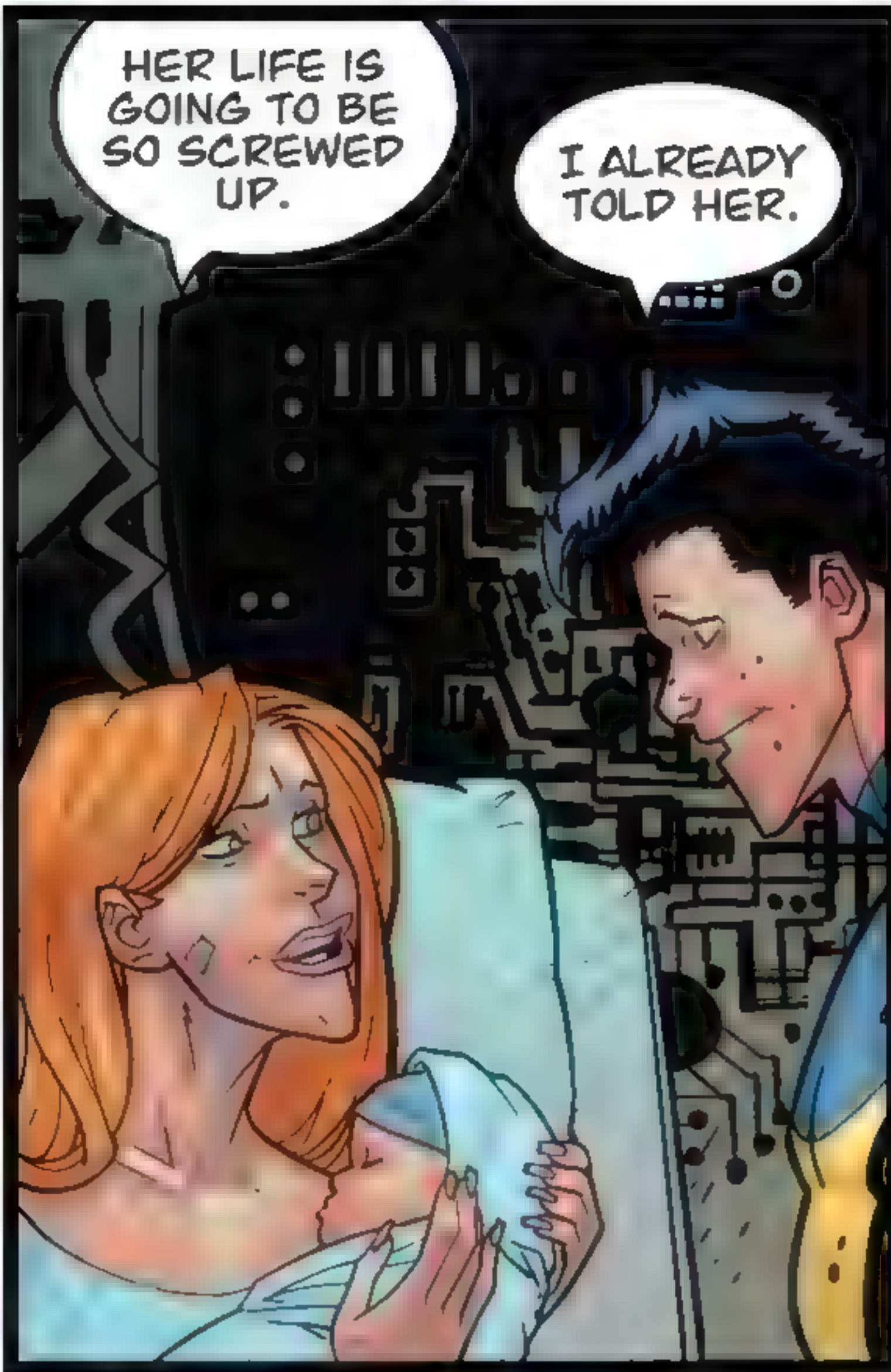
WOULD
YOU LIKE
TO HOLD
HER?



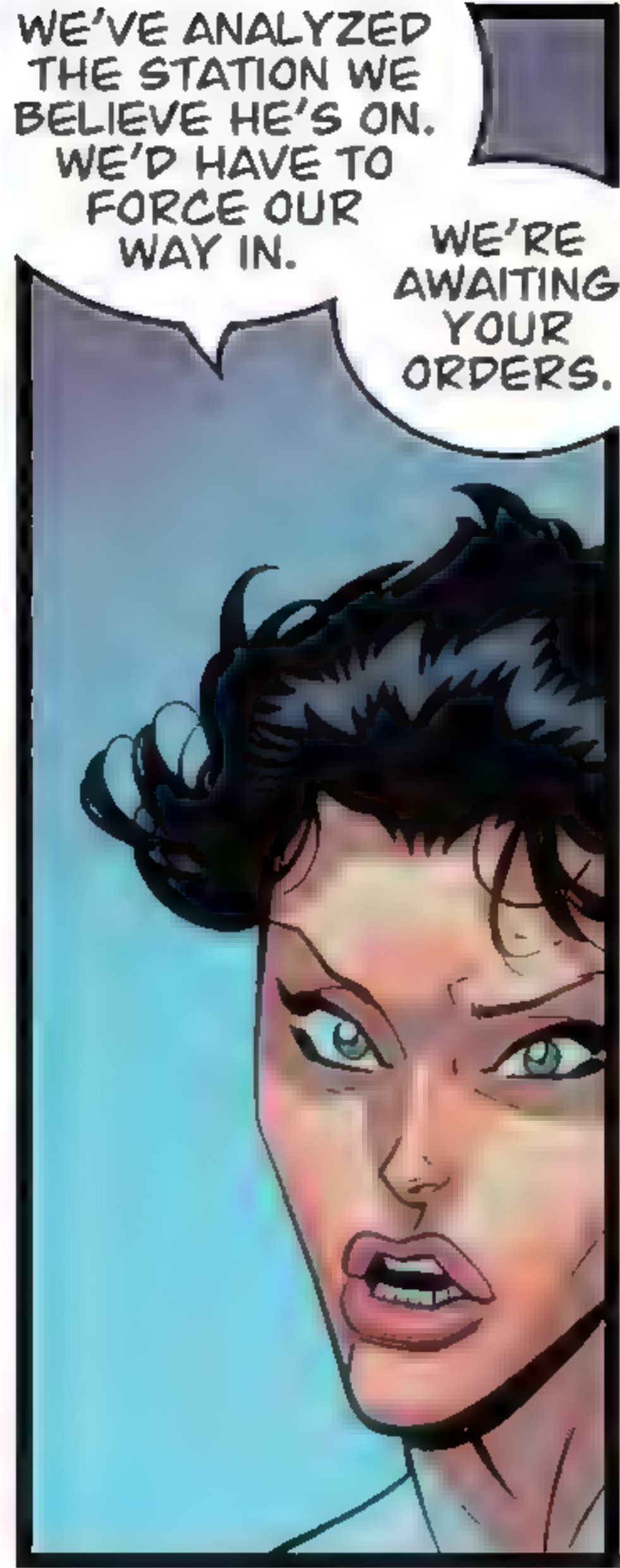


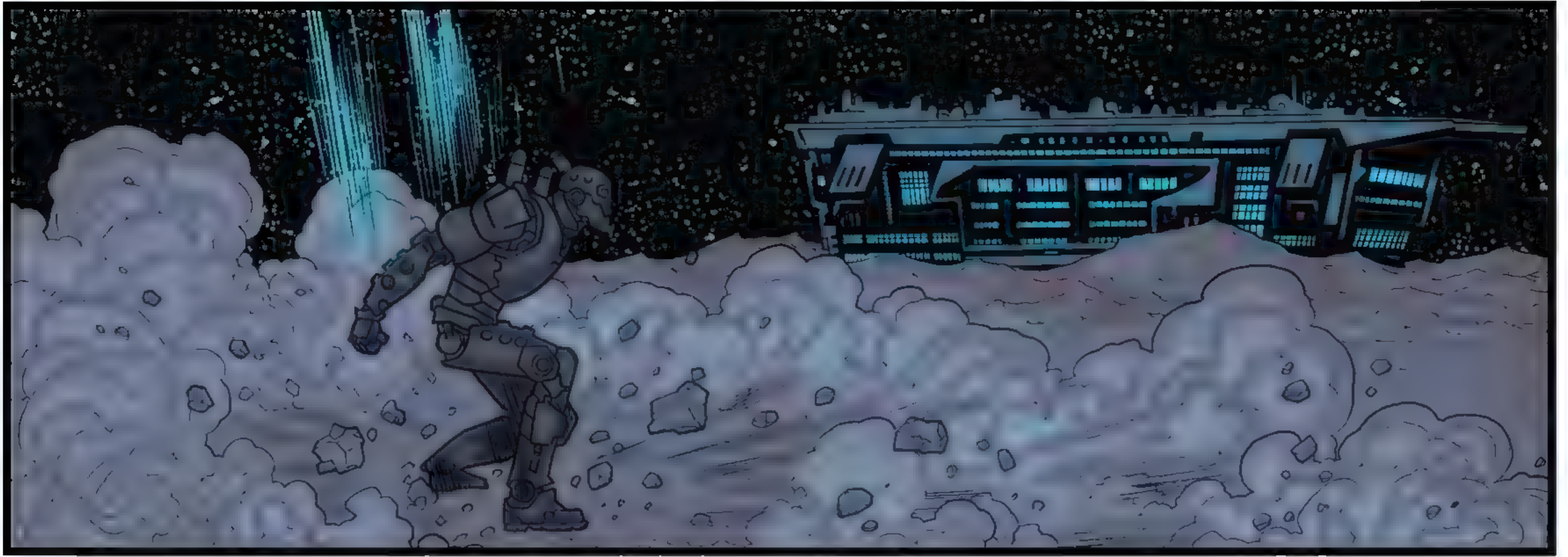










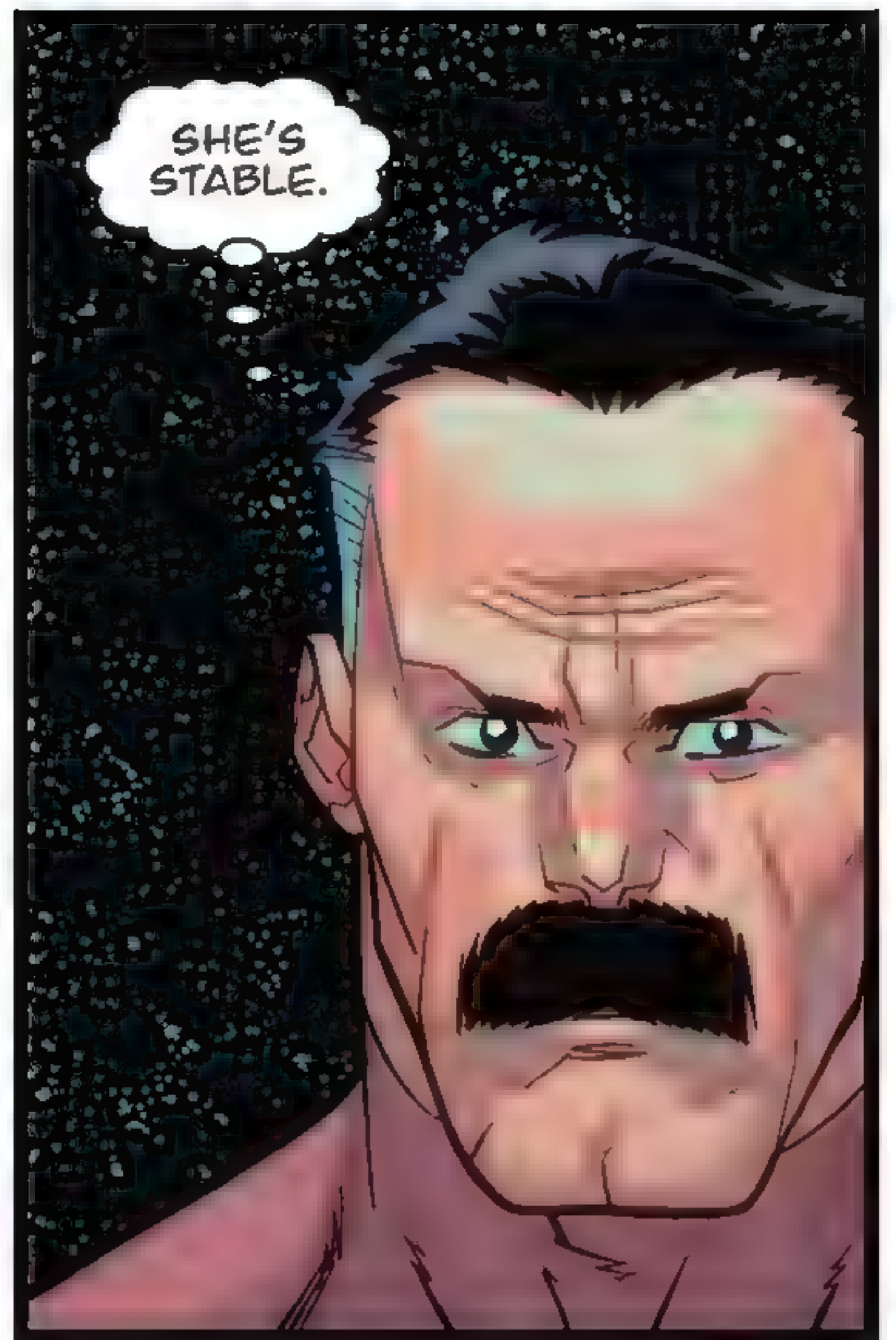




I'VE COME HERE TO TALK. TO... AVOID THE INEVITABLE CONFRONTATION.



TELLING ME HER STATUS WOULD BE A GOOD GESTURE... I WOULD... APPRECIATE IT.



SHE'S STABLE.



THANK YOU.

WHAT I'M TRYING TO ACCOMPLISH WILL BRING ABOUT PEACE ON EARTH... A SUSTAINABLE PEACE, THAT WILL LAST CENTURIES. I KNOW BECAUSE I'VE DONE IT BEFORE.

BECAUSE YOU MAY NOT IMMEDIATELY RECOGNIZE THE WISDOM OF MY ACTIONS OR THE REASONS BEHIND THEM... AND BECAUSE THEY INVOLVE YOUR SON DIRECTLY, I ANTICIPATE YOU FORMING AN OPPOSITION AGAINST ME.

BUT I KNOW YOUR ULTIMATE PLAN IS REPOPULATION, AND THAT YOUR PRESENCE HERE REQUIRES THAT YOU STAND ASIDE... IGNORING WHAT HAPPENS ON EARTH AS LONG AS IT... DOESN'T... DOESN'T INTERFERE WITH THE...

...GOAL THAT YOU HAVE...

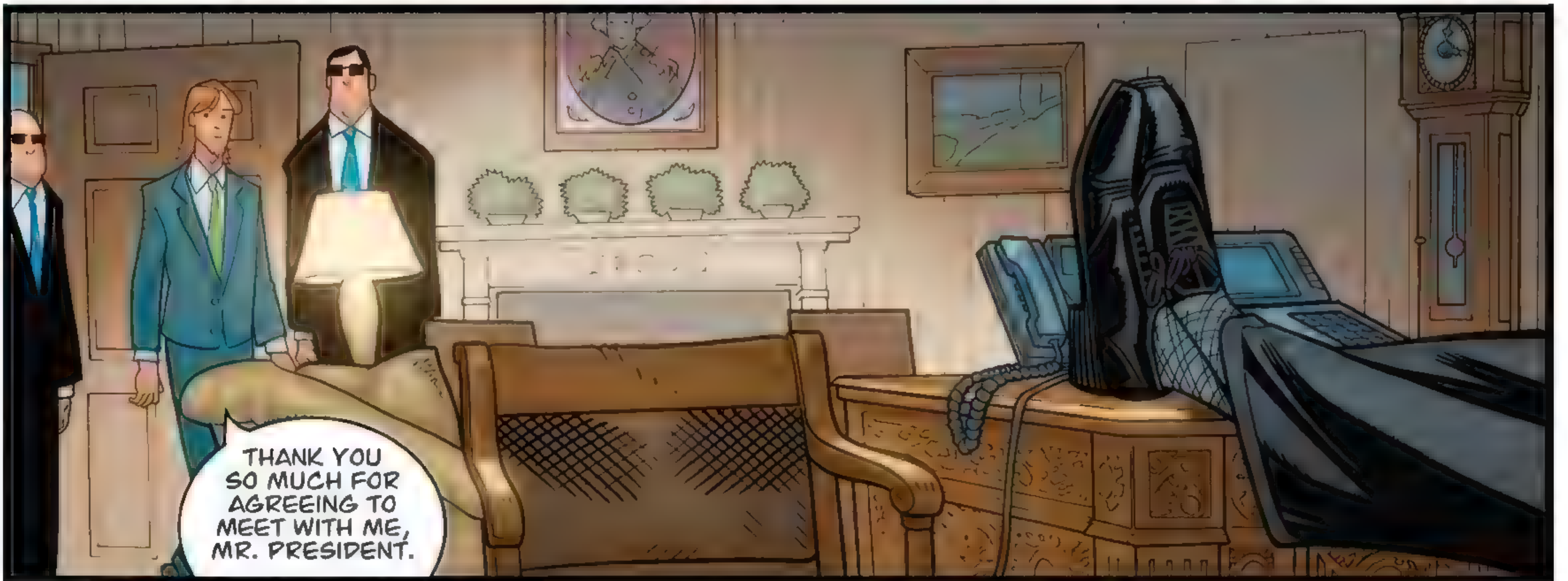
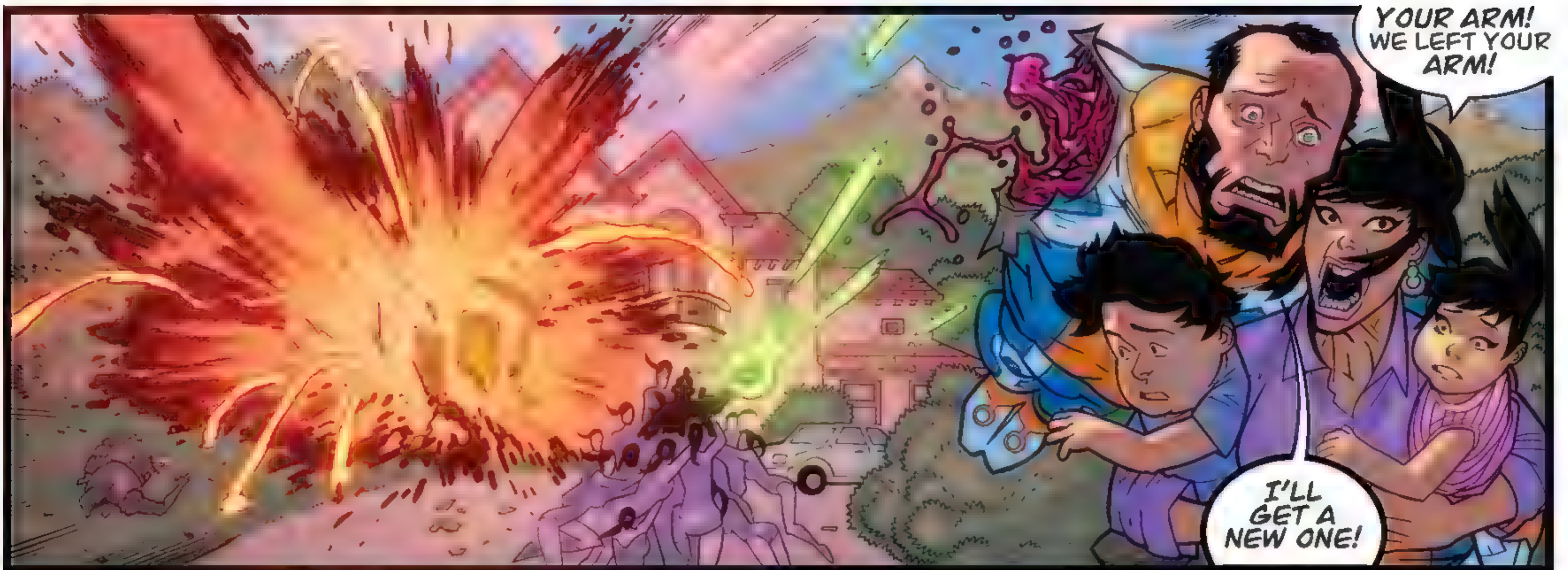


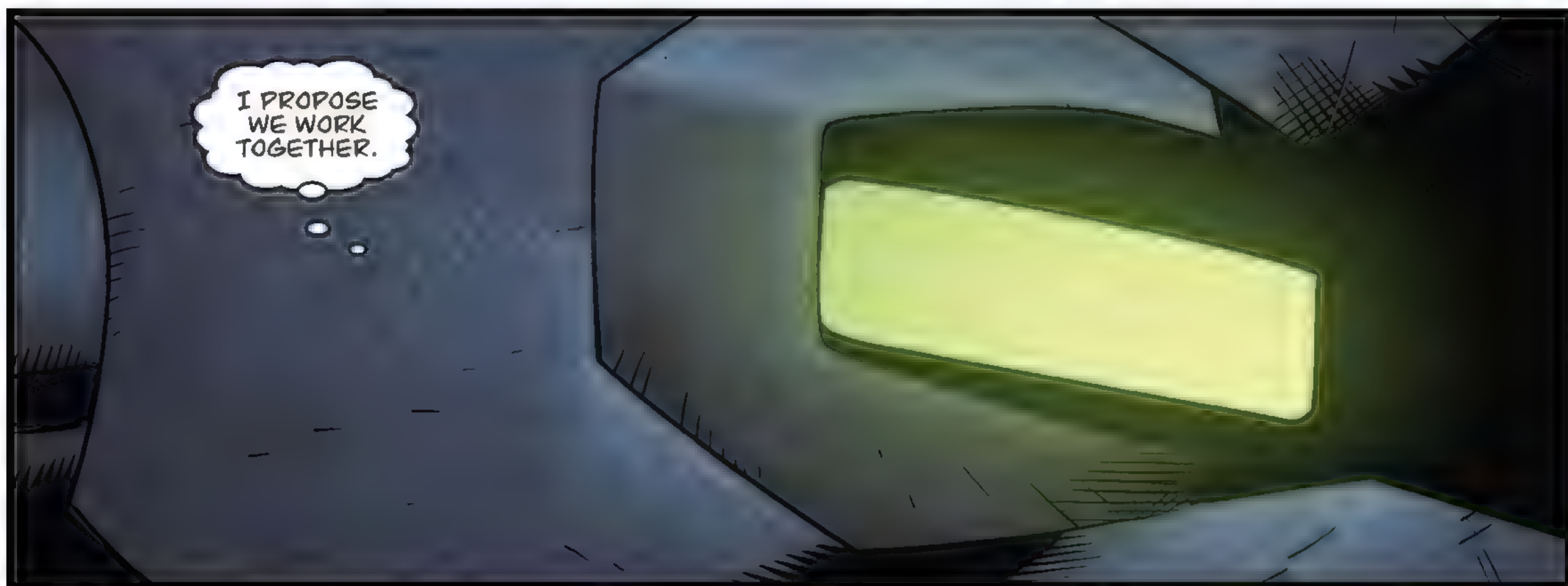
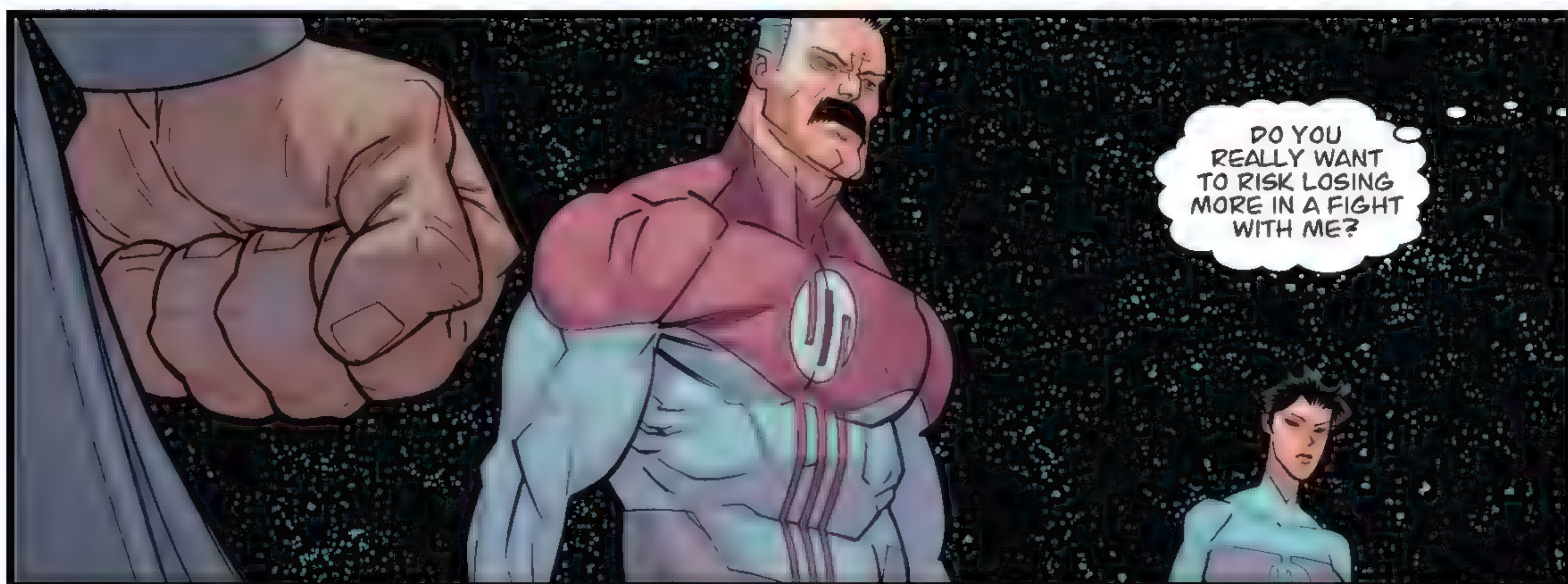
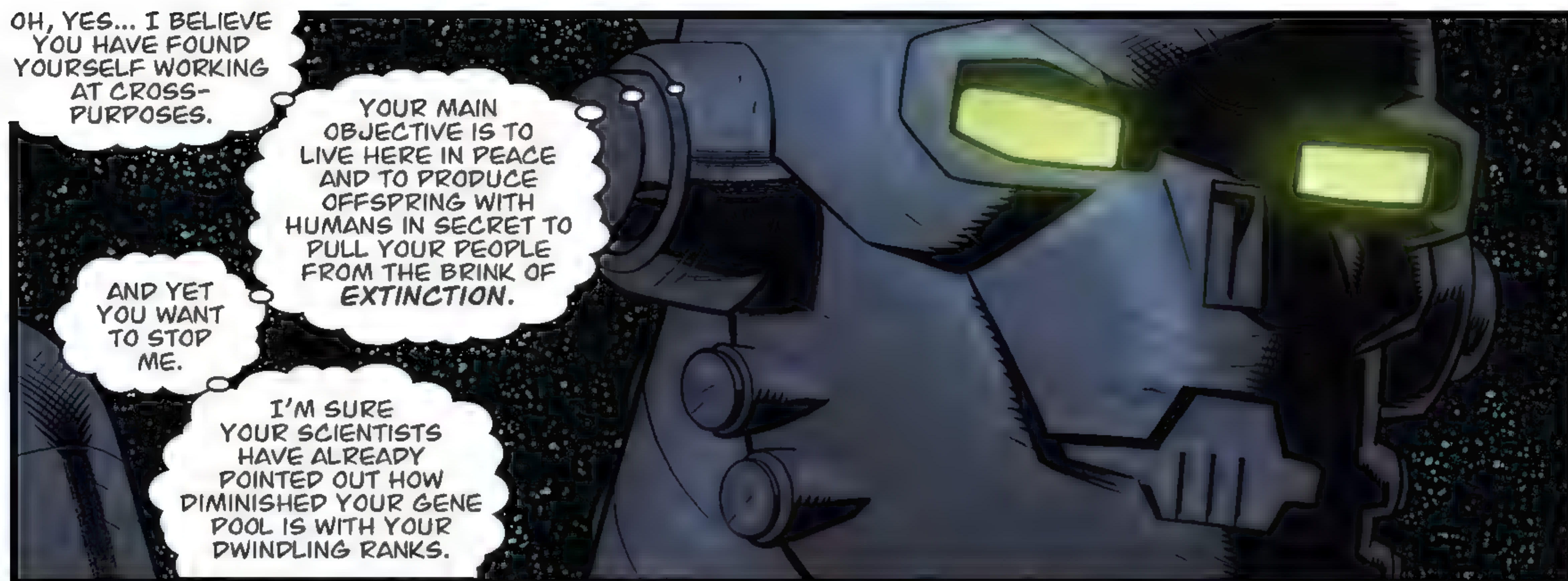
I'M... I'M SORRY. THERE'S A... I'M DEALING WITH A LOT HERE. IT'S BECOMING HARDER TO MULTITASK.

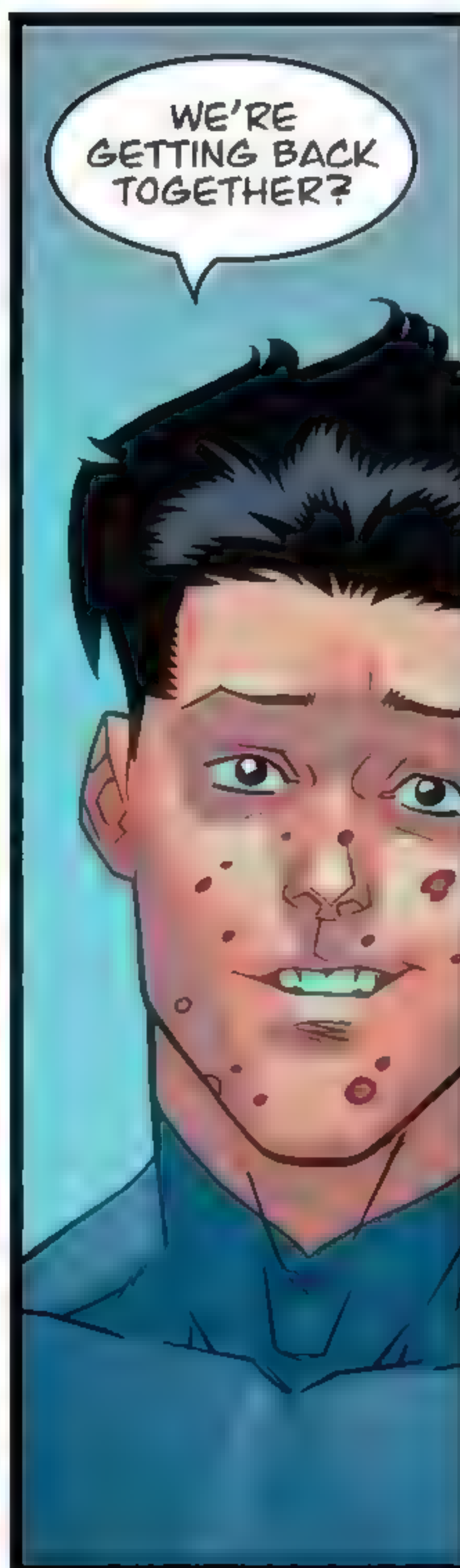
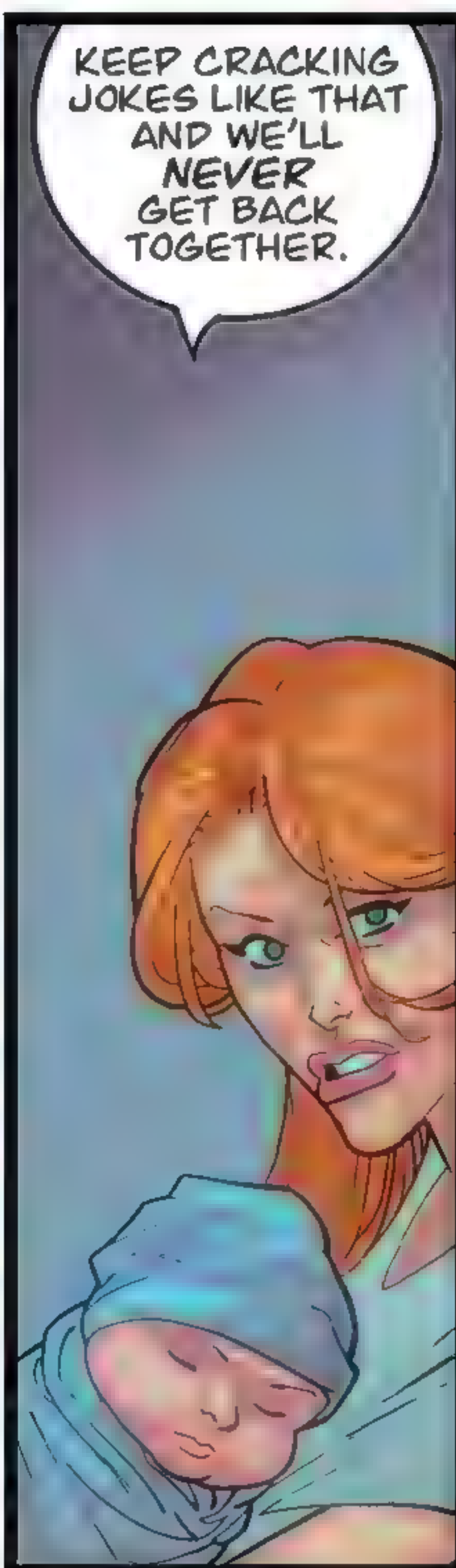
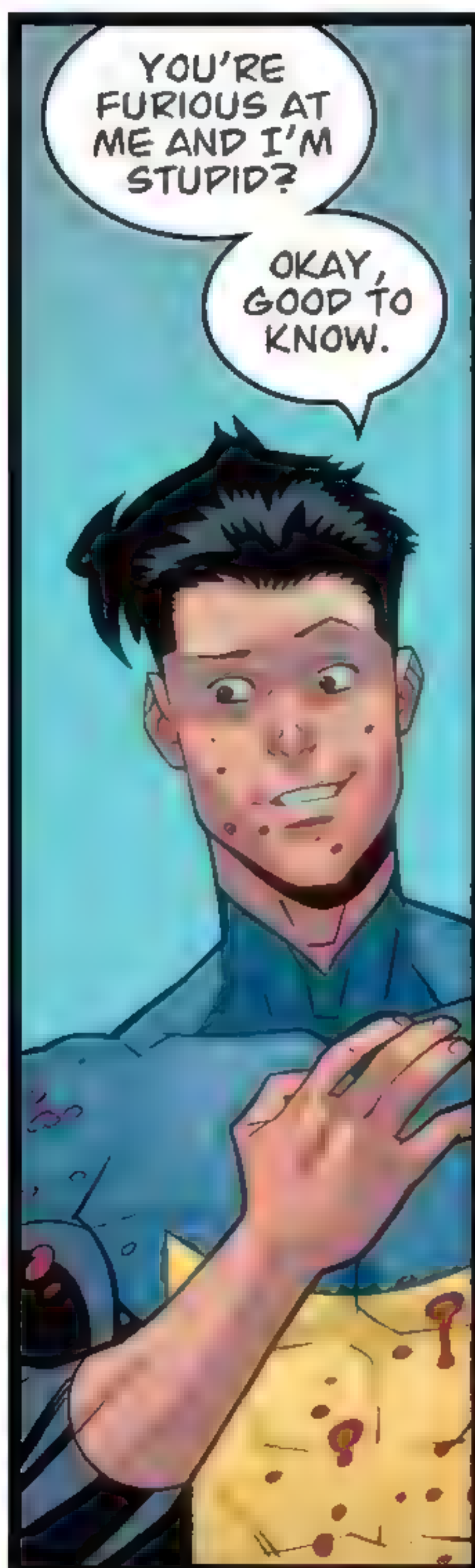
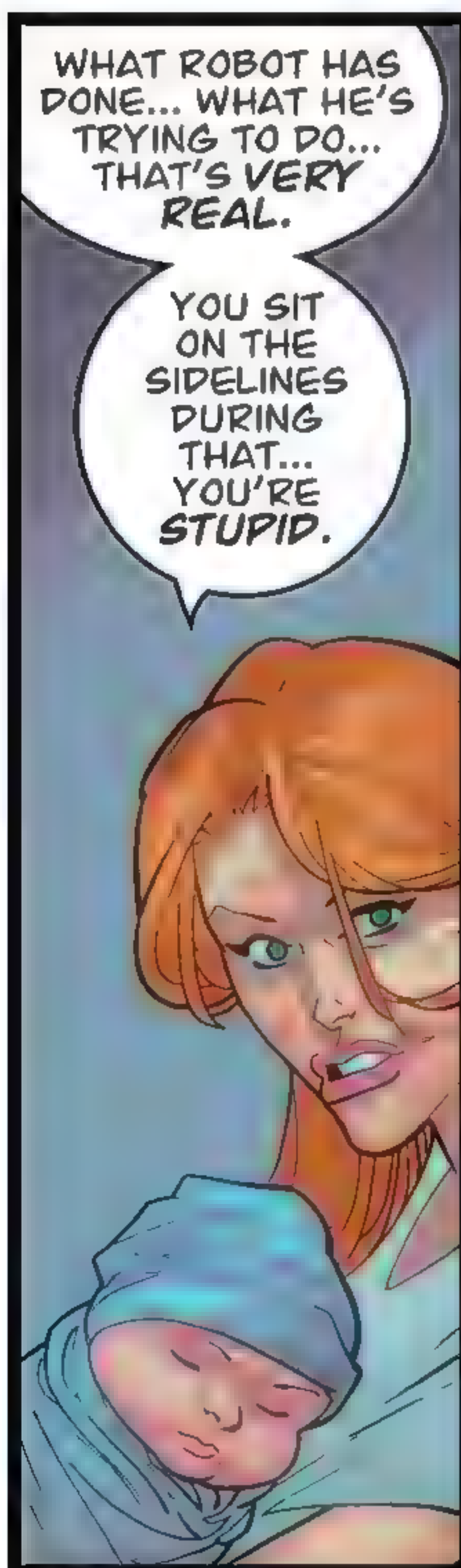
JUST GIVE ME A MINUTE.





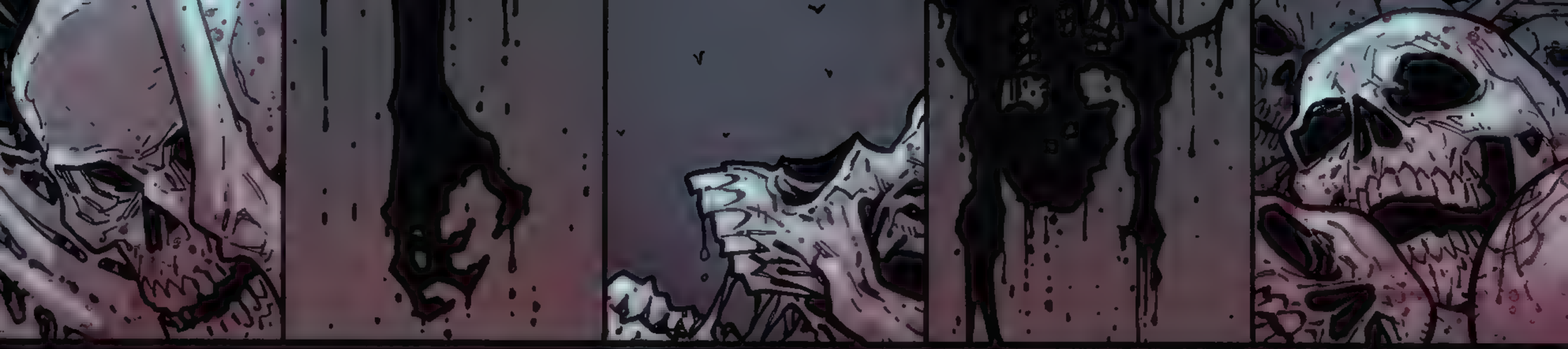






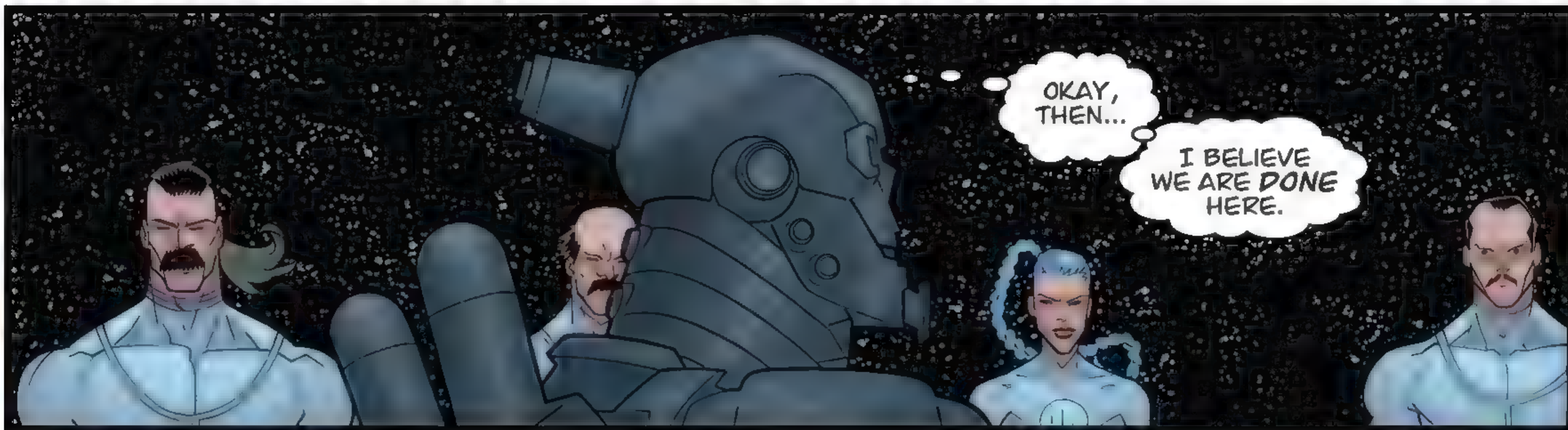




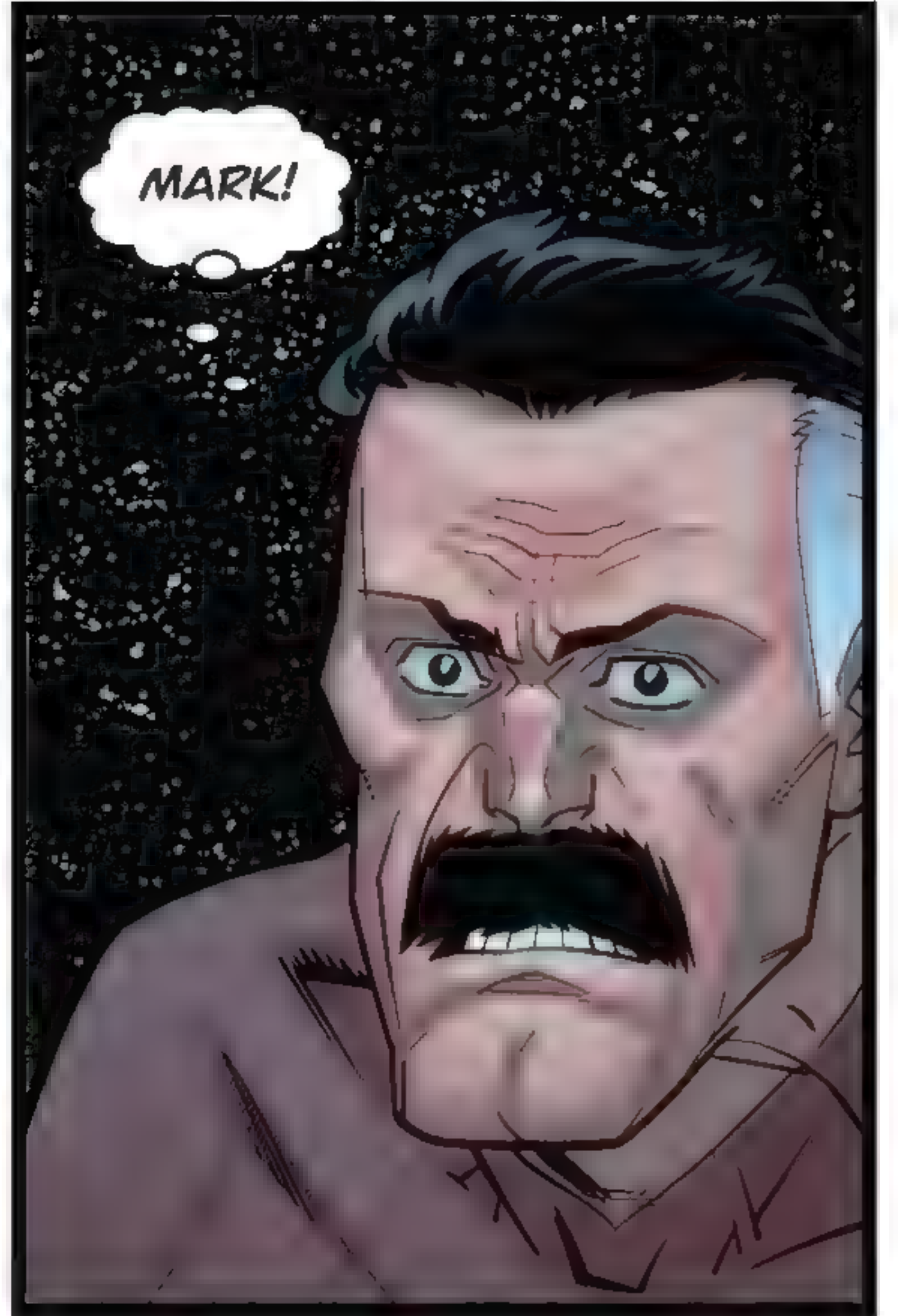


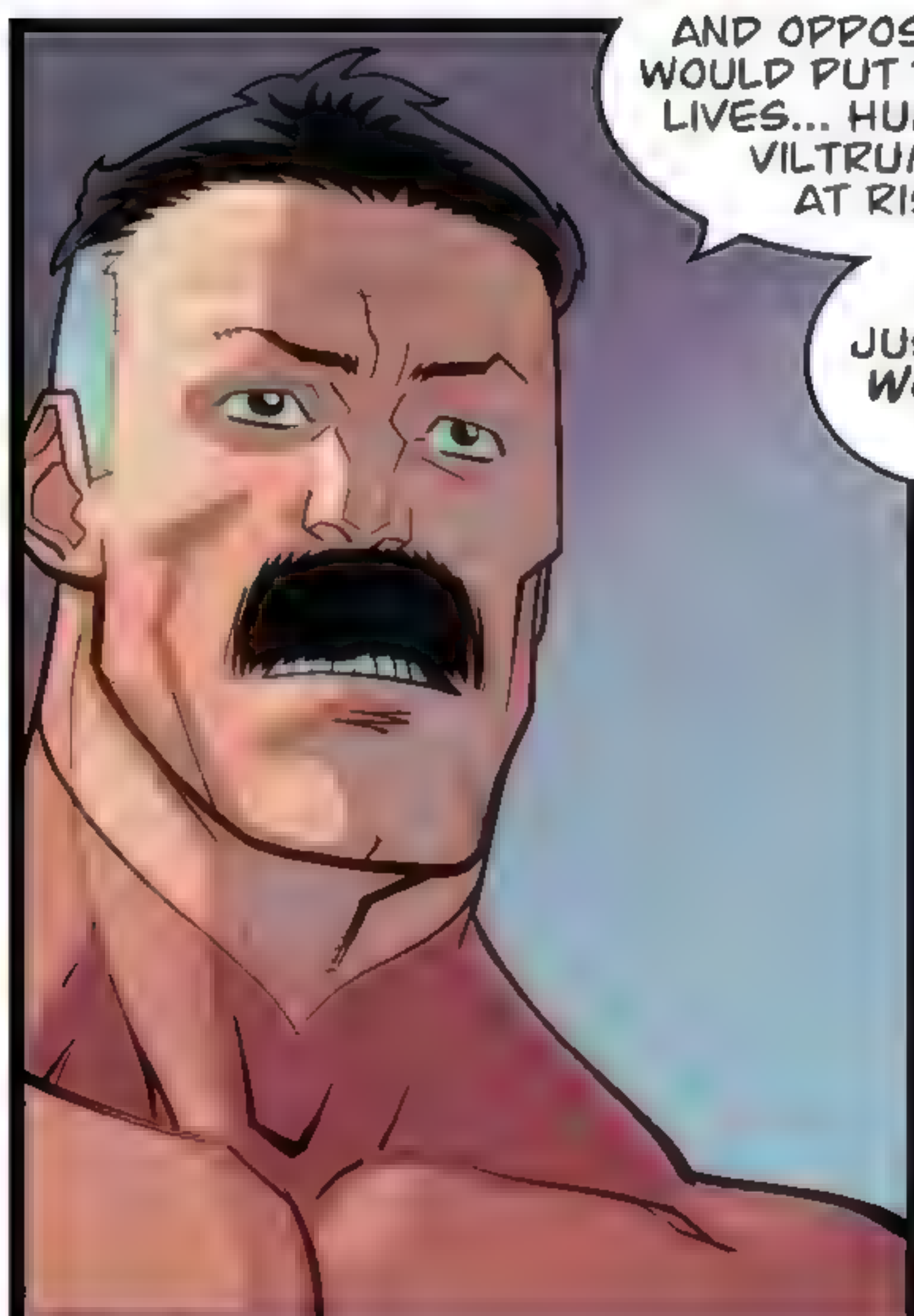
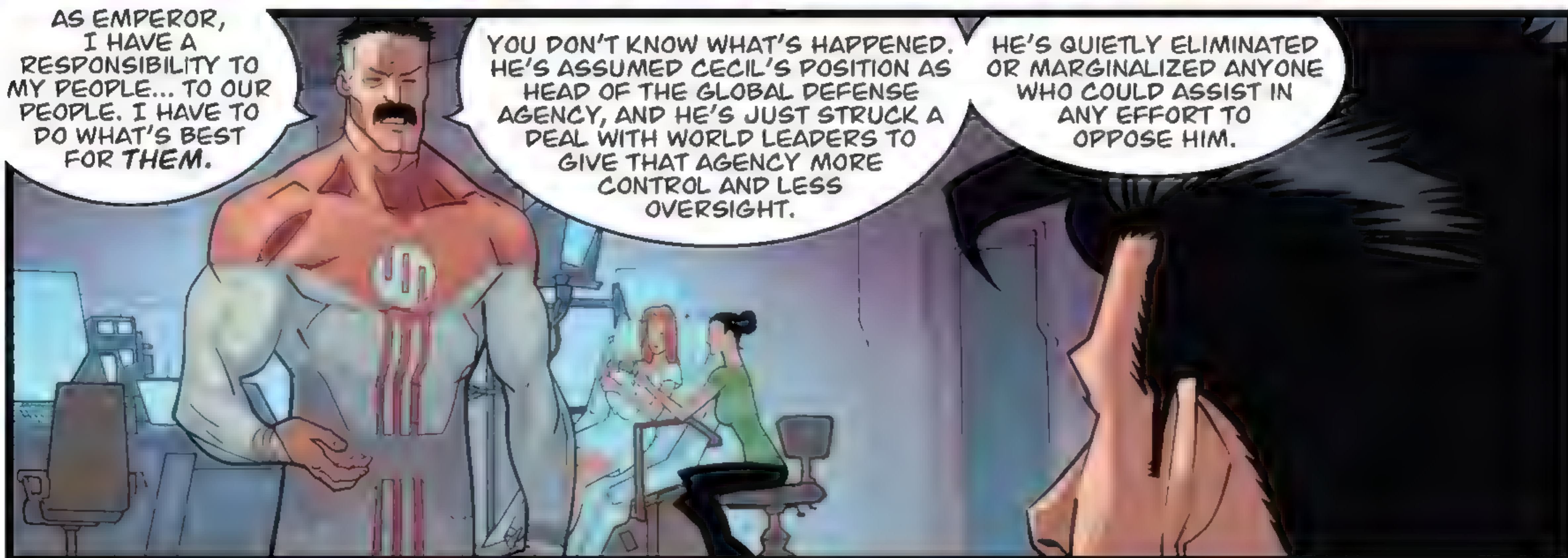
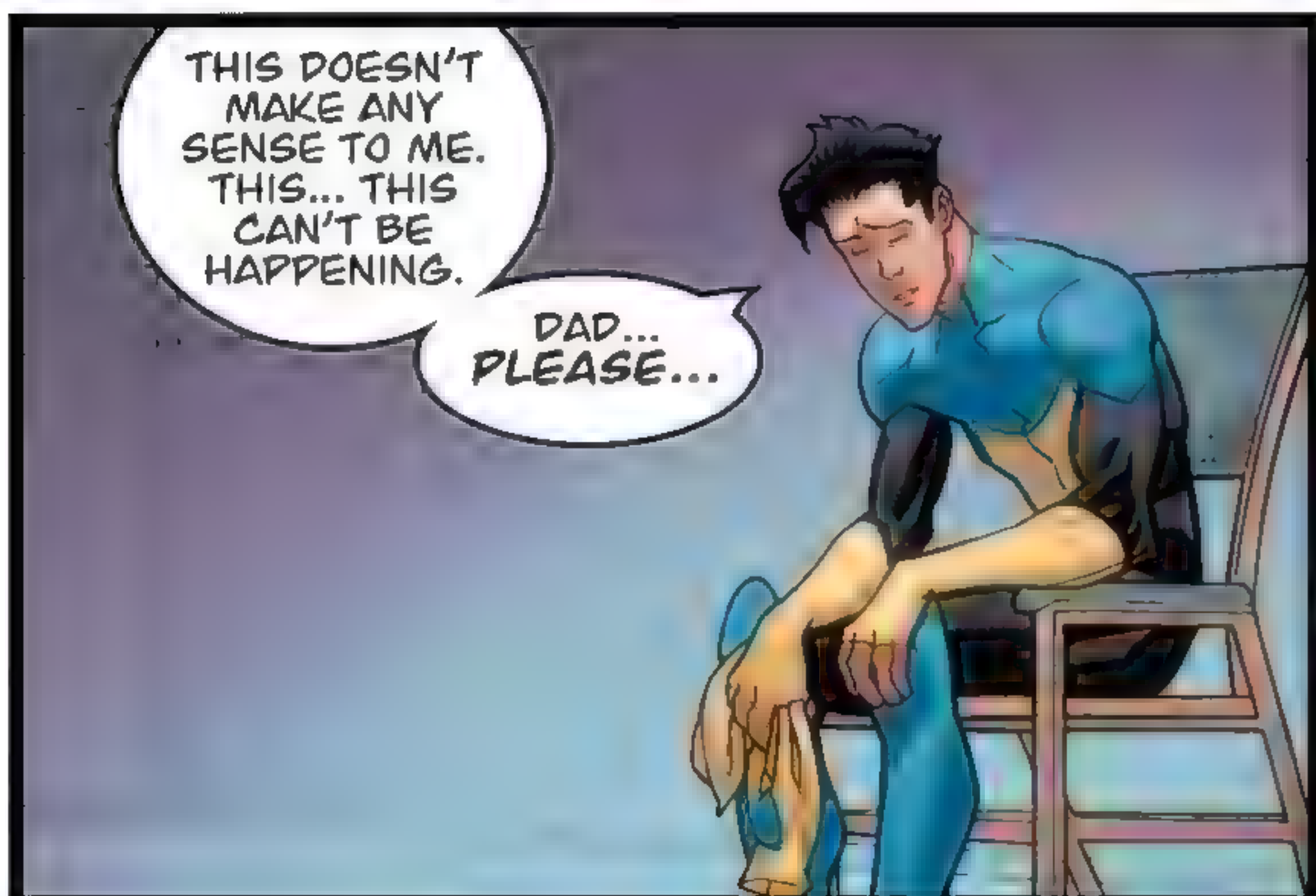
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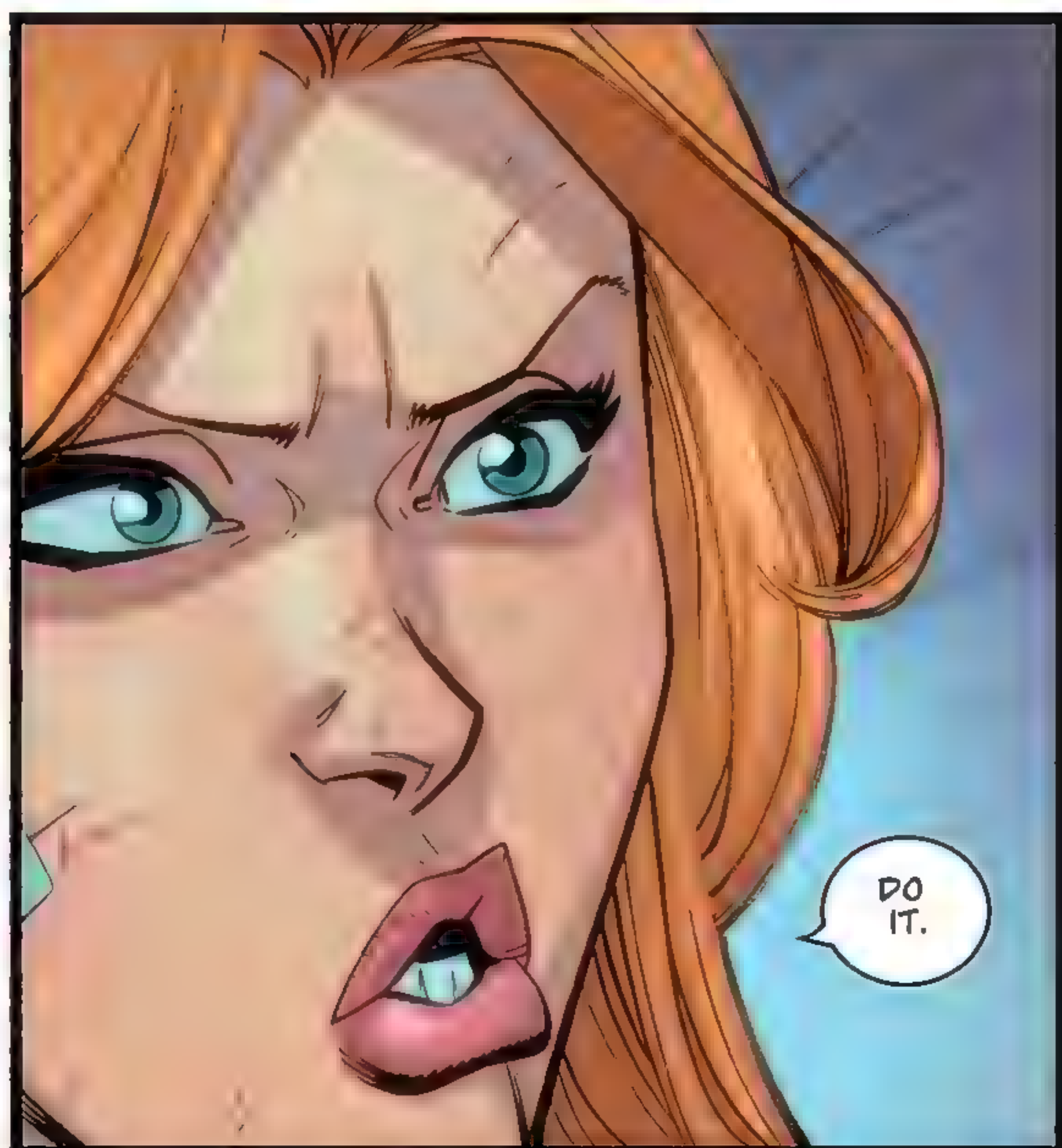
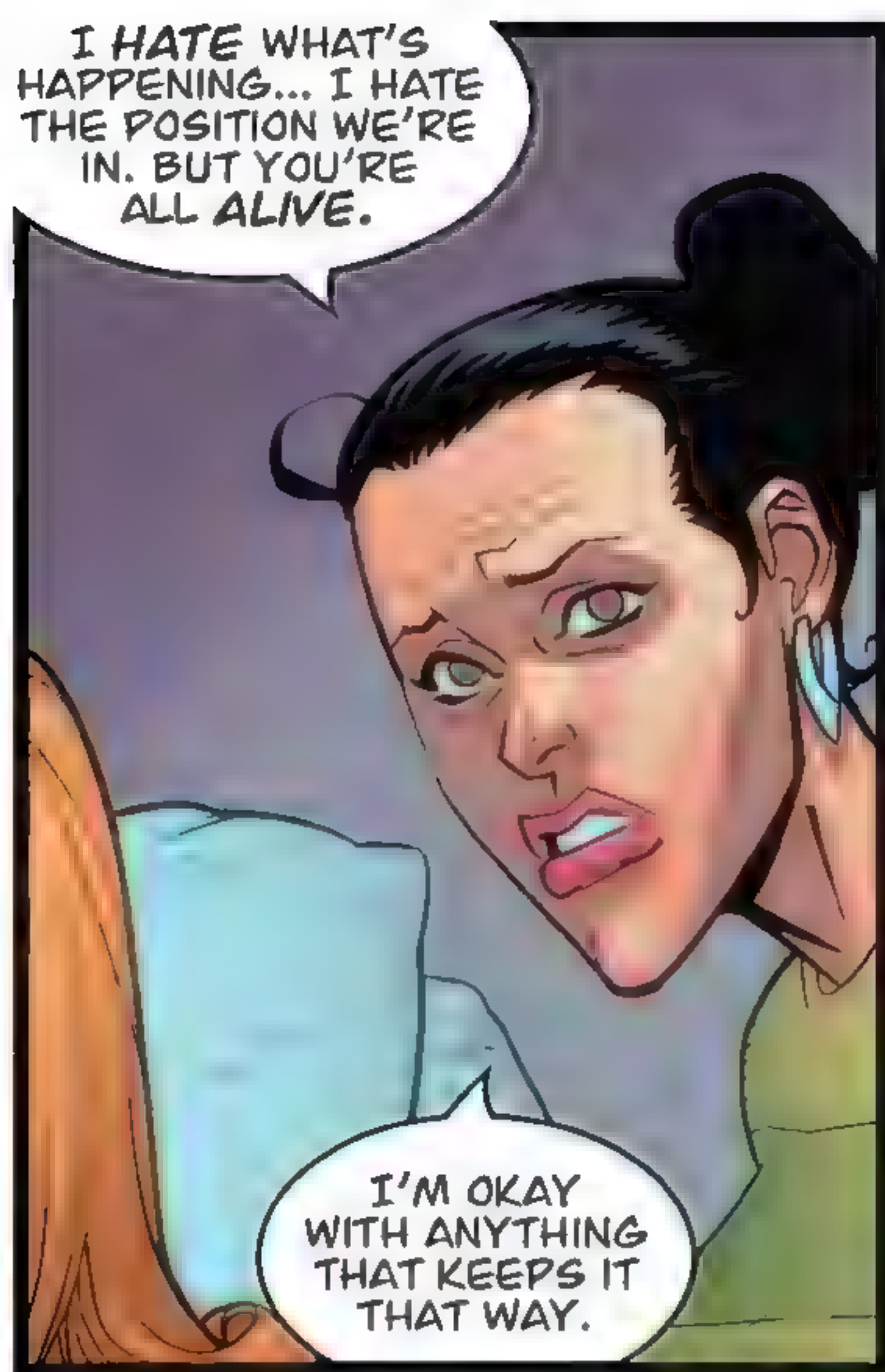




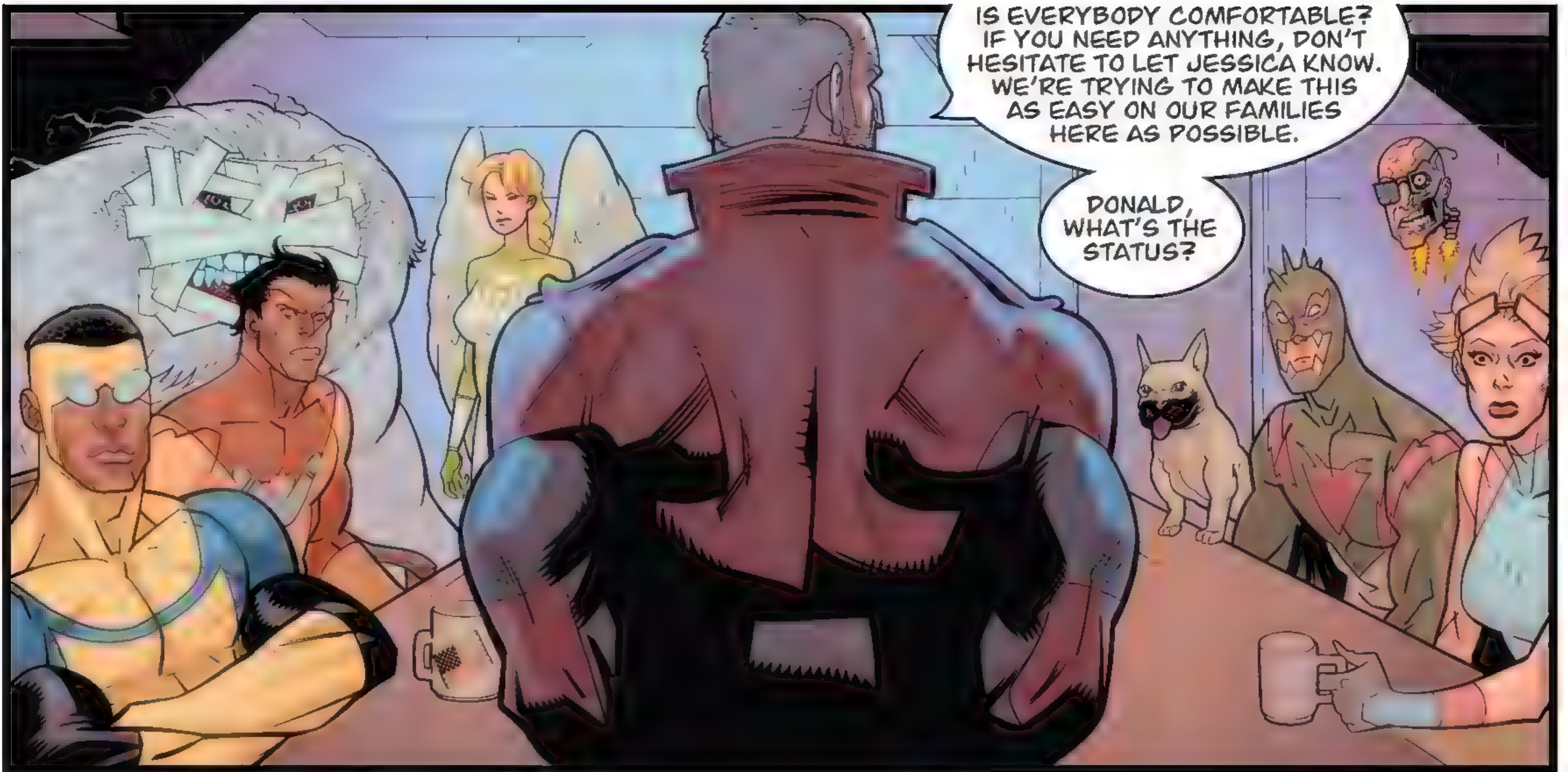












IS EVERYBODY COMFORTABLE?
IF YOU NEED ANYTHING, DON'T
HESITATE TO LET JESSICA KNOW.
WE'RE TRYING TO MAKE THIS
AS EASY ON OUR FAMILIES
HERE AS POSSIBLE.

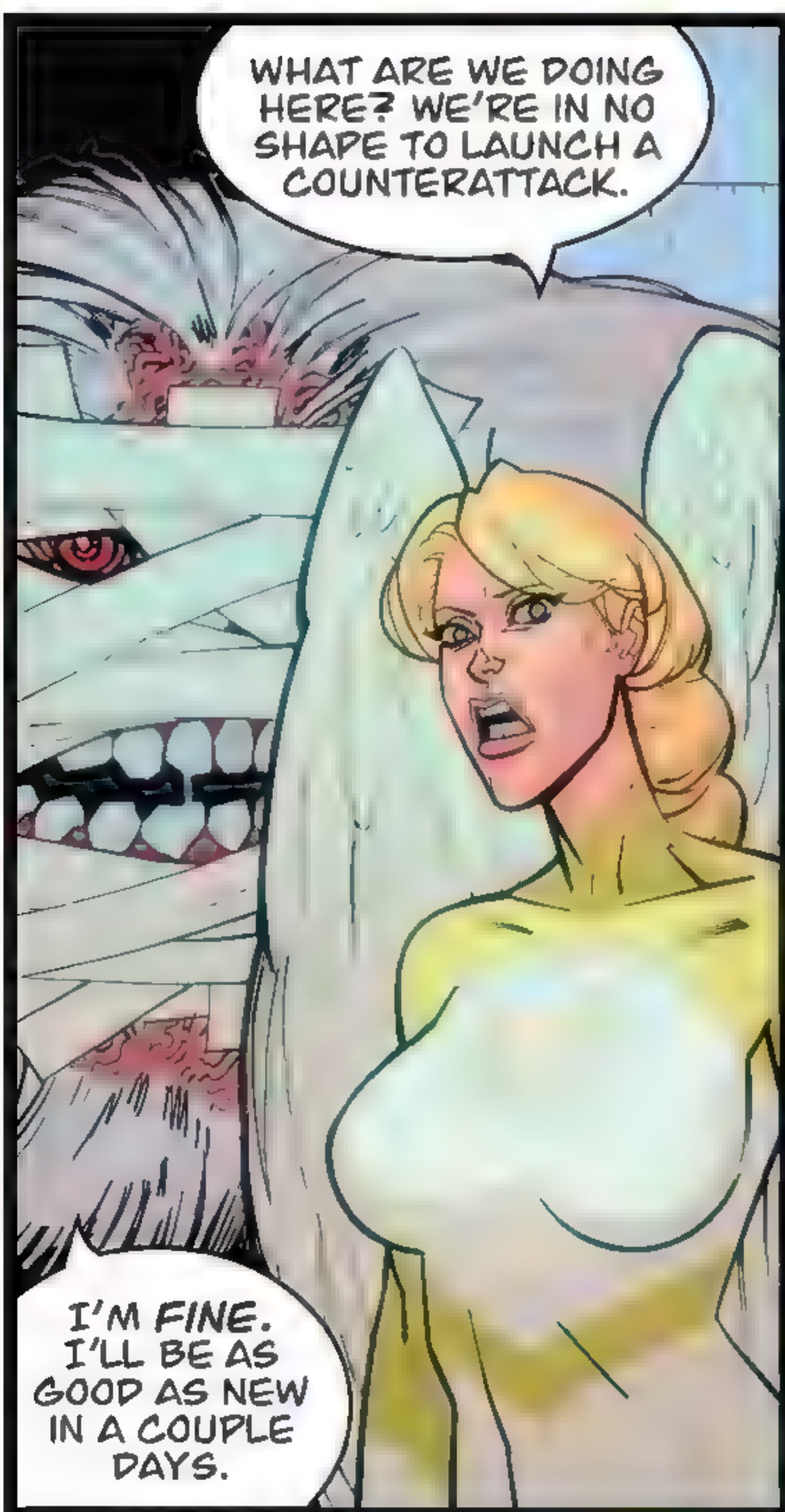
DONALD,
WHAT'S THE
STATUS?



BEST TIGER,
MONSTER GIRL,
THE IMMORTAL,
DUPLI-KATE... THEY'RE
IN THE WIND. NO ONE
CAN FIND THEM. WE'RE
STILL AWAITING
CONFIRMATION ON
SOME OTHERS.

THE
ACTIONEERS ARE
WORKING FOR ROBOT...
AS ARE PRETTY MUCH ALL
OF THE REST OF CECIL'S
STAFF AT THE GDA. THE
EMPLOYEES OF CAPES
INCORPORATED ARE
UNAWARE OF THE FULL
SITUATION.

WE
HAVEN'T
BEEN ABLE
TO REACH
WOLF-MAN.



WHAT ARE WE DOING
HERE? WE'RE IN NO
SHAPE TO LAUNCH A
COUNTERATTACK.

I'M FINE.
I'LL BE AS
GOOD AS NEW
IN A COUPLE
DAYS.



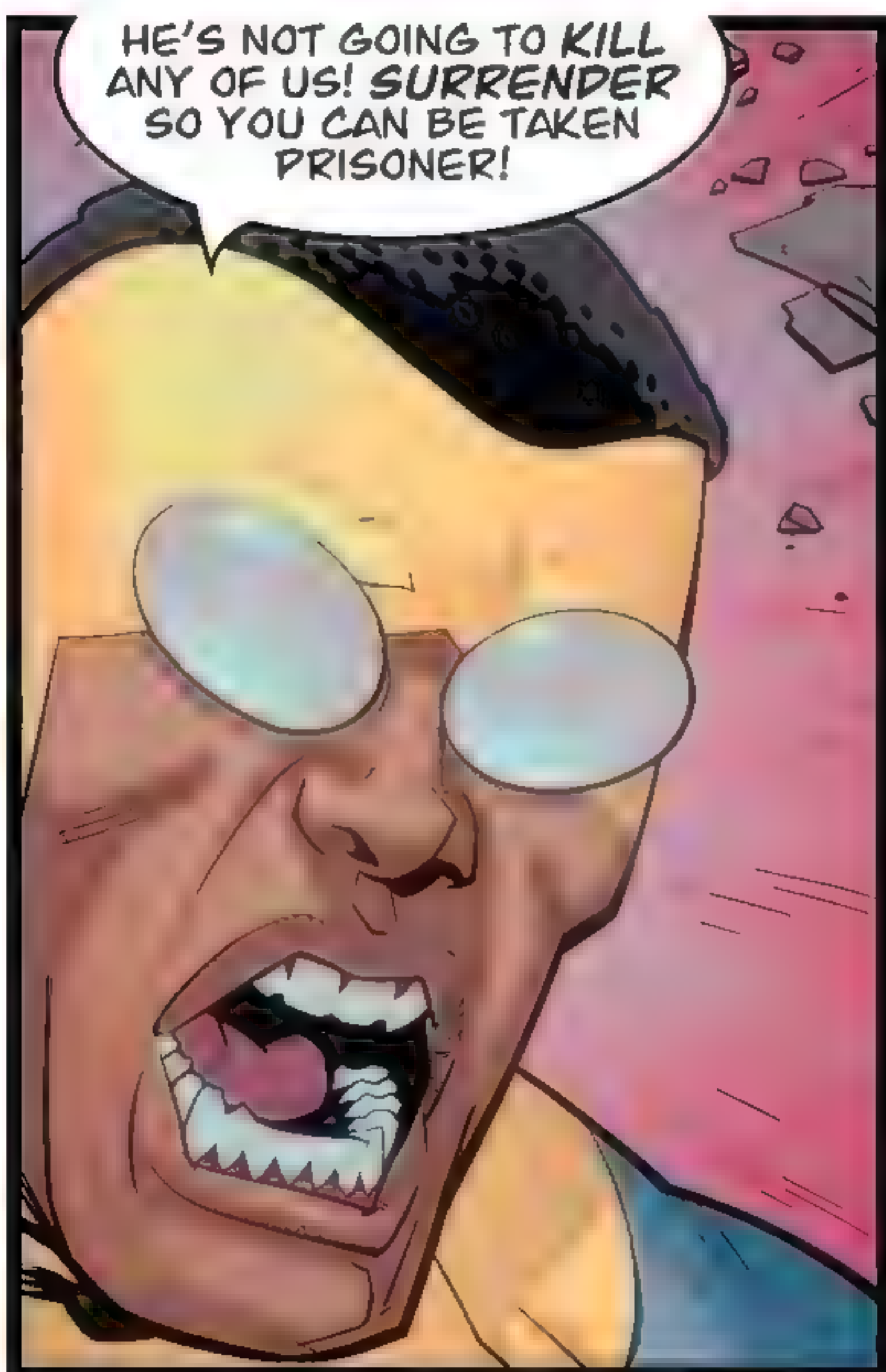
WE'RE NOT EVEN SURE
A COUNTERATTACK WOULD
BE SUCCESSFUL. WE
BARELY KNOW
WHAT WE'RE UP
AGAINST.

WE'RE GOING TO
BE SMART ABOUT IT,
BIDE OUR TIME,
ORGANIZE, ASSESS
AND PREPARE FOR
THE WAR TO
COME.



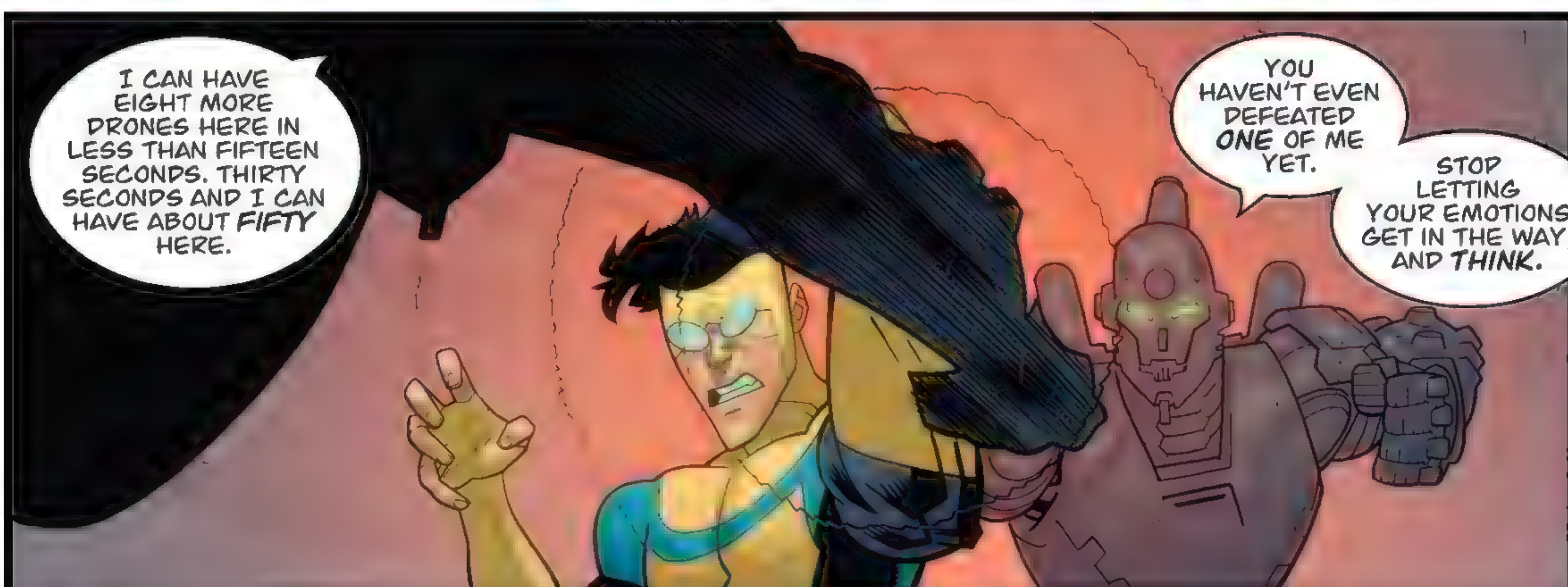
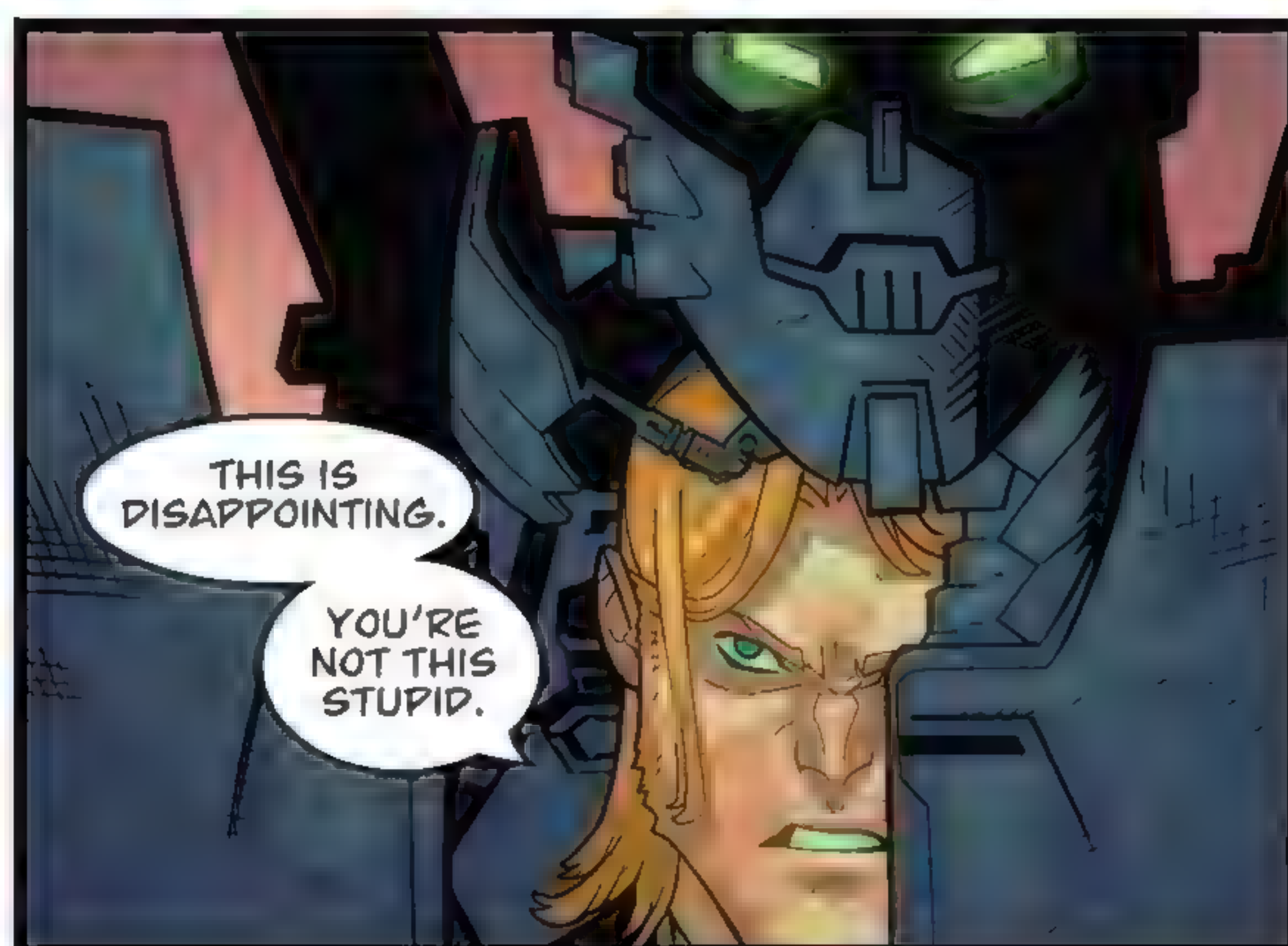
IN THE
MEANTIME,
WE'LL
BE SAFE
HERE.

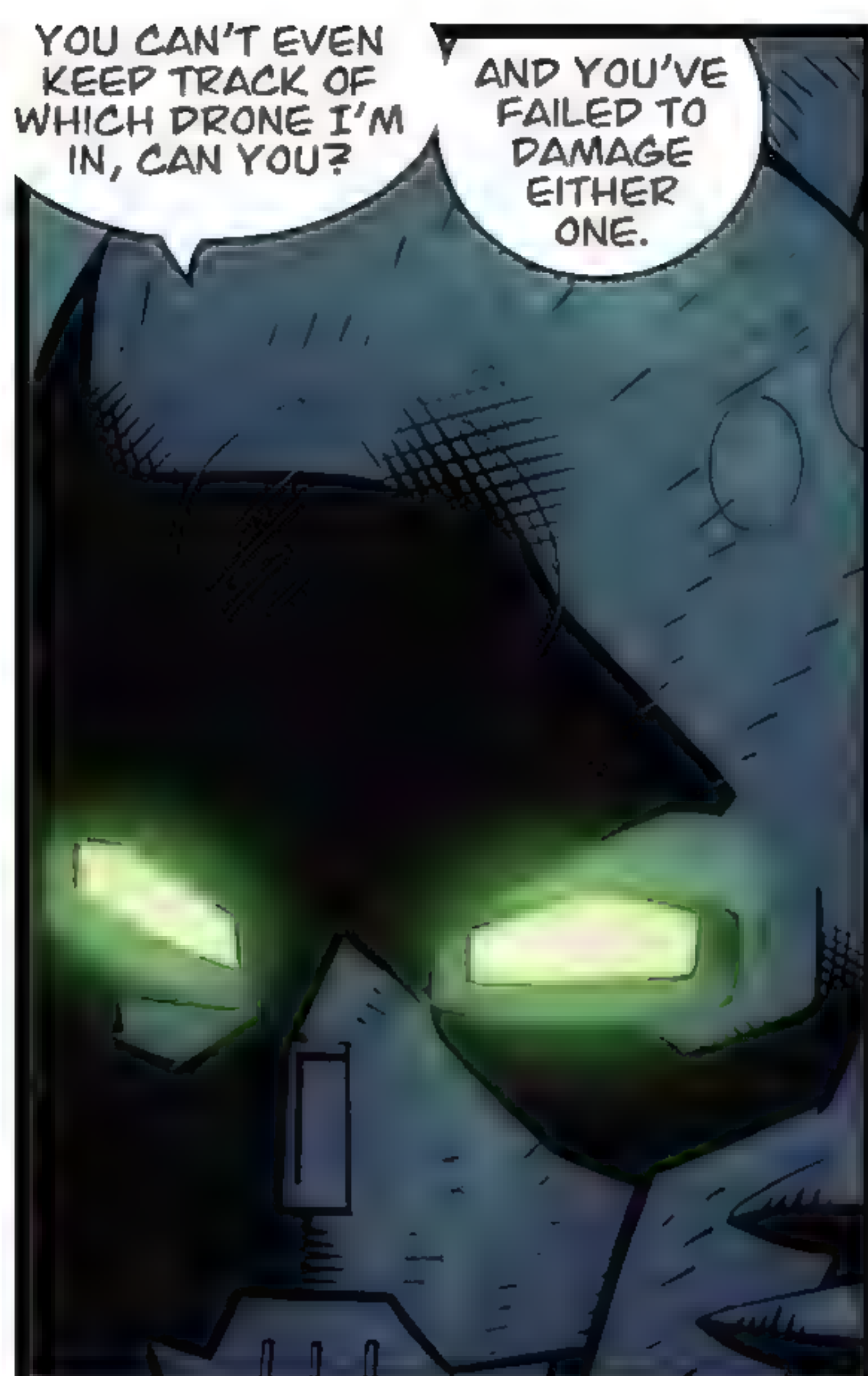
KR OOM!







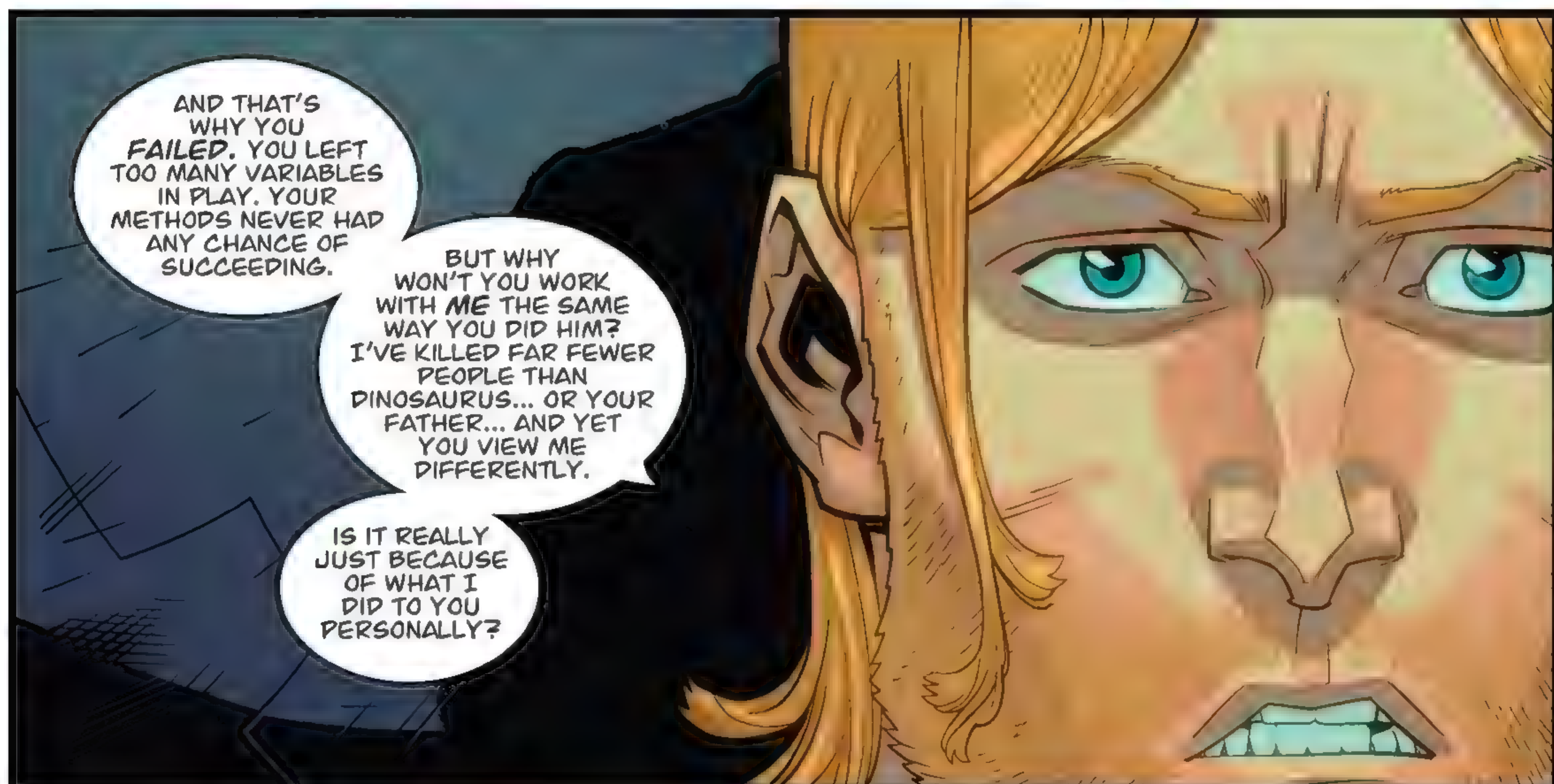






I HAVE TO BEGIN BY POINTING OUT THE **HYPOCRISY** OF YOU OPPOSING ME. HOW IS WHAT I'M DOING ANY DIFFERENT THAN WHAT YOU AND DINOSAURUS ATTEMPTED TO DO?

WE ONLY DID THINGS TO MAKE PEOPLE'S LIVES BETTER. WE DIDN'T TRY TO TAKE OVER THE WORLD.



AND THAT'S WHY YOU **FAILED**. YOU LEFT TOO MANY VARIABLES IN PLAY. YOUR METHODS NEVER HAD ANY CHANCE OF SUCCEEDING.

BUT WHY WON'T YOU WORK WITH ME THE SAME WAY YOU DID HIM? I'VE KILLED FAR FEWER PEOPLE THAN DINOSAURUS... OR YOUR FATHER... AND YET YOU VIEW ME DIFFERENTLY.

IS IT REALLY JUST BECAUSE OF WHAT I DID TO YOU PERSONALLY?



I STRANDED YOU IN ANOTHER DIMENSION. I RIPPED OFF YOUR GIRLFRIEND'S LEG.

WOULD AN **APOLOGY** WORK?



I DIDN'T THINK SO.

TRUTH IS, I COULD HAVE KILLED YOU... COULD HAVE KILLED EVE, TOO. BUT I DIDN'T. I'M NOT A DIFFERENT PERSON SUDDENLY. I'M NOT A MONSTER. I DIDN'T KILL ANYONE I DIDN'T HAVE TO.

I DON'T WANT TO KILL YOU. I LIKE YOU. I'D SEND YOU BACK TO THAT DIMENSION IF THE MACHINE I CONSTRUCTED DIDN'T REQUIRE LINGERING ENERGY FROM ANGSTROM LEVY TO WORK.

DID YOU FIGURE THAT OUT YET? SEEMS THOSE DOORWAYS DIED WITH HIM.



THIS MADNESS? MARK, I'VE ASSUMED CONTROL OF OVER ONE HUNDRED LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES WORLDWIDE.

IN THE SIX HOURS SINCE THAT HAPPENED, I'VE PREVENTED OVER NINE THOUSAND DEATHS. I'VE ALREADY PUT SYSTEMS INTO PLACE THAT ARE CHANGING THE WAY CRIME IS FOUGHT.

I'VE ALREADY INCARCERATED TITAN, SLAYING MANTIS, MAULER AND EMBRACE... CRIMINALS WHO'D BEEN AT LARGE FOR MONTHS.

STOPPING "THIS MADNESS" WOULD COST LIVES... NOT SAVE THEM.



SO I ASK YOU... WHAT ARE YOU FIGHTING AGAINST?





I'M
FIGHTING A
CRAZY PERSON
TRYING TO
TAKE OVER
THE
WORLD.



TAKE OVER
THE... DON'T
BE SO
CHILDISH.

I'VE
ASSUMED
CONTROL... AND
THAT CONTROL
WILL EXPAND AS
NEEDED, TRUE.
BUT NOBODY
KNOWS WHAT
I'VE DONE.



THE PUBLIC AT LARGE,
THEY'LL ONLY EVER SEE
AN **IMPROVEMENT** IN
THEIR LIVES. THEY'LL
SEE A SUBSTANTIVE
CHANGE IN THEIR QUALITY
OF LIFE... AND THE
WAY THE WORLD
WORKS.

NOTHING
MORE.

I WON'T
PUT A FACE
ON THOSE
DIFFERENCES.
THERE WON'T BE
ANY ONE PERSON
TO RECEIVE
BLAME OR
CREDIT.



IN A WAY, I'VE
IMPROVED ON
WHAT I DID IN
THE FLAXAN
DIMENSION.

I'M FIXING
THINGS FROM
BEHIND THE
CURTAIN.



IF YOU SOMEHOW
FOUGHT AND KILLED
ME... YOU'D BE
EXECUTED
FOR WHAT YOU'D
DONE.

I'M THE
GOOD GUY
HERE, MARK.
IF THAT'S
THE SIMPLIFIED
WAY YOU WANT
TO LOOK AT
THINGS.



YOU KNOW
WHAT THIS
IS? IT'S
NEW.

IT'S A NEW WAY OF
DOING THINGS, OF
FIGHTING EVIL, OF
SAVING THE WORLD.
AND IT'S MESSY AND
IT'S IMPERFECT,
BUT IT'S
EFFECTIVE.

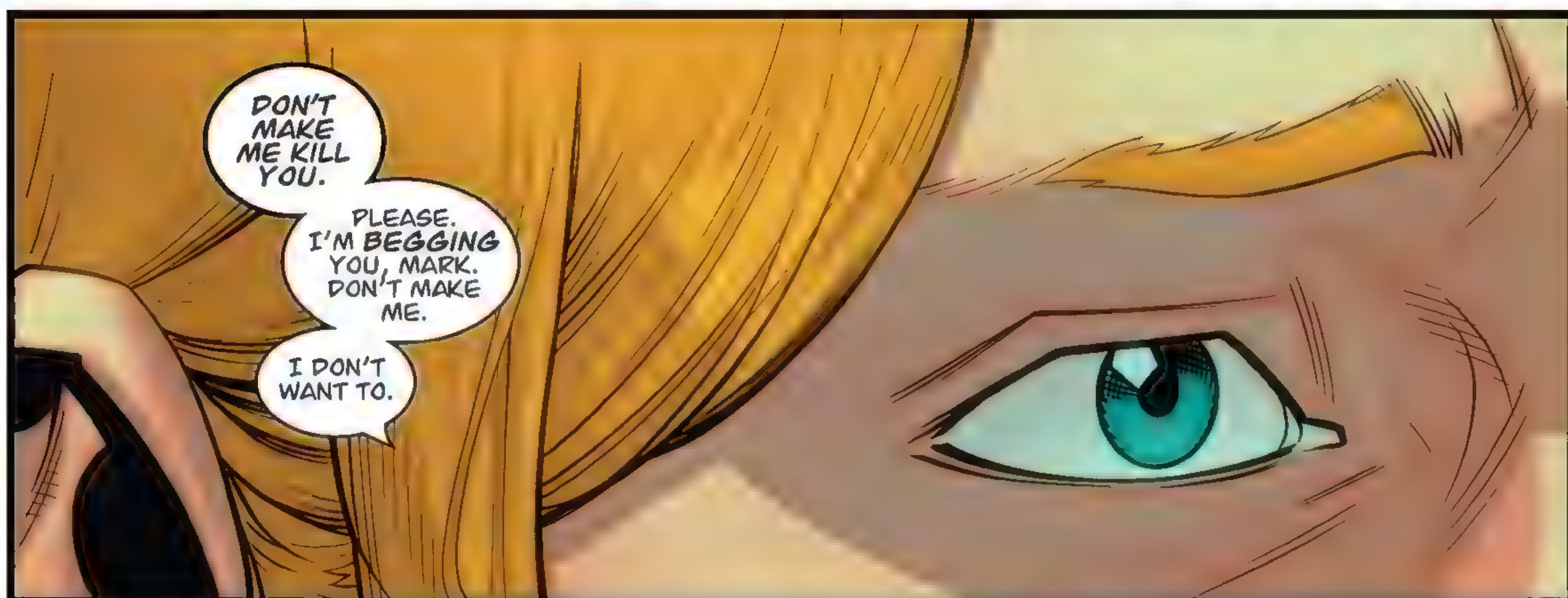
BUT
MOST OF
ALL... **IT'S
NEW.**



DON'T
BE SCARED
OF THE
NEW.

EMBRACE
IT. WELCOME
IT. ACCEPT
IT.

BUT
MORE THAN
ANYTHING
ELSE...



DON'T
MAKE
ME KILL
YOU.

PLEASE.
I'M **BEGGING**
YOU, MARK.
DON'T MAKE
ME.

I DON'T
WANT TO.



I WANT YOU TO LIVE A LONG,
HAPPY LIFE, SAME AS
EVERYONE ELSE ON THIS
PLANET. I WANT YOU
AND EVE TO BE HAPPY
TOGETHER.

I WANT YOU
TO RAISE YOUR
CHILD TOGETHER
AND I WANT THAT
CHILD TO GROW AND
LEARN AND BE
HAPPY... LIVING A
LIFE OF PEACE.

SO DON'T
MAKE ME
PREVENT
THAT FROM
HAPPENING.

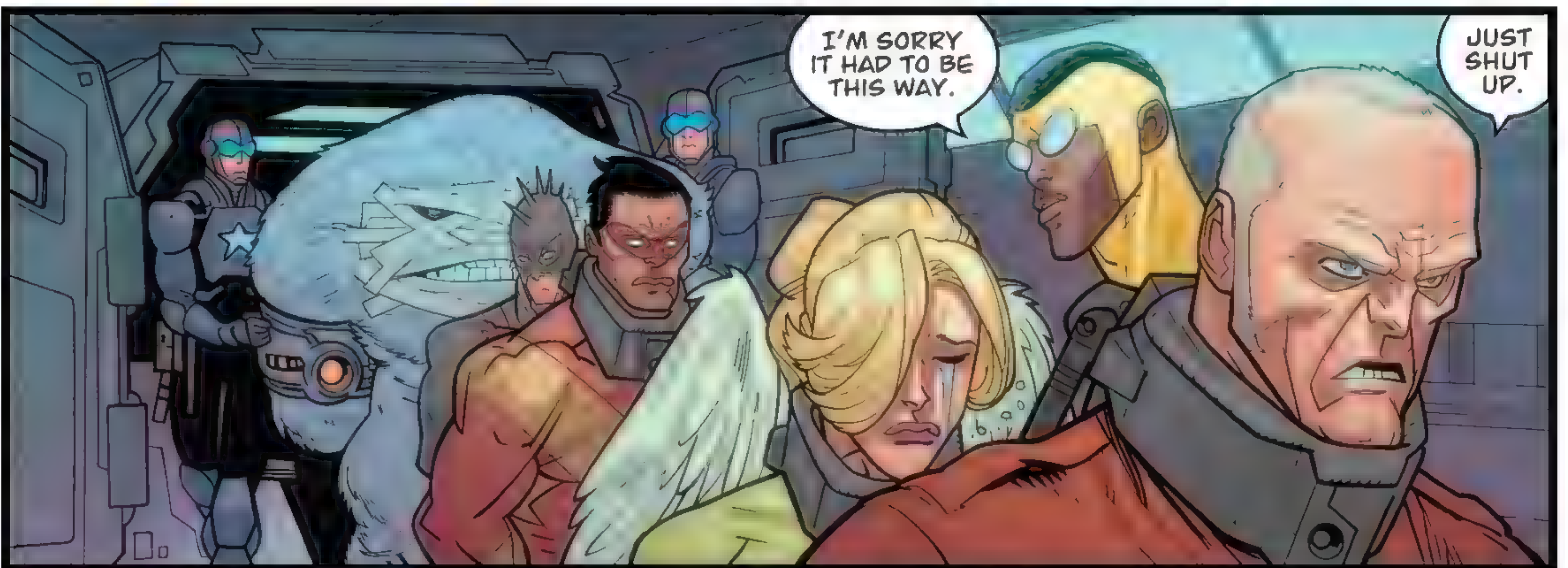
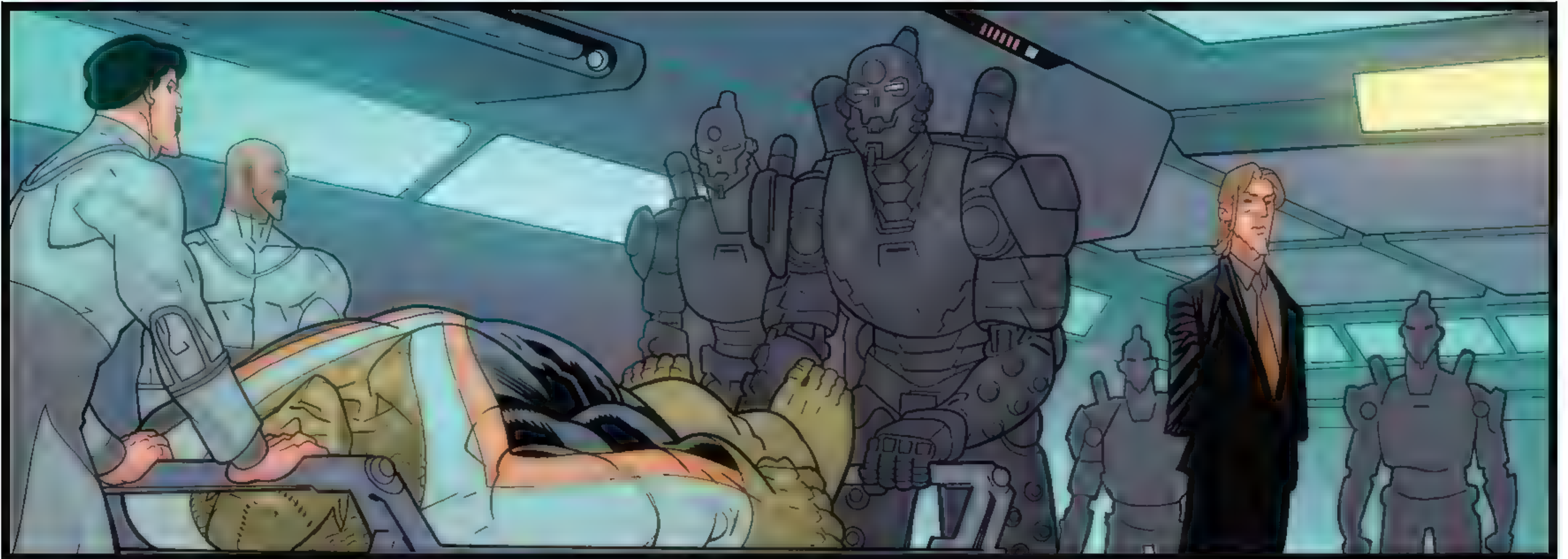


WHAT YOU
DO NEXT
DECIDES
WHAT YOUR
FUTURE IS.

SO...



...WHAT'S
IT GOING
TO BE?





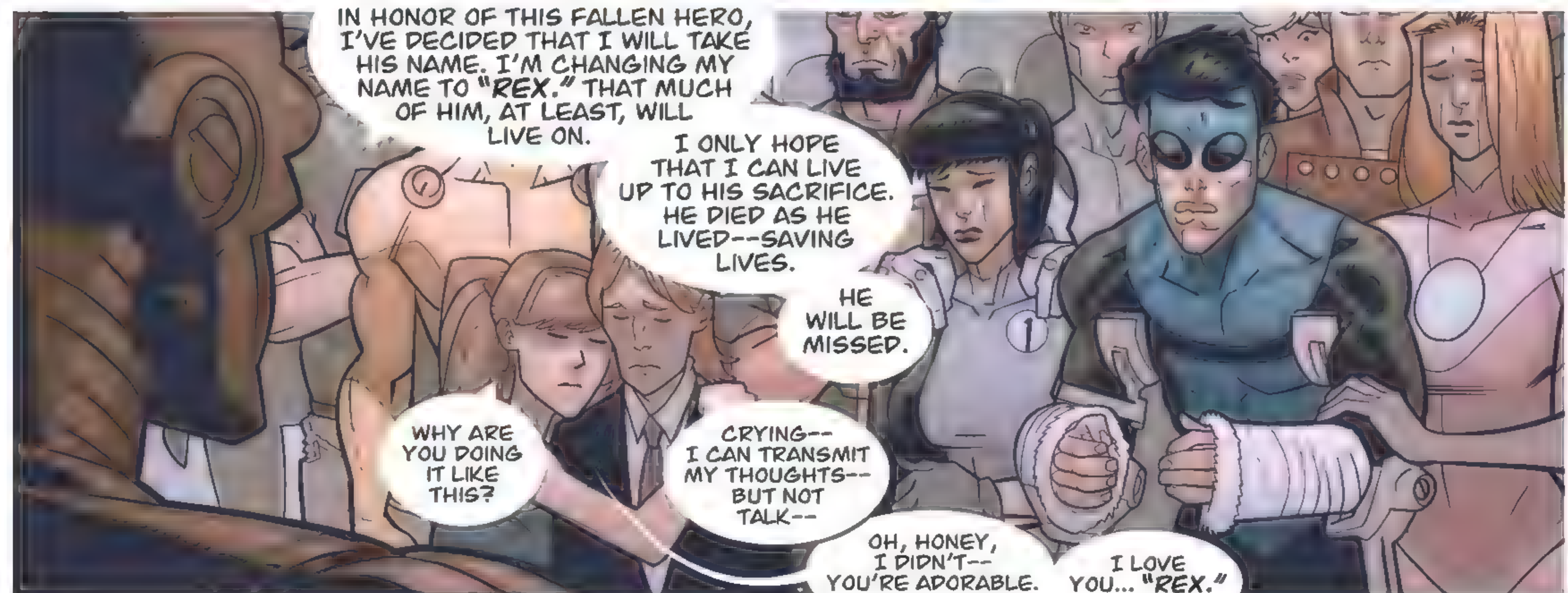
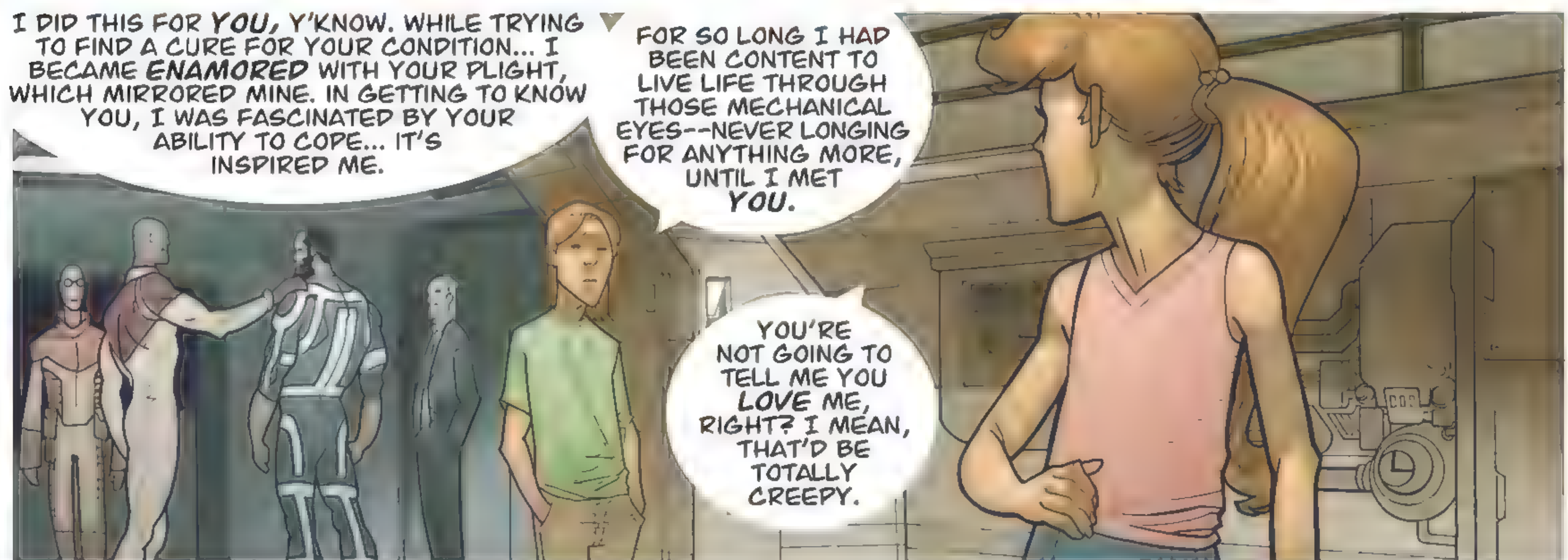
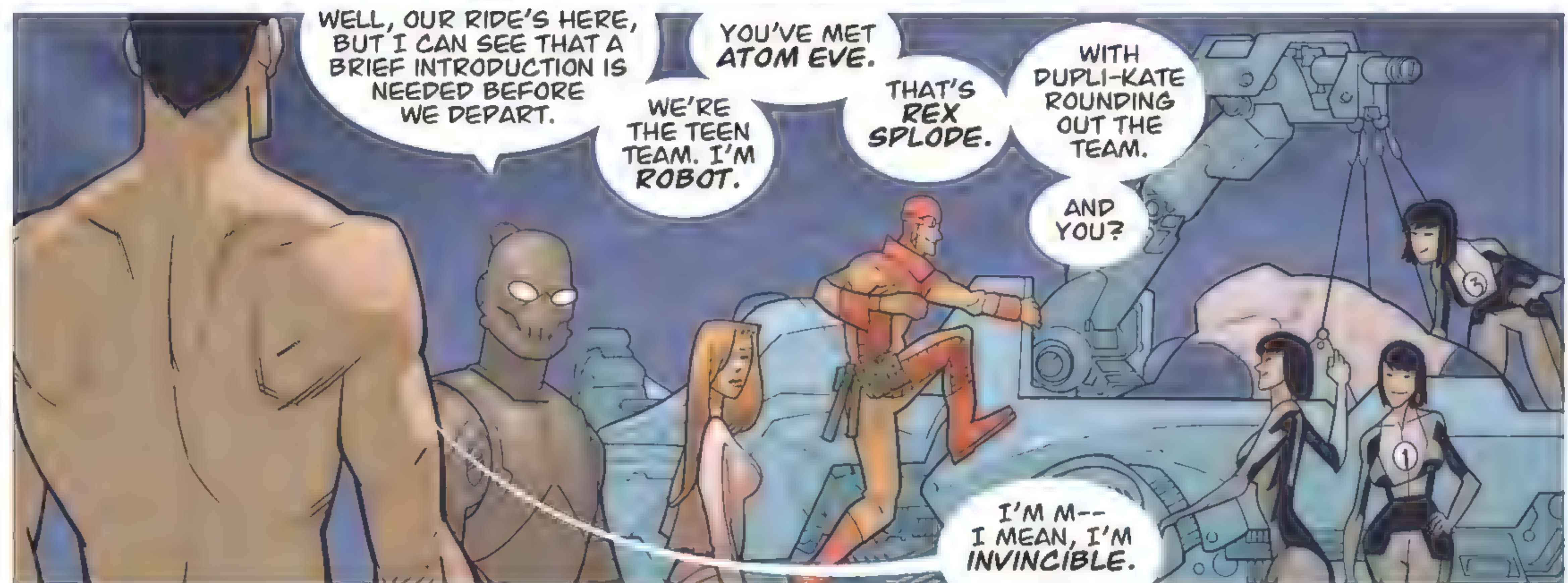
OH, MY
GOD---
YOU'RE
ALIVE!

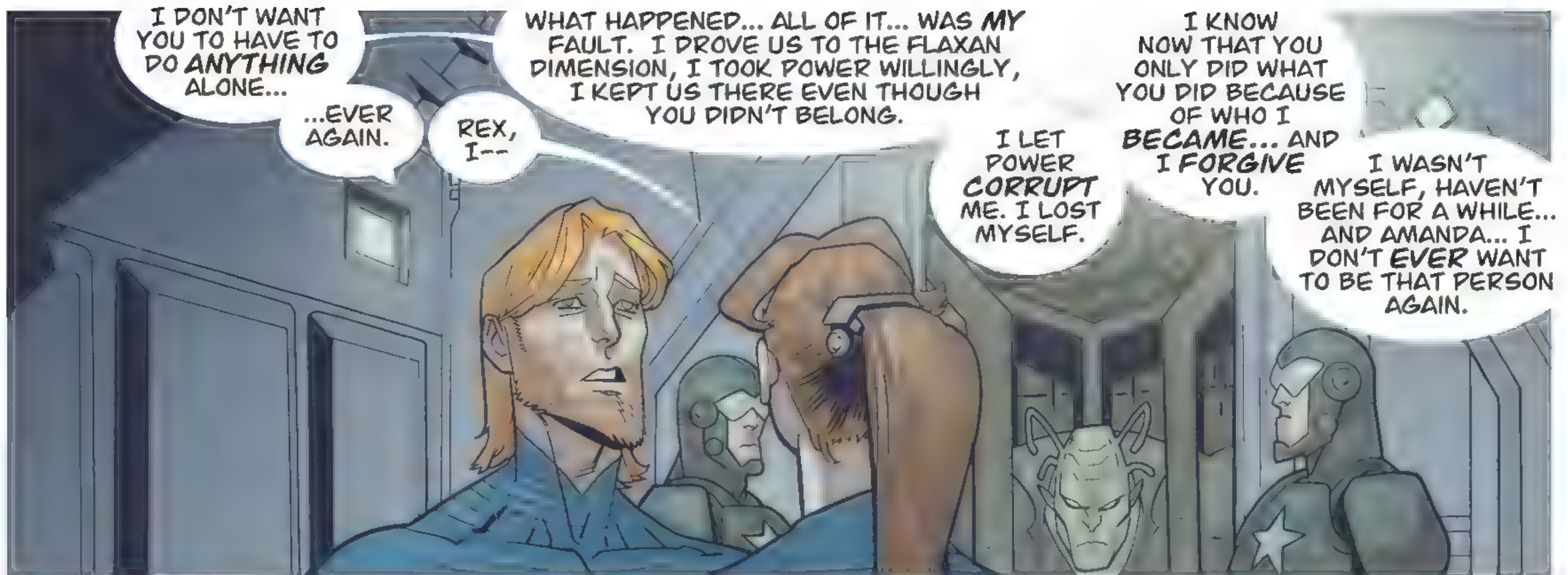
I'VE BEEN WATCHING
THE NEWS... THEY'RE NOT
SAYING ANYTHING ABOUT
REX--JUST THAT THE
WORLD HAS CHANGED
FOR THE BETTER.

WHAT
HAPPENED?



HE
WON.

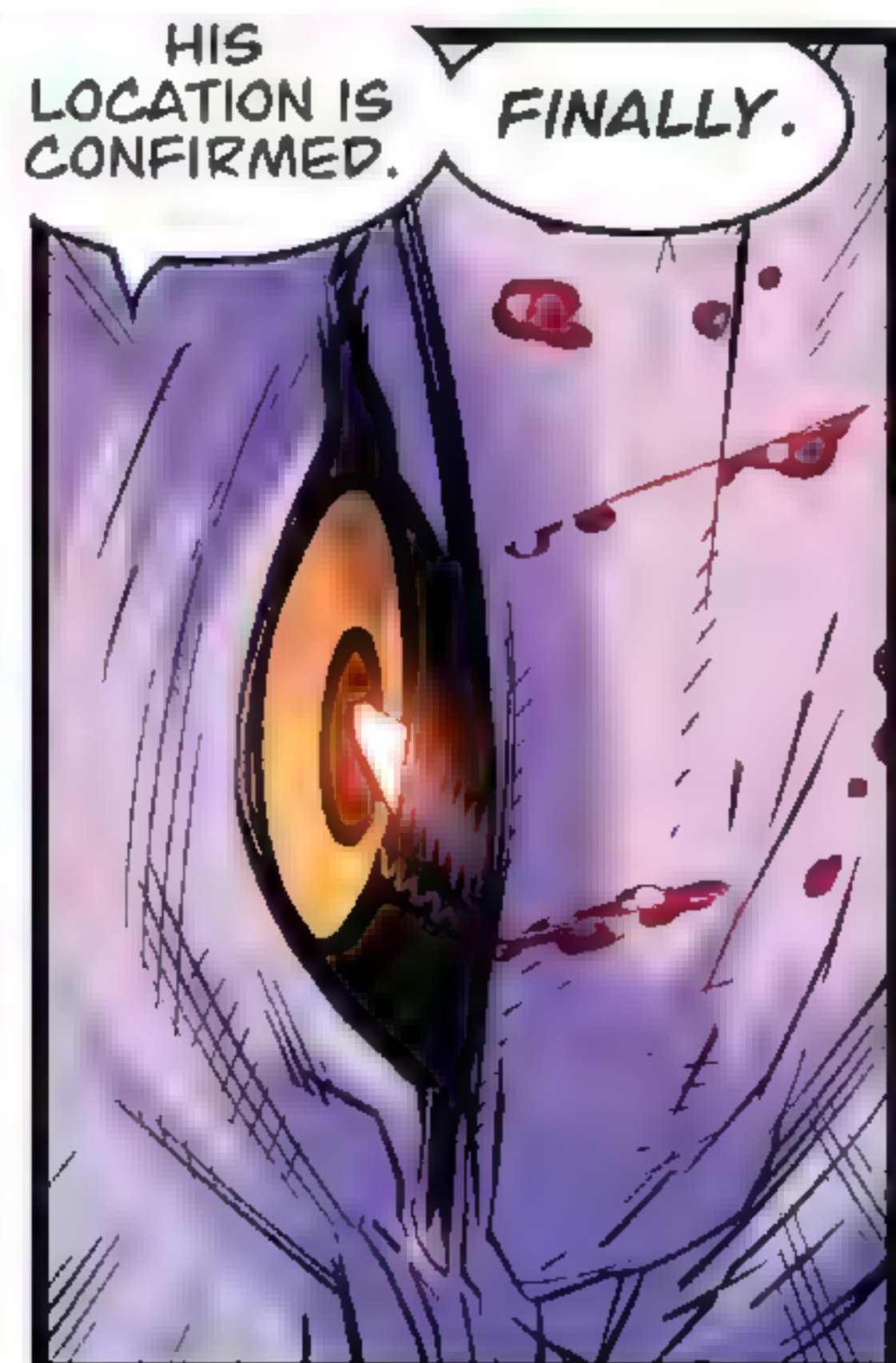
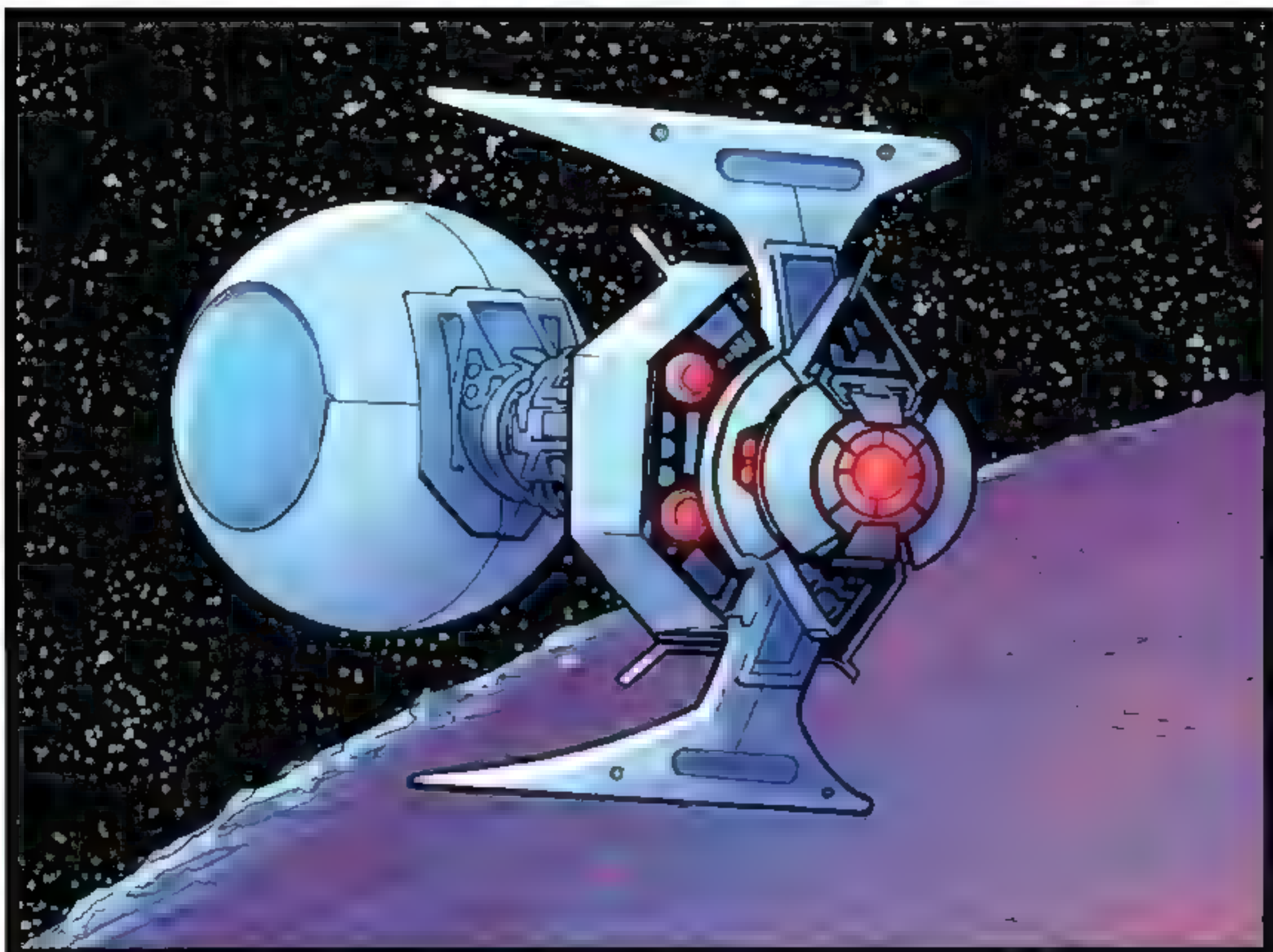




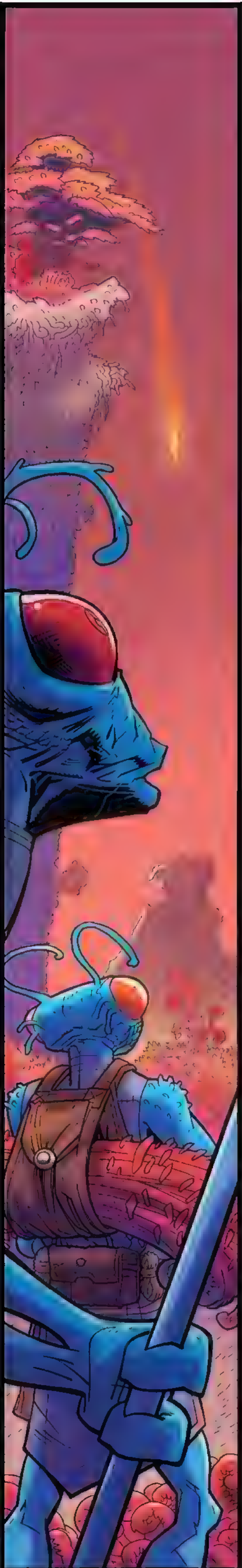


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I HAVE
DEFEATED
YOU
BEFORE.

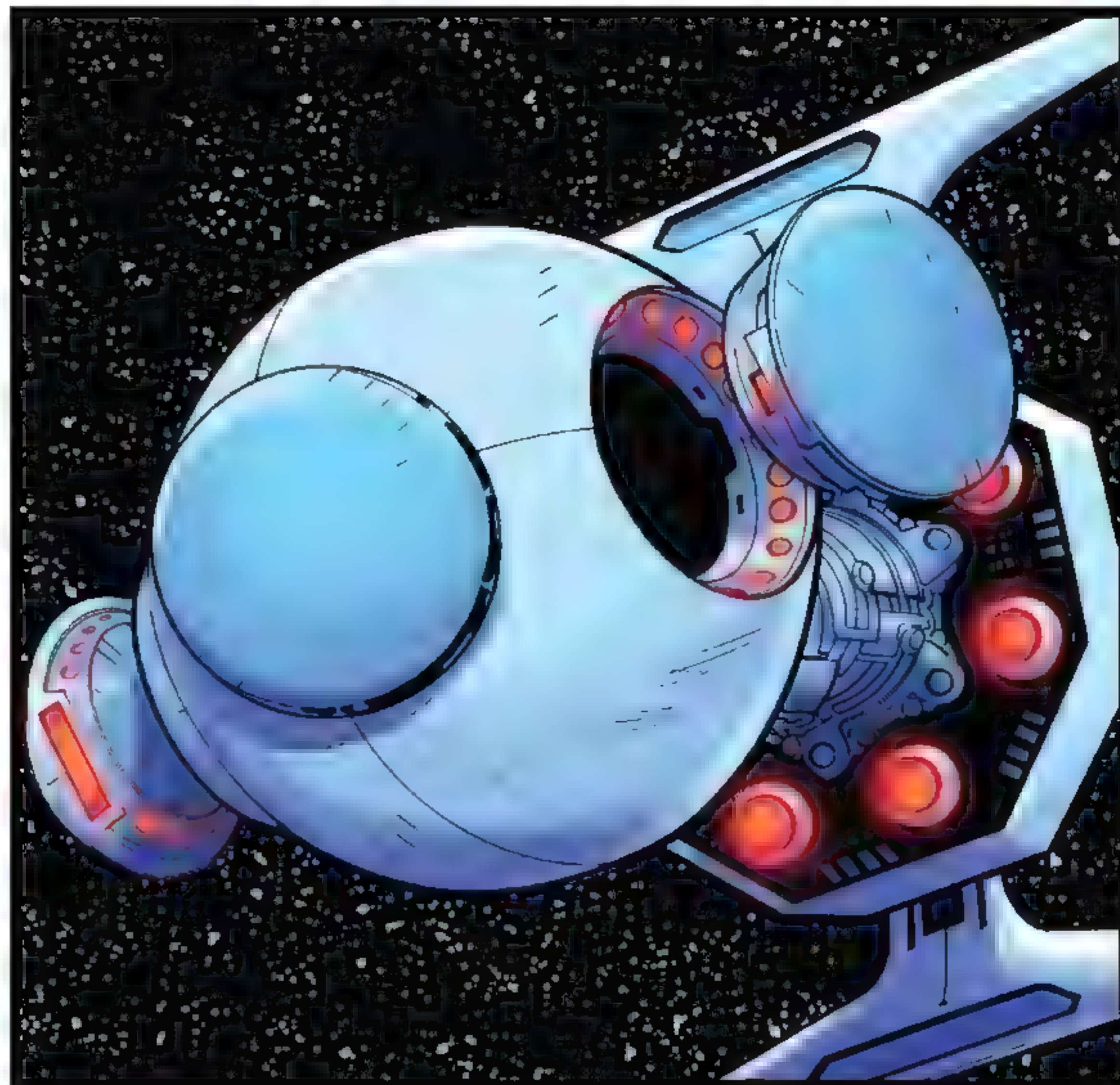
EASILY,
AS I
RECALL.





CONTACT?!
SO SOON!

DEPLOY!
DEPLOY!



THAT CONTEST
BETWEEN US WAS
NEVER FINISHED.
YOU'D BE A FOOL
TO CLAIM
VICTORY.

WE'LL
SEE.



BEFORE I KILL
YOU, I HAVE TO
ADMIT... YOU ARE
POWERFUL, AND
I COULD
CERTAINLY USE
AN ALLY.

IF BATTLE
IS ALL YOU
LUST FOR,
I CAN
PROVIDE
THAT.



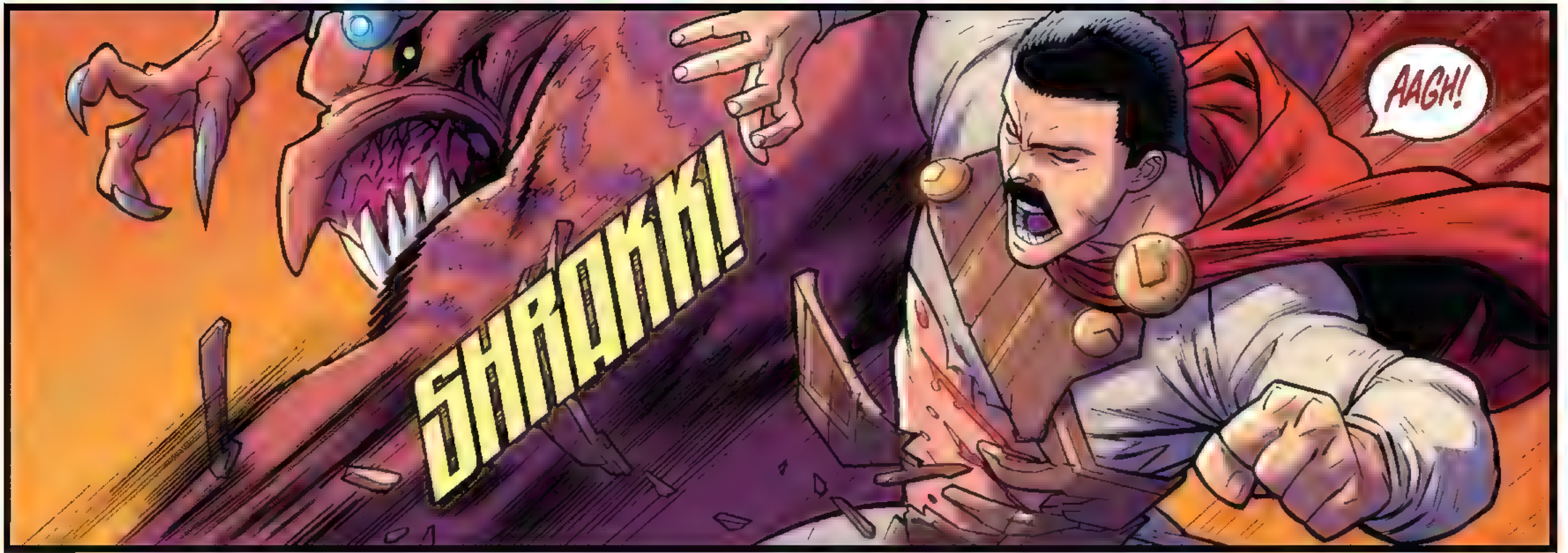
IT IS TRUE, I CRAVE BATTLE
ABOVE ALL ELSE. I YEARN TO
NOT ONLY FIND MY EQUAL,
BUT ALSO MY BETTER...
ONE WHO CAN PROVIDE ME
WITH GLORIOUS
DEATH.

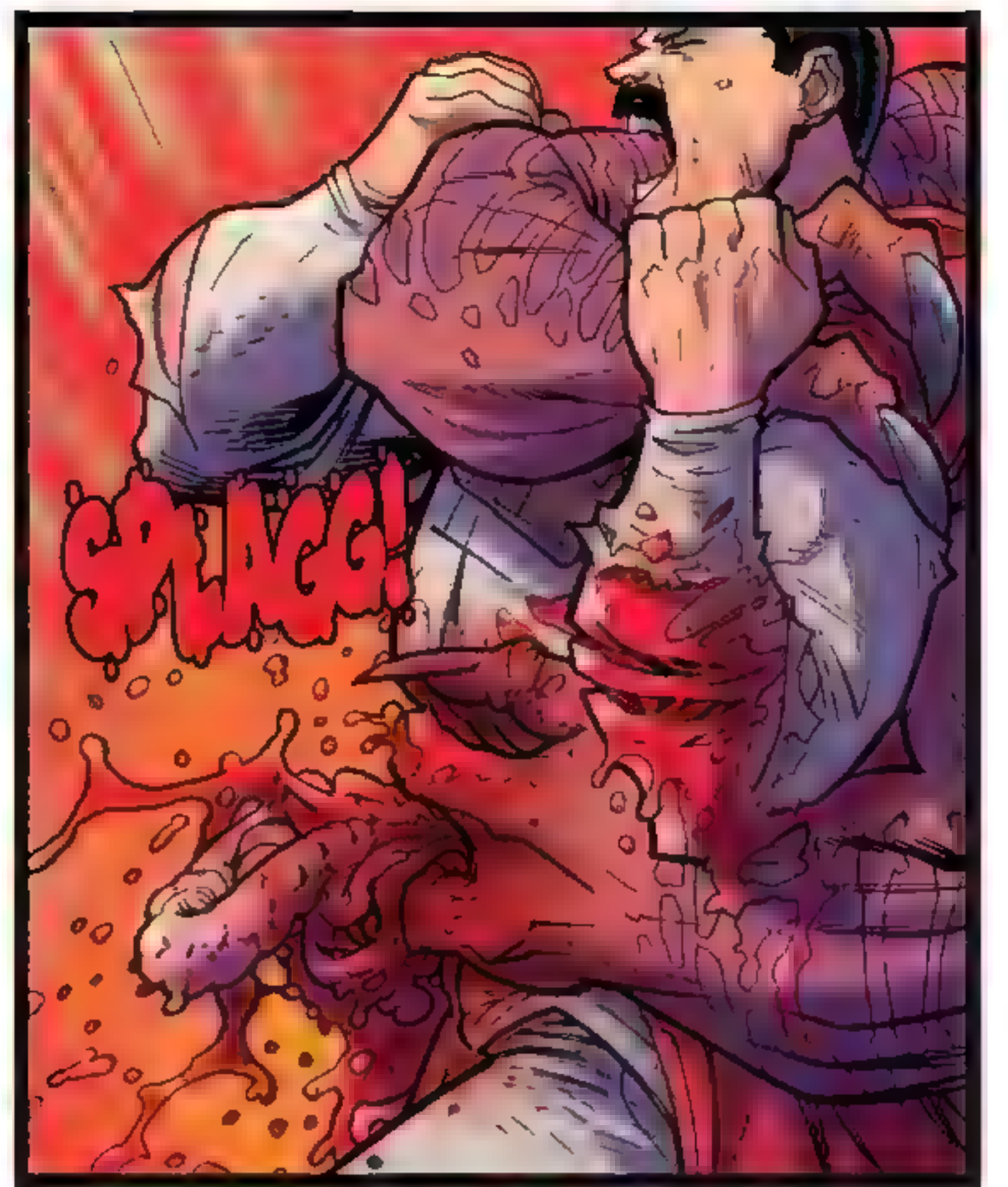
BUT THAT
DOESN'T MEAN
I HAVE NO
HONOR. YOU
ASK ME TO JOIN
YOU?

MY ANSWER
WILL BE WRITTEN
IN YOUR INNARDS
ONCE I RELEASE
THEM FROM
YOUR--



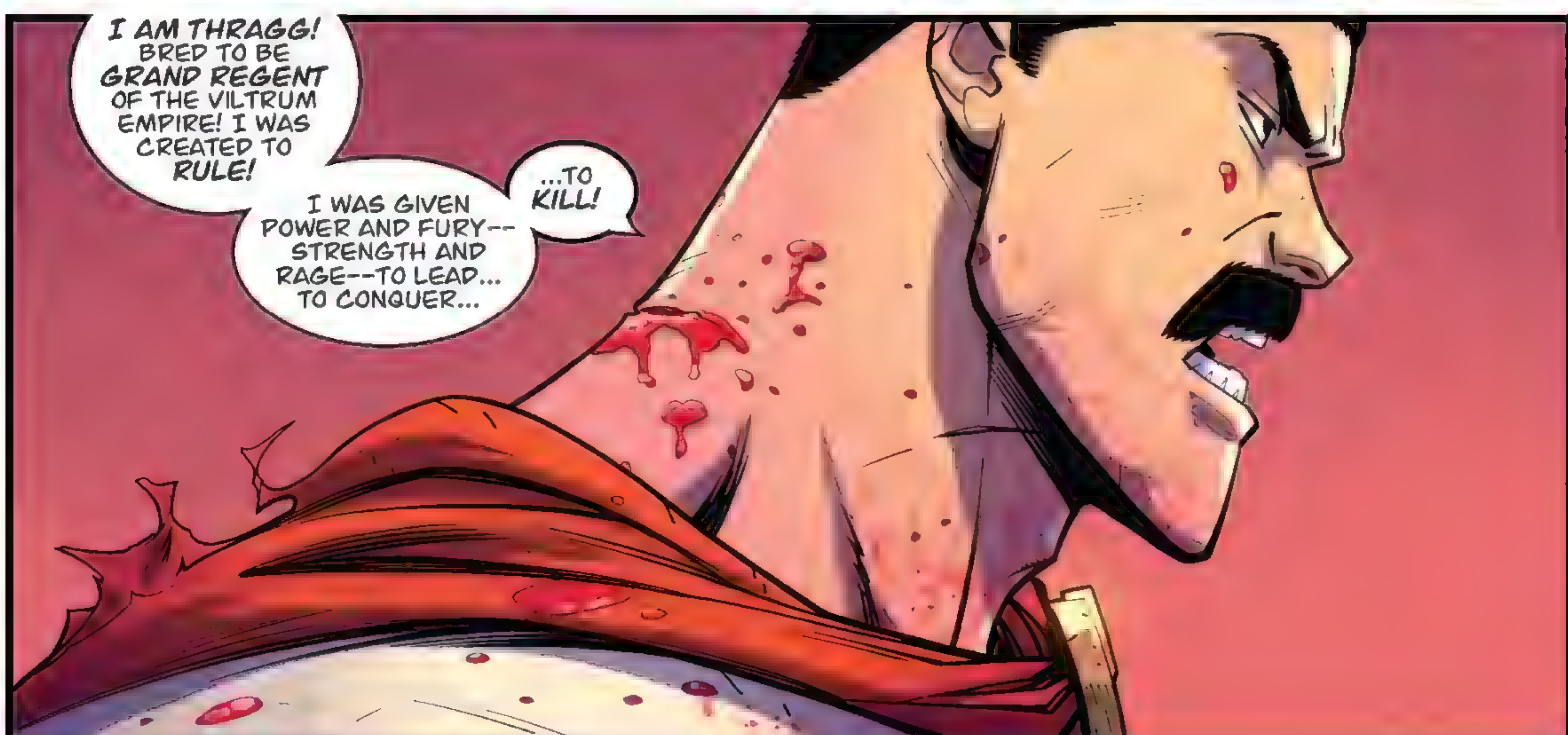
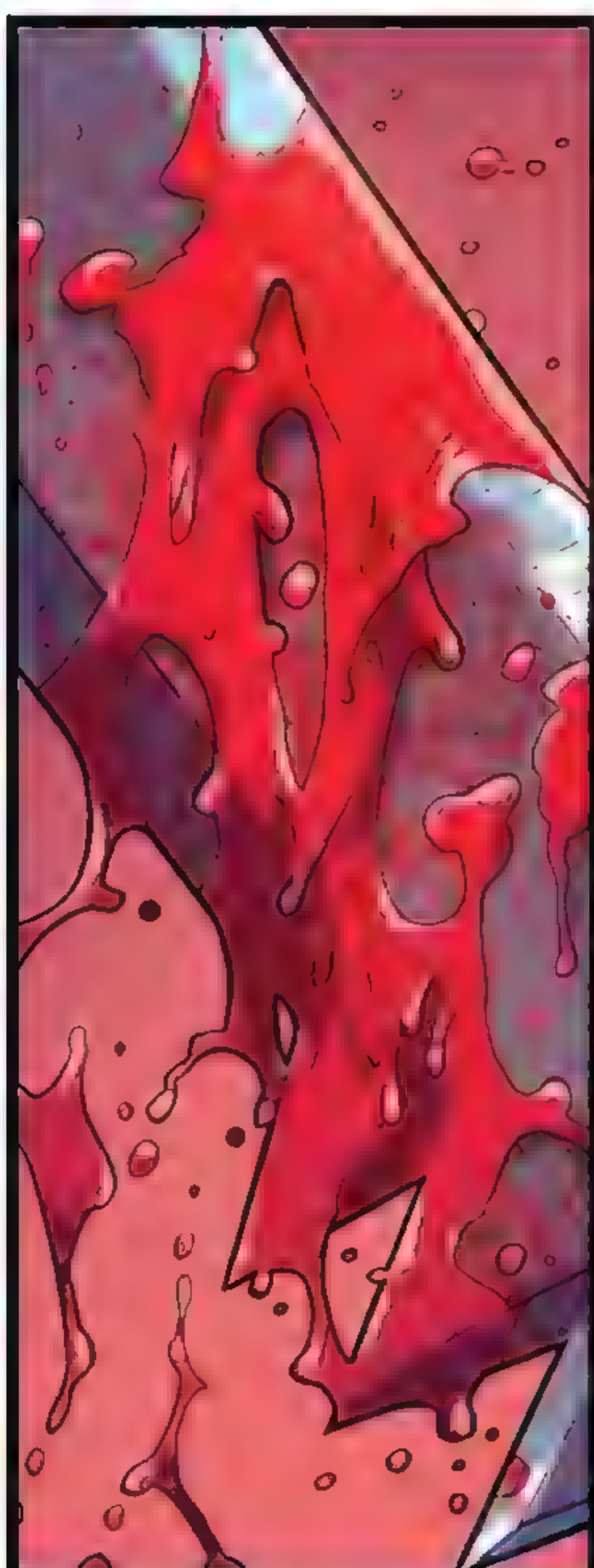
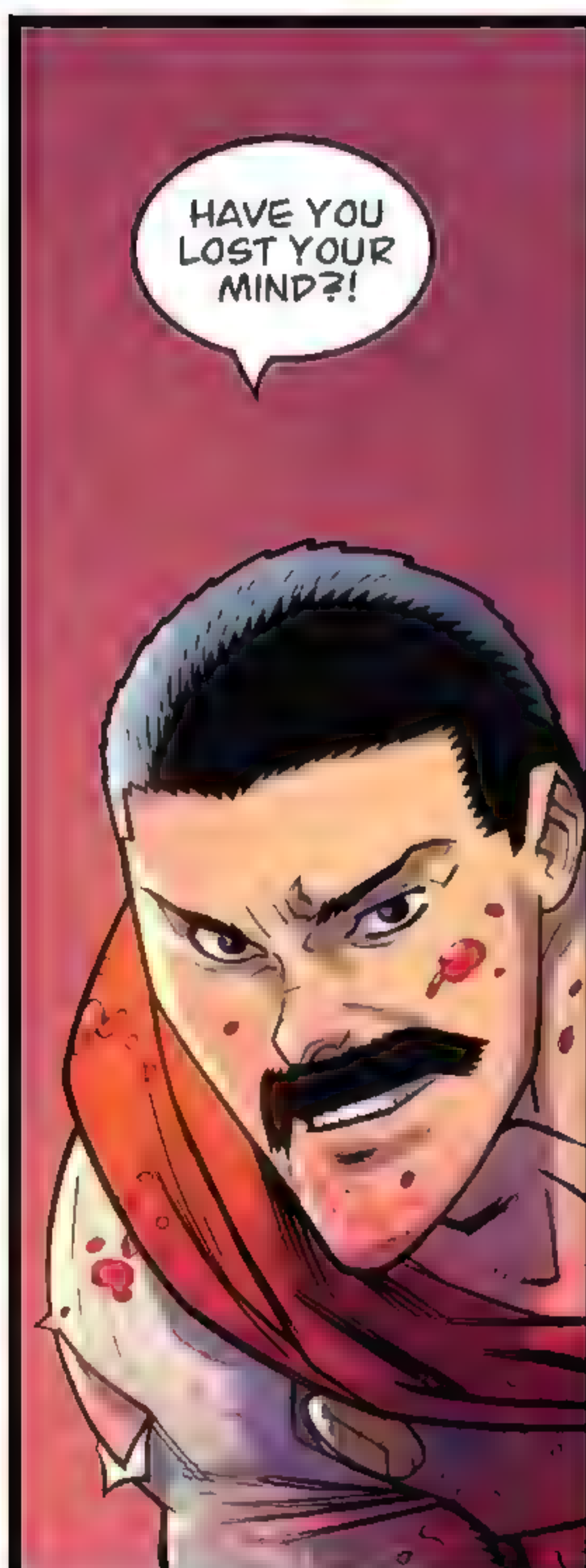
RAGNARS?
WELL
PLAYED.

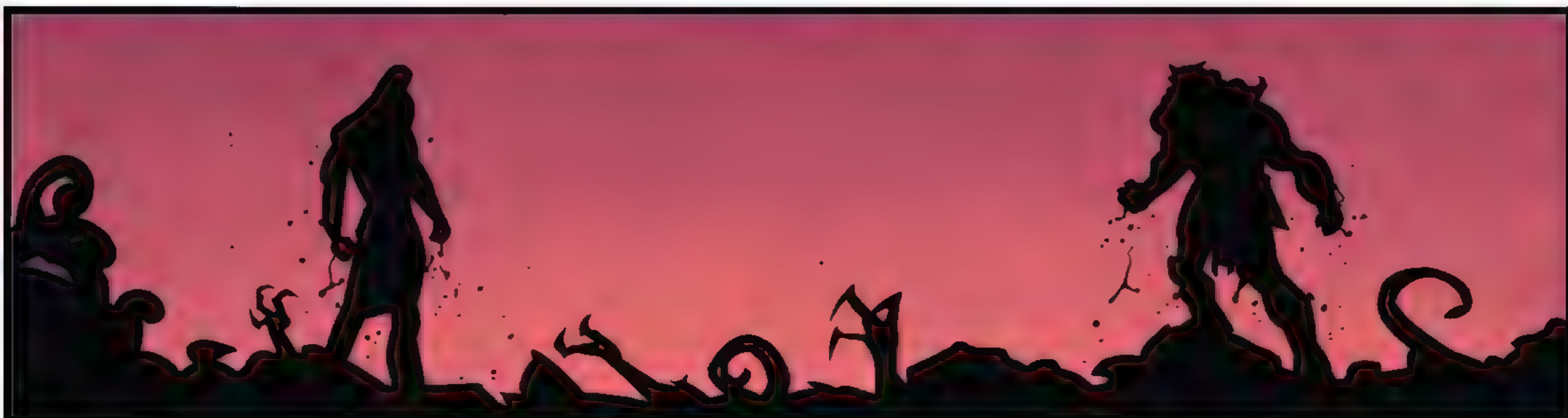
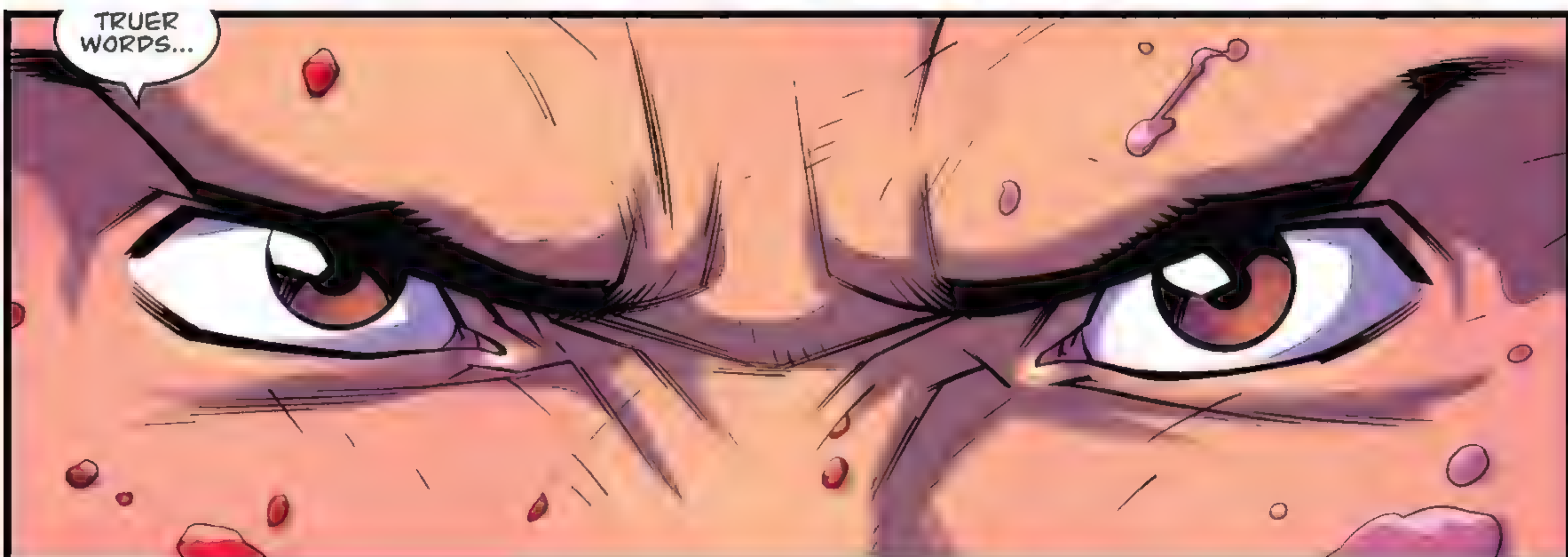




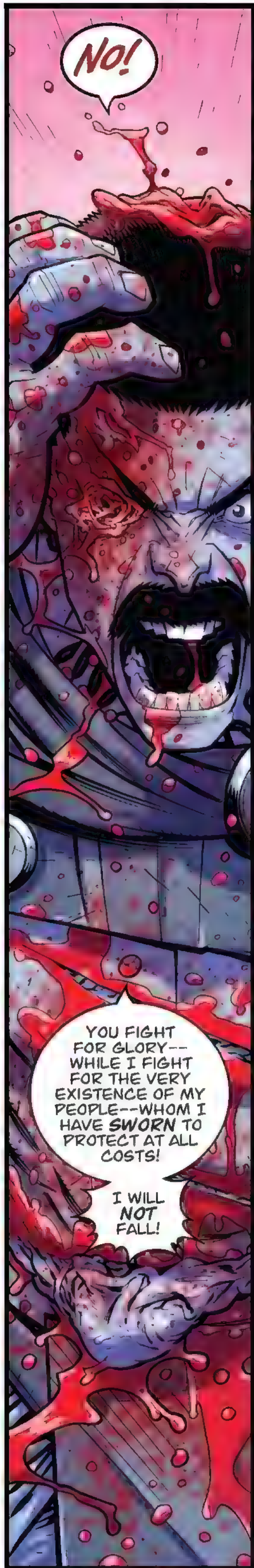
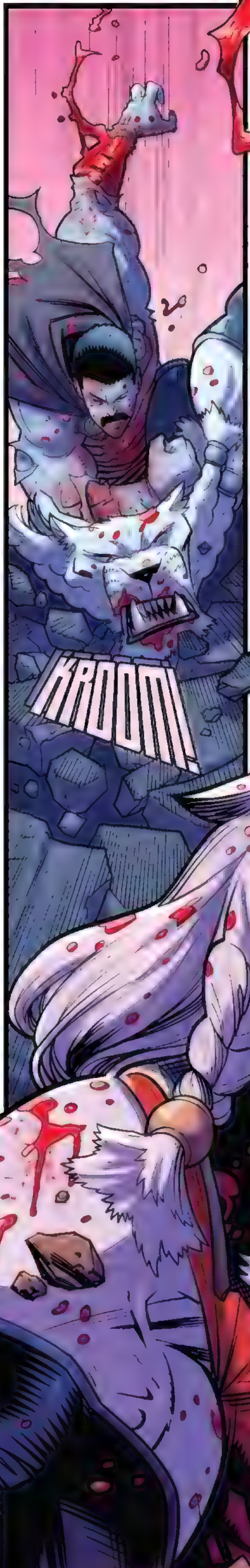












YOU FIGHT FOR GLORY-- WHILE I FIGHT FOR THE VERY EXISTENCE OF MY PEOPLE--WHOM I HAVE SWORN TO PROTECT AT ALL COSTS!

I WILL NOT FALL!



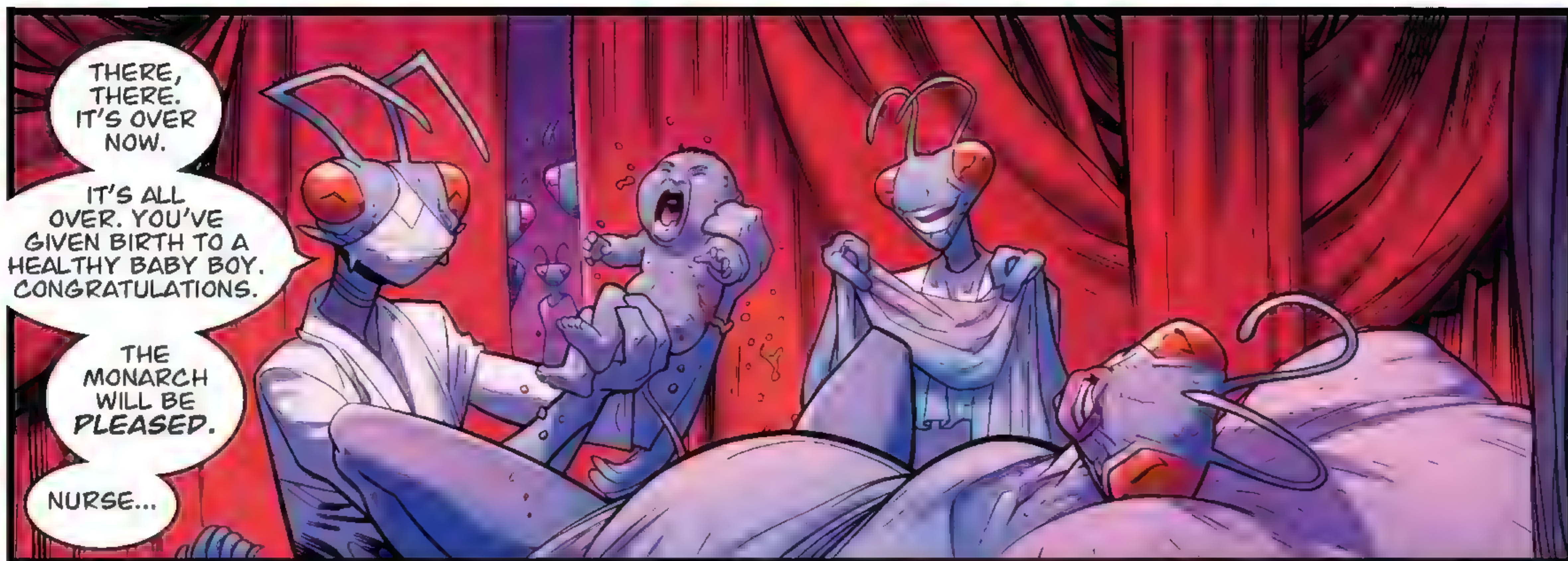
AAGGH!

PLEASE,
PLEASE...
MAKE IT
STOP!

NO!
NO!
N--

NNNNNGGGG!

YEEAAGGH!!





CHAPTER 116





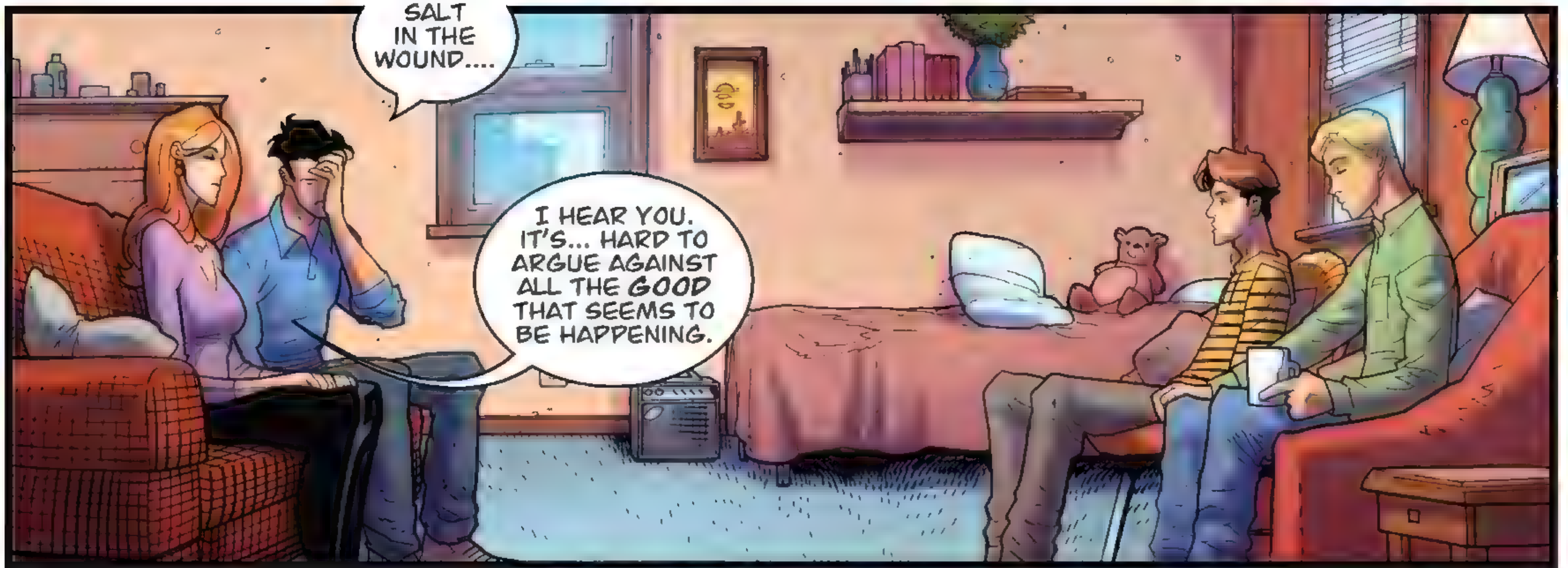
OF
COURSE
I'M EXCITED!
IT'S A WHOLE
NEW WORLD
OUT THERE!

EVERYTHING
IS CHANGING
SO FAST I CAN
HARDLY BELIEVE
IT. I MEAN... HAVE
YOU GUYS NOT
BEEN PAYING
ATTENTION?

HOW COULD
YOU NOT BE
THRILLED WITH
EVERYTHING
THAT'S
HAPPENING?
IT'S ALL
GREAT!







SALT
IN THE
WOUND....

I HEAR YOU.
IT'S... HARD TO
ARGUE AGAINST
ALL THE **GOOD**
THAT SEEMS TO
BE HAPPENING.

"SEEMS?" WHAT'S
GOING ON HERE?
YOU GUYS KNOW
SOMETHING I
DON'T?

NO. JUST IGNORE
US, REALLY.
WE'VE GOT A LOT
GOING ON.

UH...
NEW KID
AND ALL.

OH, YEAH...
WHERE IS
THAT LITTLE
MONSTER?

I'D
REALLY
LIKE TO
SEE HER.

SHE'S WITH MY
PARENTS RIGHT NOW.
WE'RE SUPPOSED TO
BE PICKING HER UP
IN... WELL, WE'RE
SUPPOSED TO BE
THERE NOW.

AREN'T THEY A
COUPLE HOURS
FROM HERE?
YOU'RE NEVER
GOING TO
MAKE IT.



DUDE.



OH, YEAH. I
FORGOT.

YOU GUYS
DON'T COME
AROUND
ENOUGH. I MISS
YOU.

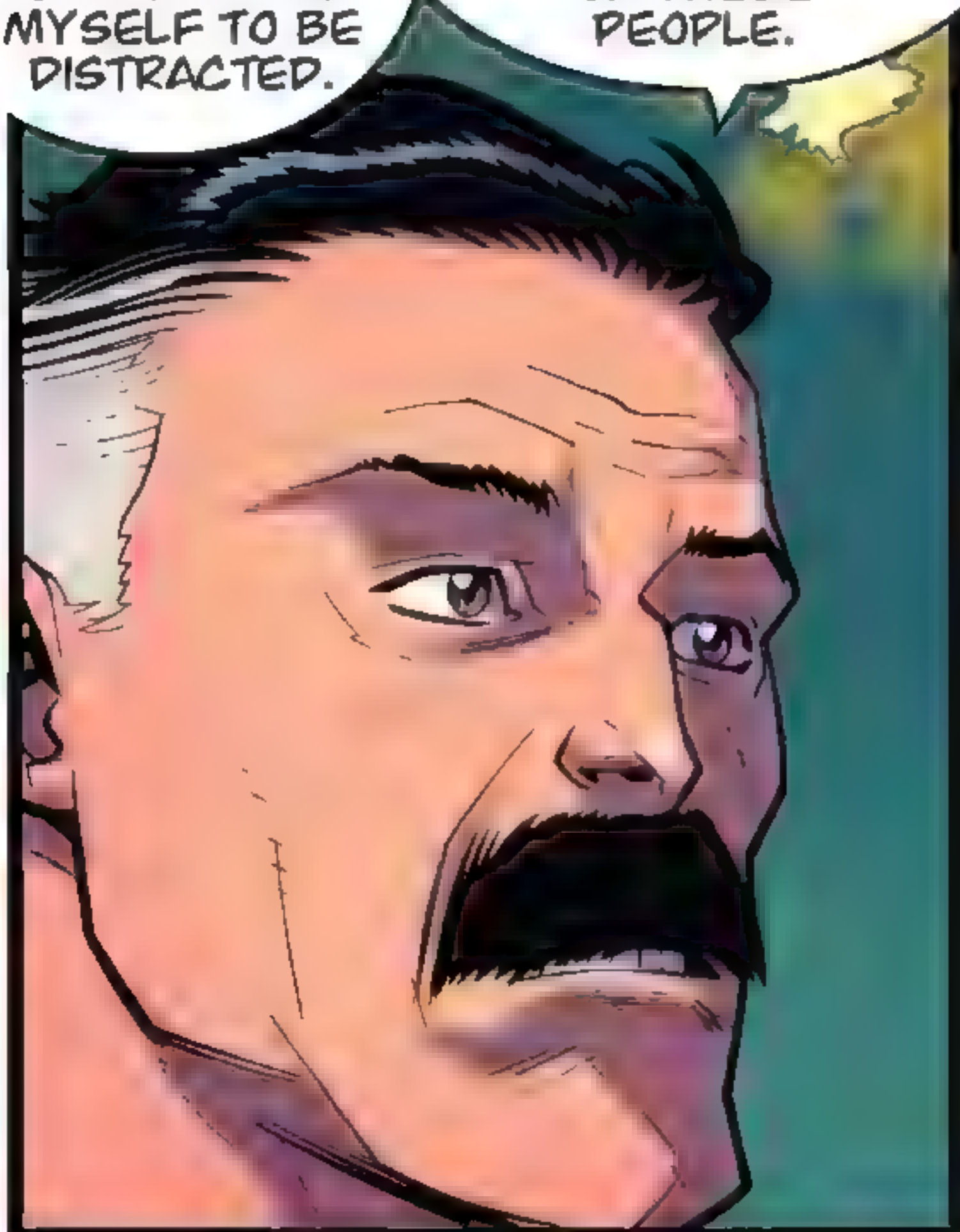


SORRY,
MAN. I
KNOW.

I'LL CALL
YOU. WE'LL GET
TOGETHER AGAIN
SOON. YOU GUYS
HAVE A GOOD NIGHT.



THESE PROBLEMS... THEY'RE **SMALL**... I CAN'T ALLOW MYSELF TO BE DISTRACTED.



I HAVE TO DO MY DUTY AS EMPEROR... **THAT** IS MY PRIORITY. NOT THE AFFAIRS OF THESE PEOPLE.

WHO WERE WE ALL THOSE YEARS AGO? STANDING HERE... THINKING BACK... I HARDLY RECOGNIZE THOSE PEOPLE.

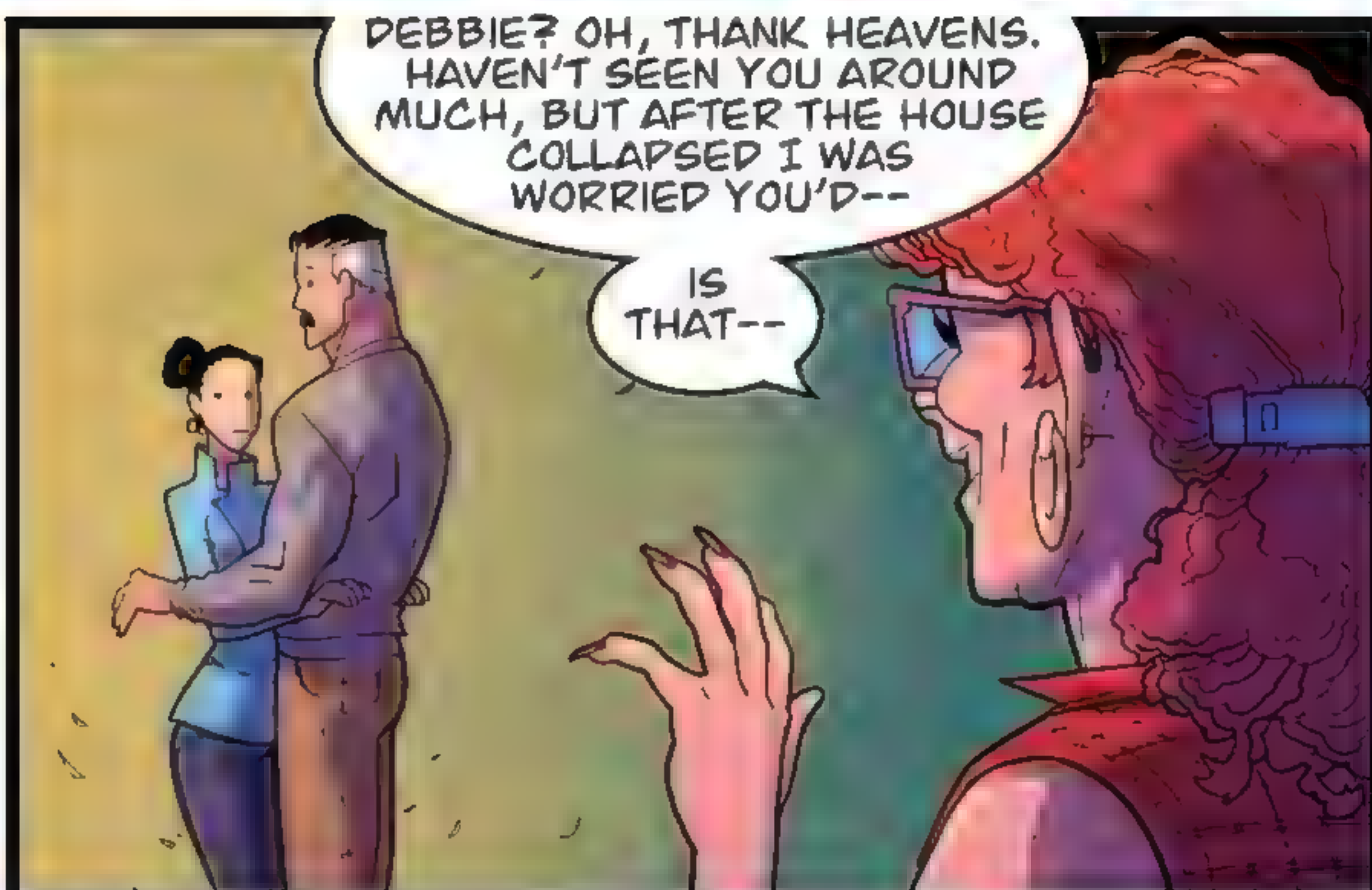


WE WERE HAPPY THEN, BUT I THINK WE'RE HAPPIER NOW... DESPITE IT ALL.

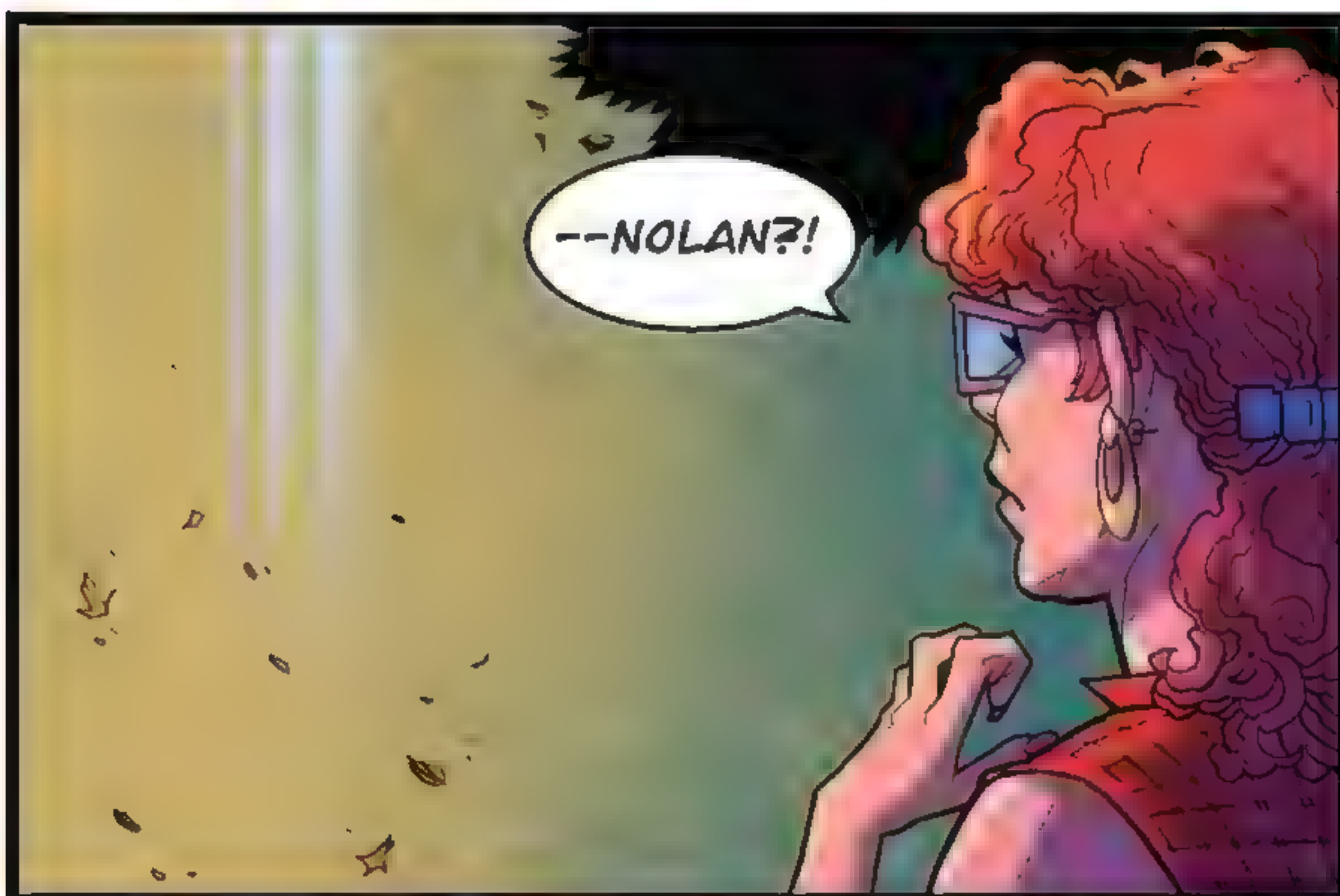


I'D AGREE WITH THAT.

DEBBIE? OH, THANK HEAVENS. HAVEN'T SEEN YOU AROUND MUCH, BUT AFTER THE HOUSE COLLAPSED I WAS WORRIED YOU'D--



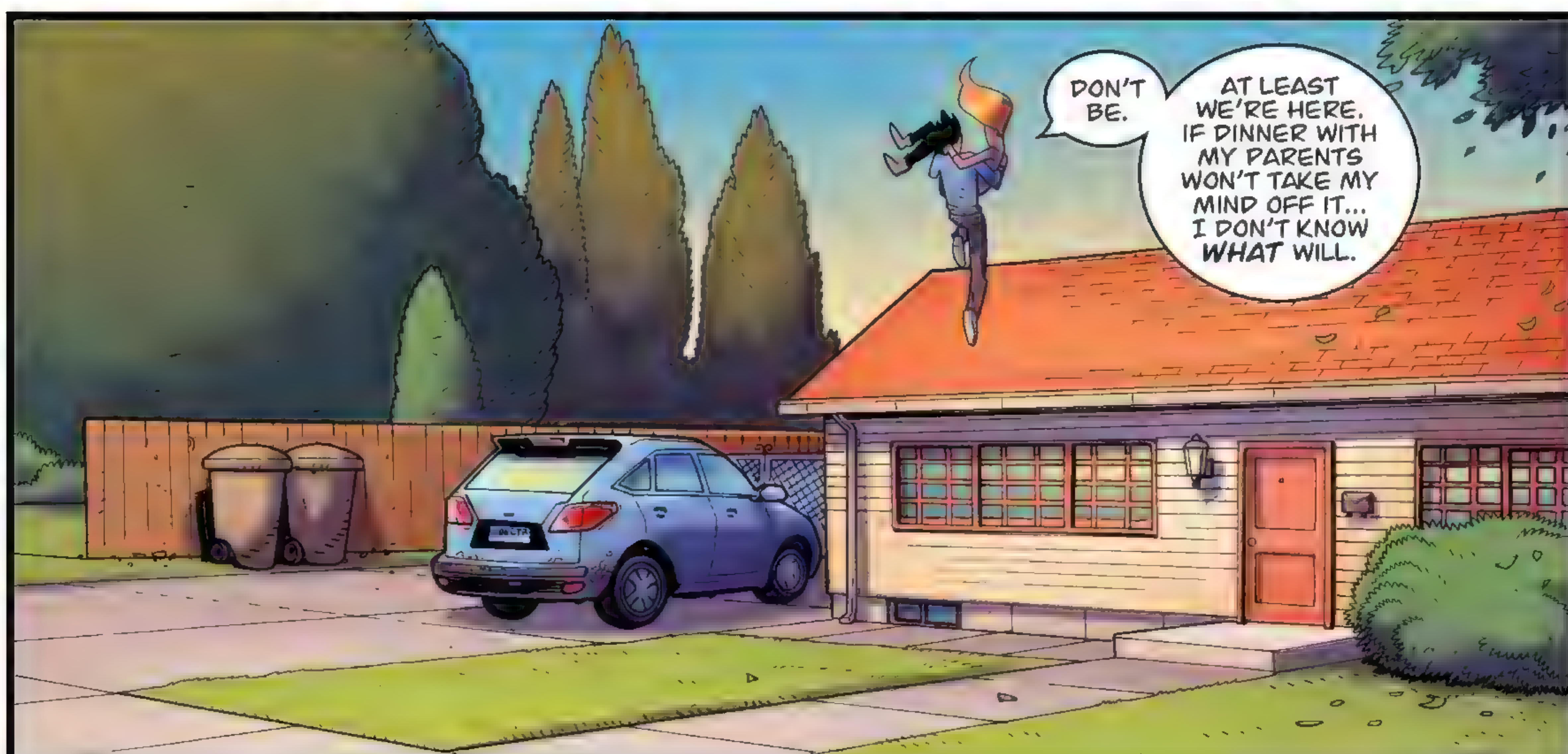
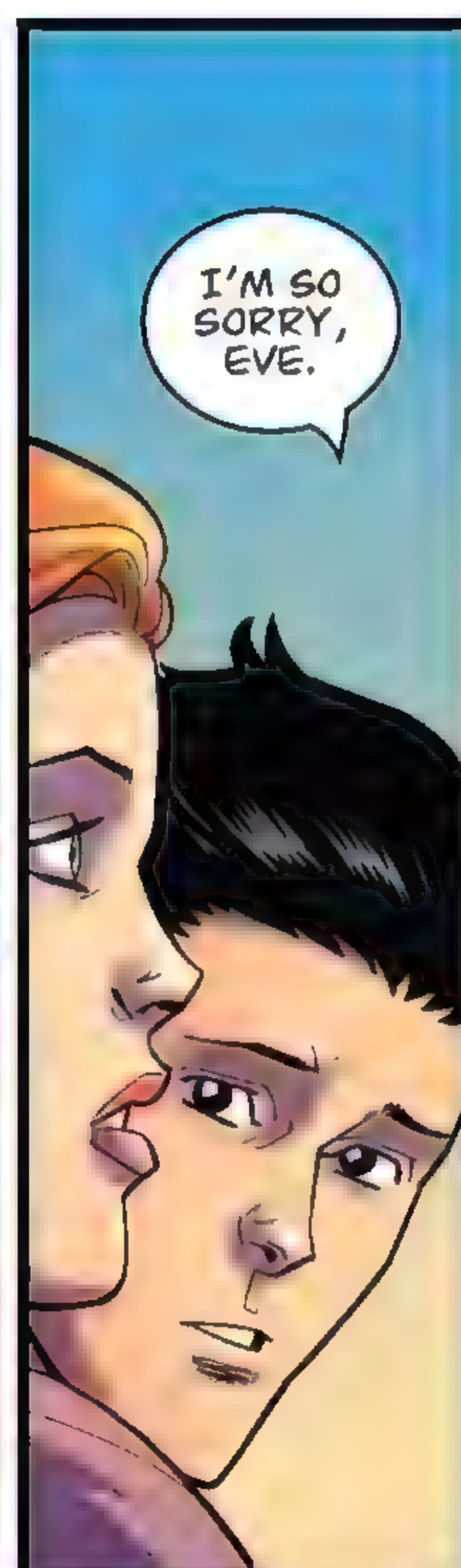
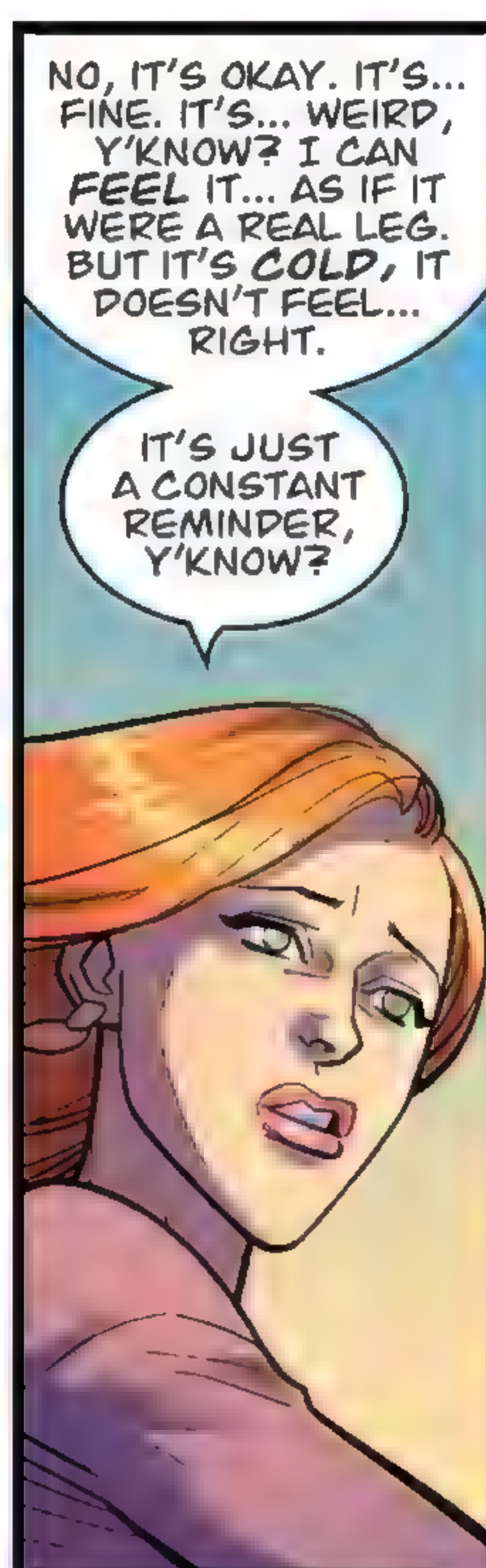
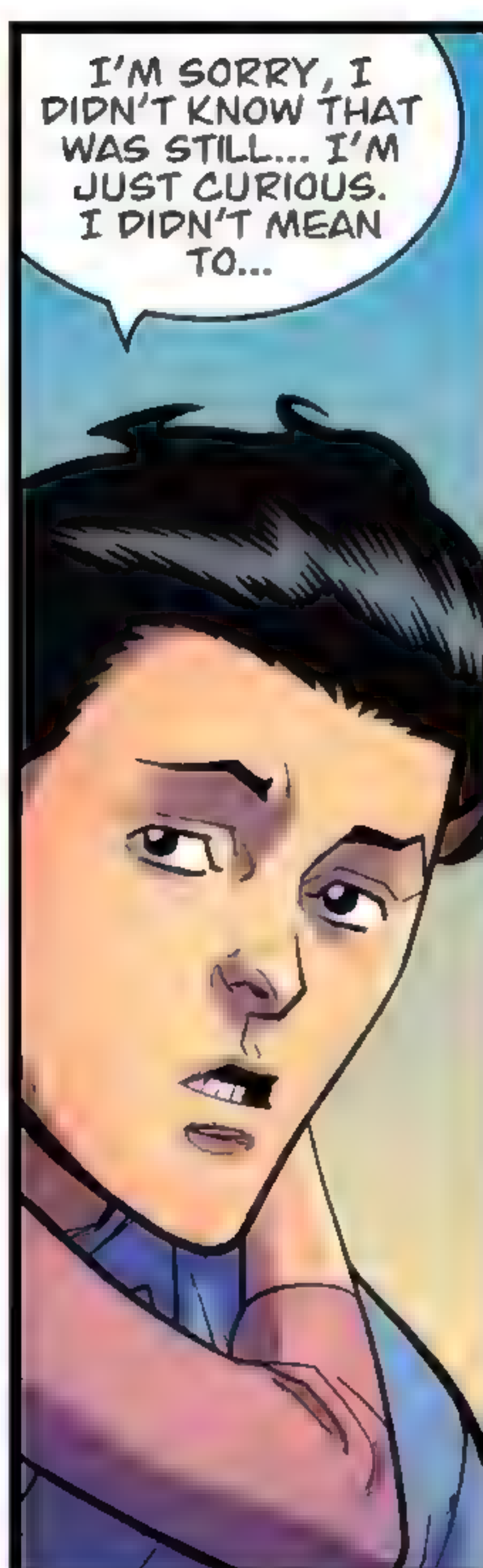
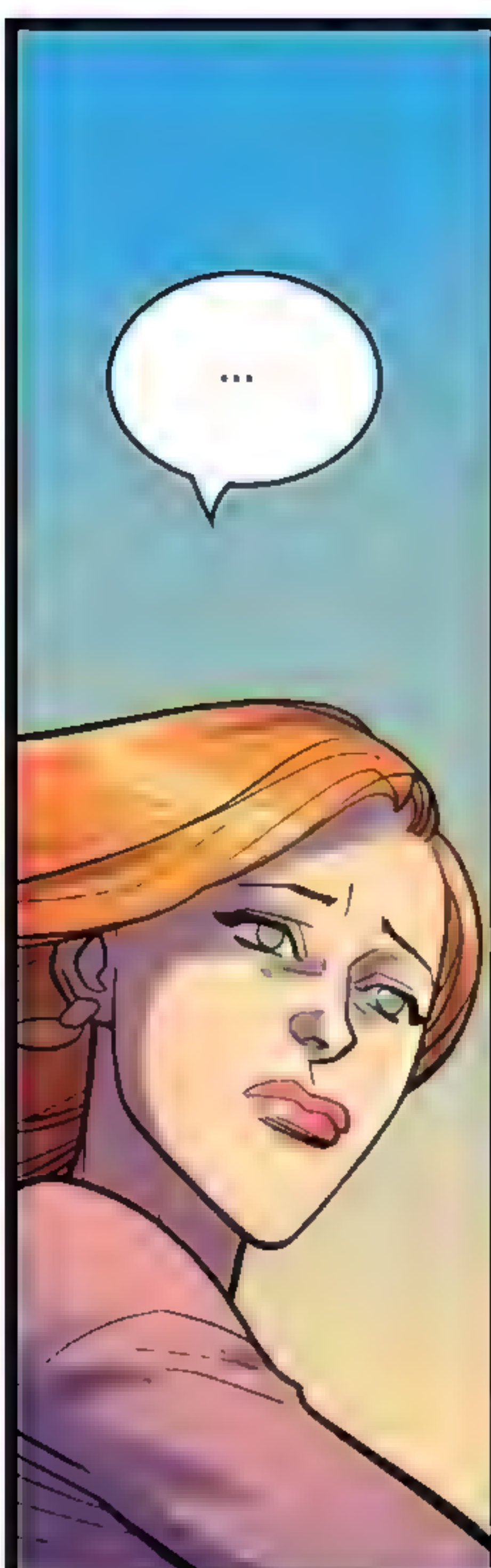
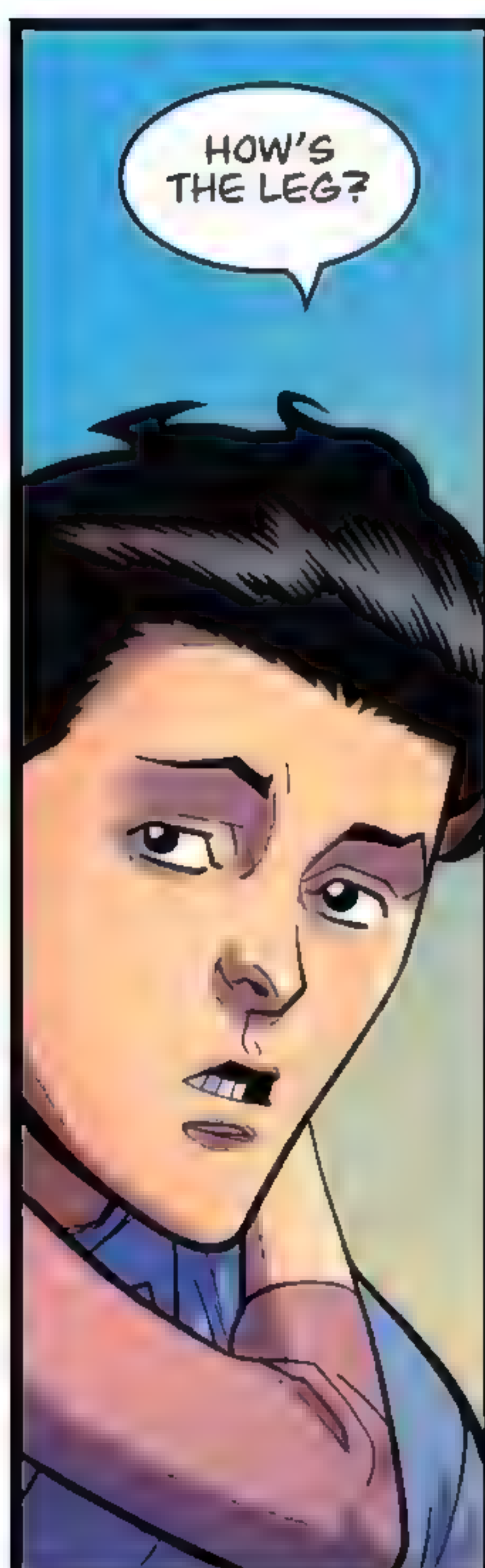
IS THAT--



--NOLAN?!

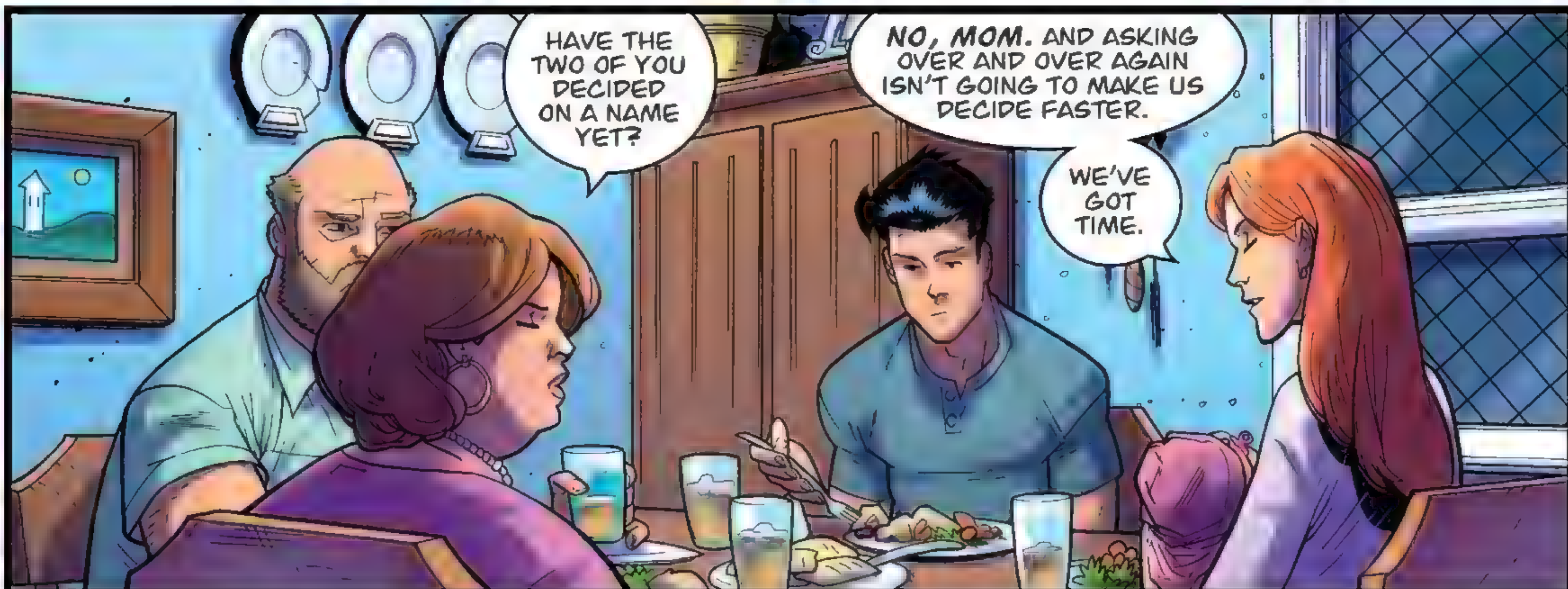


GHOSTS!



ELSEWHERE.





HAVE THE TWO OF YOU DECIDED ON A NAME YET?

NO, MOM. AND ASKING OVER AND OVER AGAIN ISN'T GOING TO MAKE US DECIDE FASTER.

WE'VE GOT TIME.



I JUST DON'T UNDERSTAND WHY YOU'RE WAITING. IT'S NOT ENOUGH YOU DIDN'T HAVE YOUR PARENTS COME TO THE HOSPITAL... YOU ALSO CAN'T MAKE UP YOUR MIND ABOUT A NAME?

CAN YOU DO ANYTHING TRADITIONALLY?

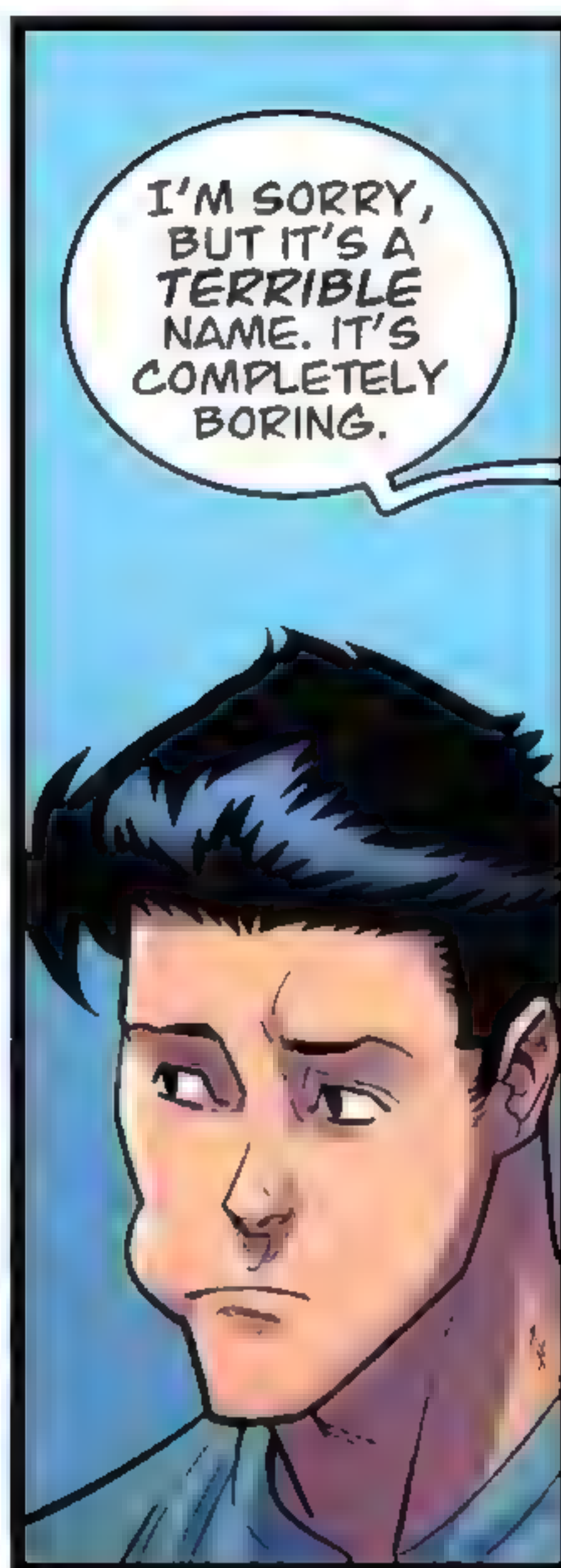


MAYBE NOT, MOM. WE'RE GOING TO WAIT UNTIL WE HAVE THE PERFECT NAME.

I DON'T WANT TO HAVE ANOTHER "SAMANTHA" SITUATION.



AND JUST WHAT IS SO WRONG WITH YOUR NAME?!



I'M SORRY, BUT IT'S A TERRIBLE NAME. IT'S COMPLETELY BORING.



EVE IS COOL... YOU AT LEAST GOT THE MIDDLE NAME RI--

WAAAAH!!



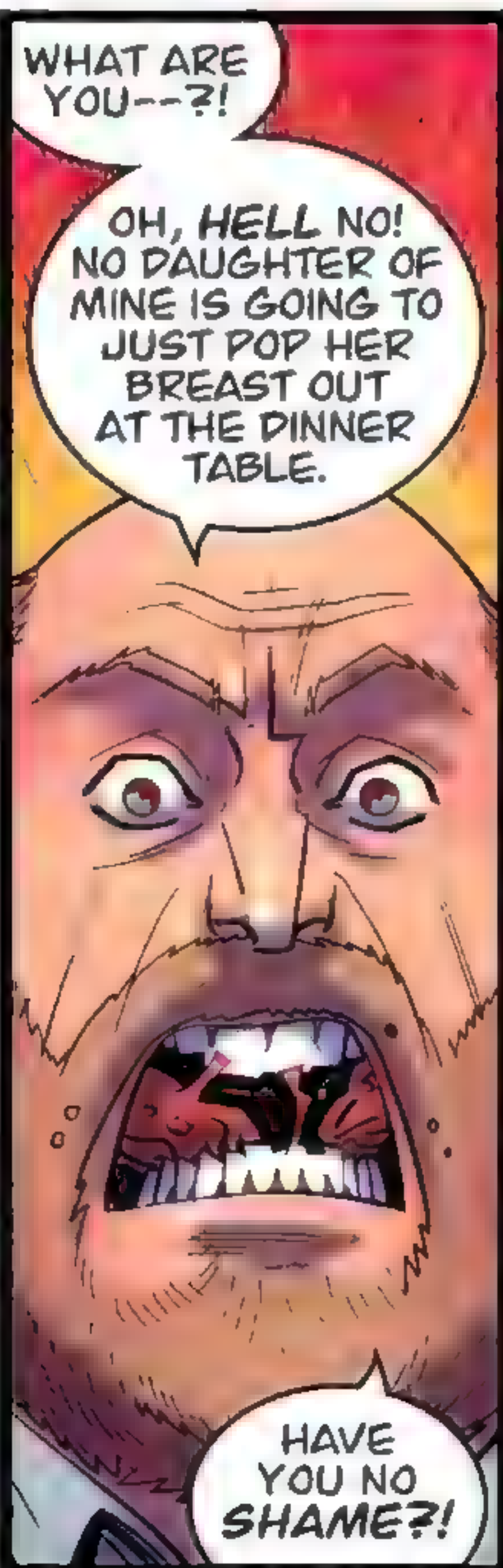
WAAH!!
WAAAAH!!

LET ME TAKE HER. YOU GUYS CAN EAT.



WAAAAH!!

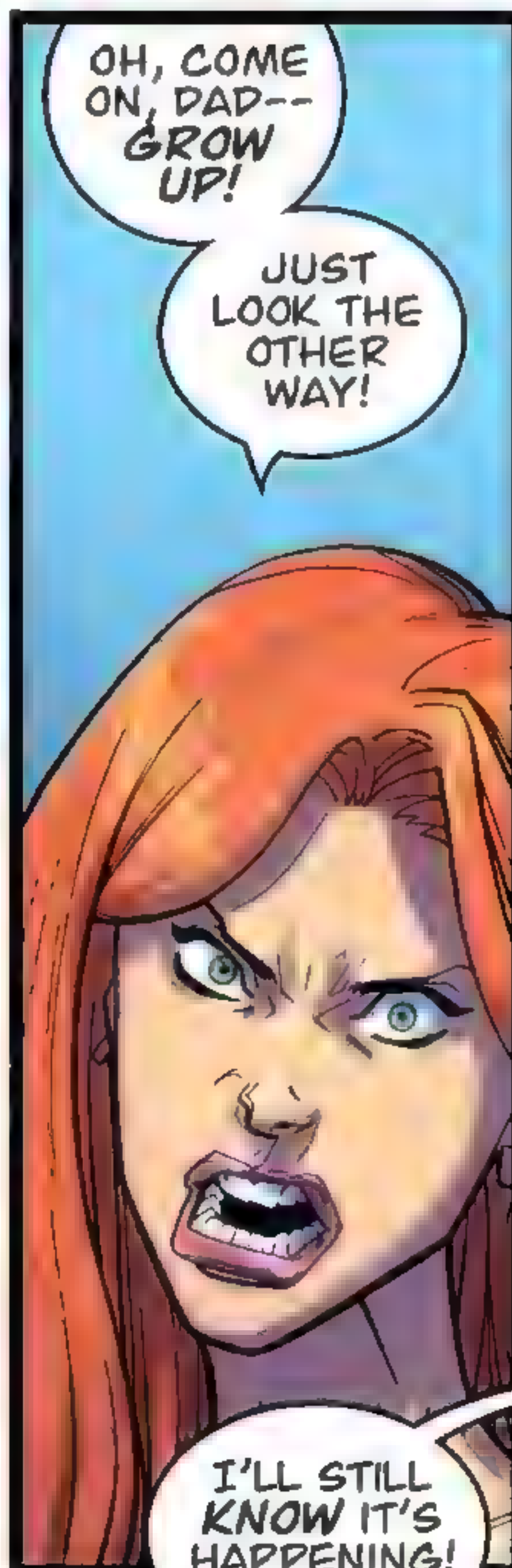
NONSENSE, SHE'S PROBABLY JUST HUNGRY HERSELF. IT'S ABOUT THAT TIME.



WHAT ARE YOU--?!

OH, HELL NO! NO DAUGHTER OF MINE IS GOING TO JUST POP HER BREAST OUT AT THE DINNER TABLE.

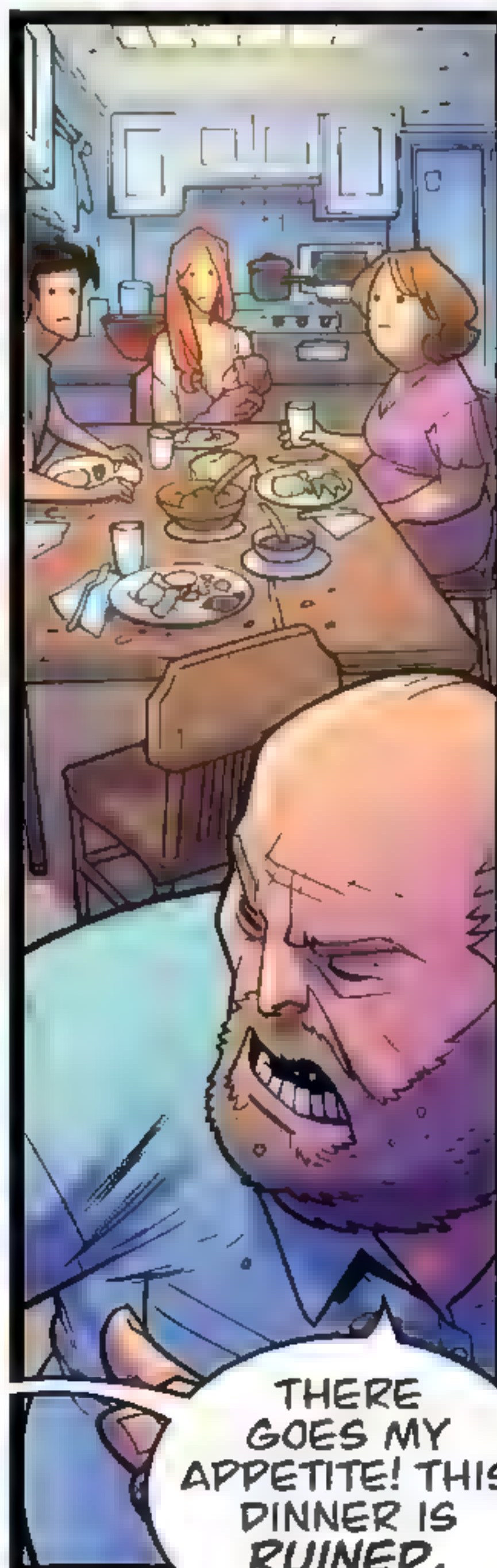
HAVE YOU NO SHAME?!



OH, COME ON, DAD-- GROW UP!

JUST LOOK THE OTHER WAY!

I'LL STILL KNOW IT'S HAPPENING!



THERE GOES MY APPETITE! THIS DINNER IS RUINED.



HOW ARE THESE THE PEOPLE WHO RAISED ME? I CAN'T TAKE MUCH MORE OF THIS.

AT LEAST THEY'RE NOT STILL HARPING ON THE WHOLE UNMARRIED PARENTS THING. WE COULD GET A HOTEL... OR STAY WITH WILLIAM AND RICK OR...

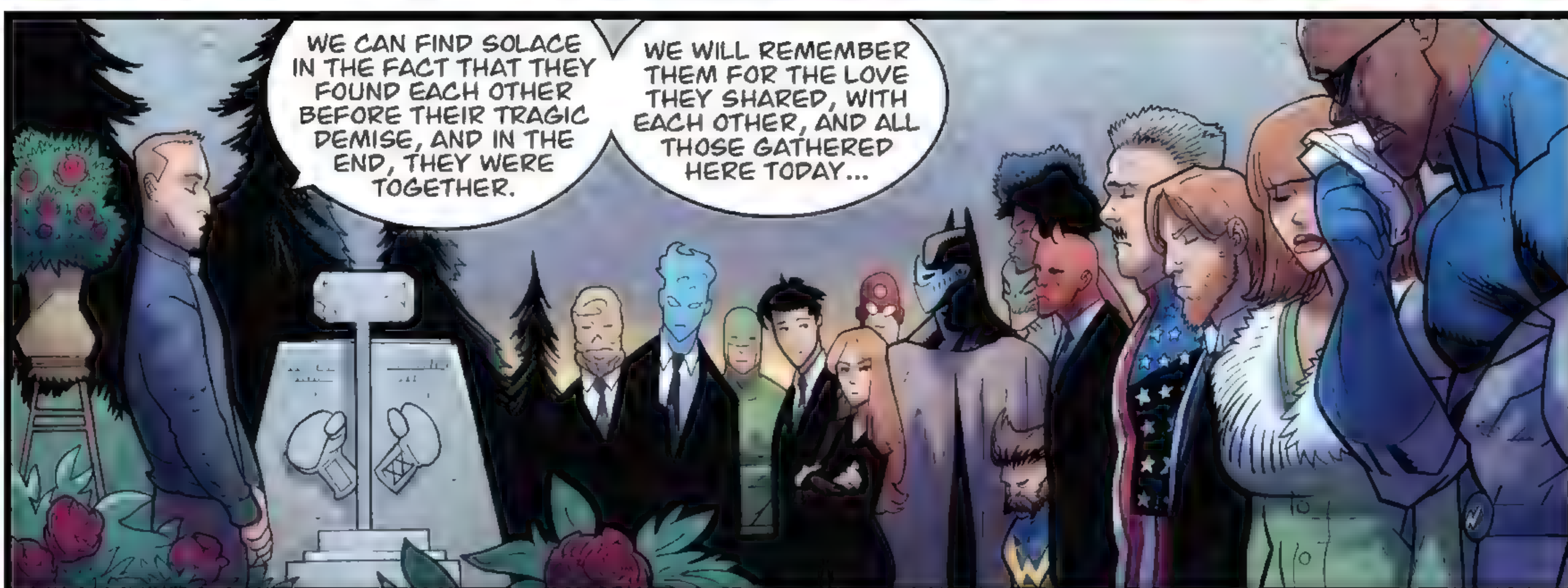
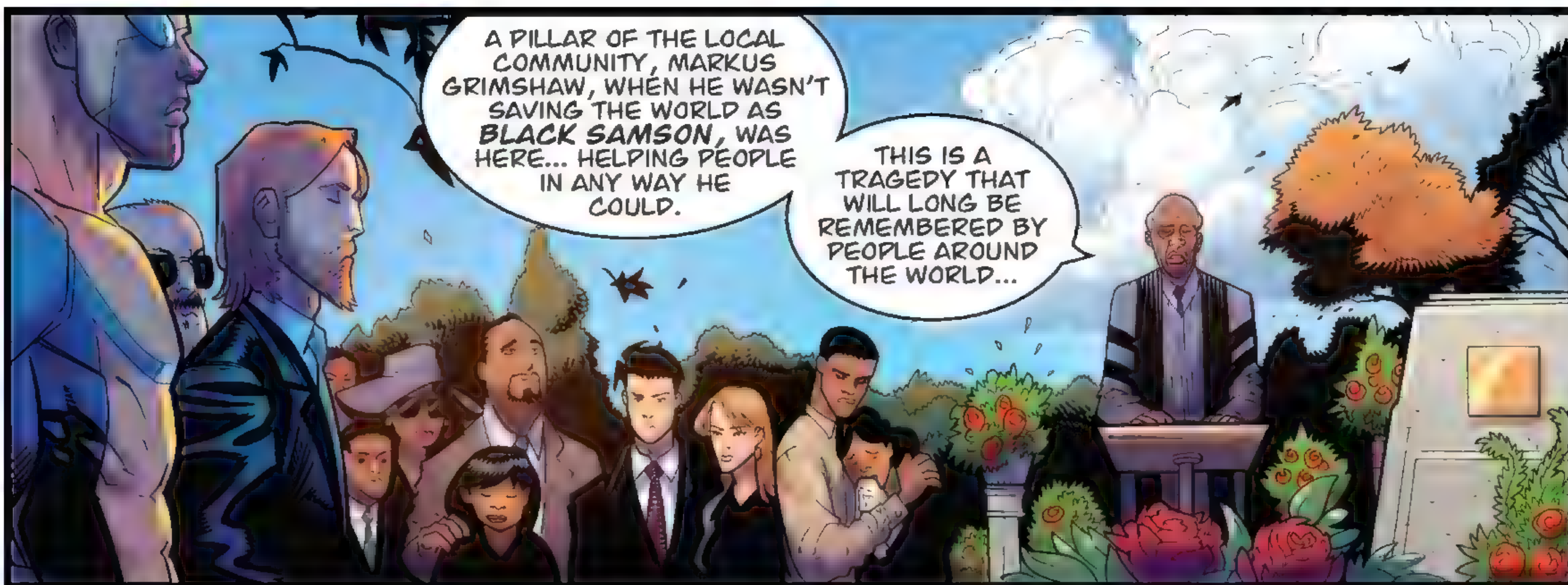
NO. I'M NOT STAYING WITH MY FATHER. NOT AFTER THIS. NOT AFTER WHAT HE DID.

I WISH YOUR NEIGHBORS WOULD ALL GO BLIND SO I COULD JUST REBUILD OUR HOUSE. COULDN'T WE JUST--?

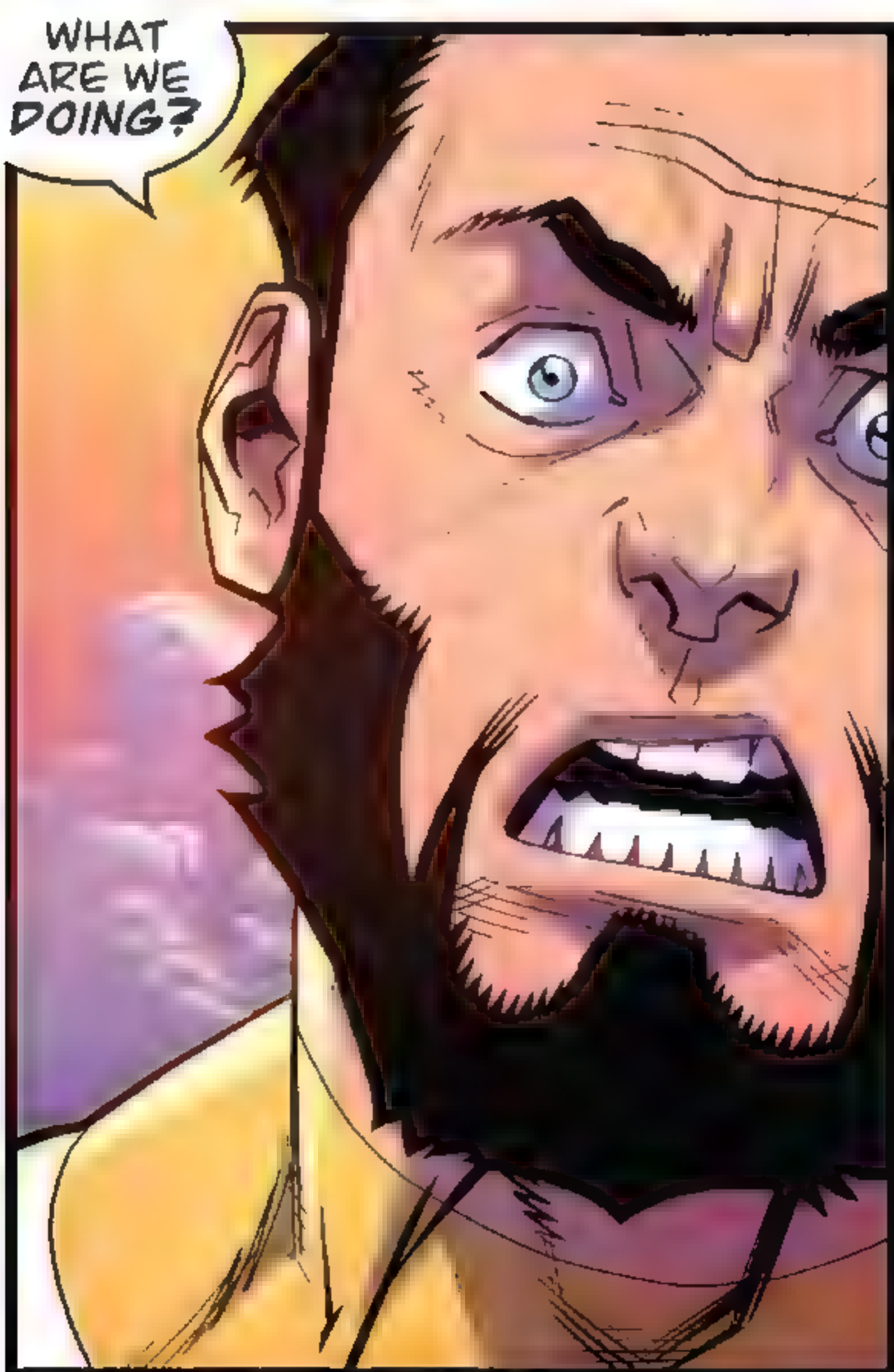
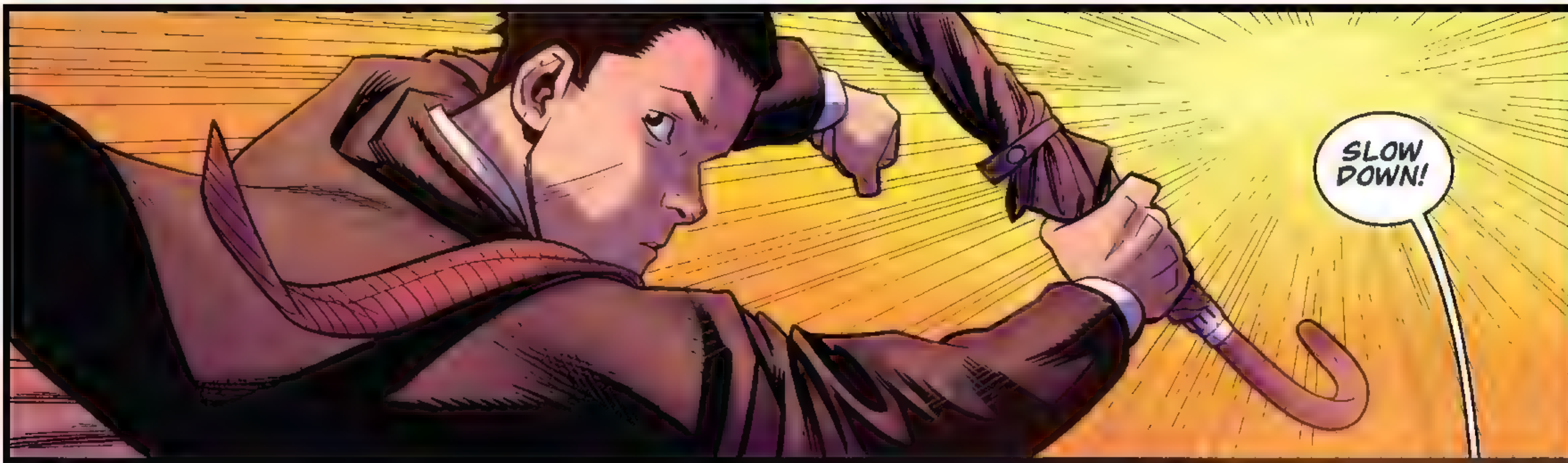


HOW MANY FUNERALS TOMORROW?

THREE.









THE LAST REMAINING
VILTRUMITE WARSHIP,
CURRENTLY STATIONED
ON THE MOON.

BUT HE'S NOT
EXPECTING IT. WHAT
IF WE TOOK OUR TIME,
ORGANIZED... MOVED
OUR FORCES AGAINST
HIM SLOWLY AND
THEN STRUCK AT
THE RIGHT
TIME?

I COULD
ORGANIZE THE
TEAMS ON EARTH,
THOSE STILL ALIVE...
YOU COULD GET
THE VILTRUMITES
INVOLVED WHEN
WE NEED
YOU.

NO.

LISTEN AND REALLY
HEAR ME, SON. YOU
CAN HATE ME FOR THIS
IF YOU WANT, I CAN LIVE
WITH THAT... BUT I'M NOT
GOING TO LET YOUR
HUMAN NOTIONS OF
FREEDOM AND JUSTICE
GET IN THE WAY OF THE
SURVIVAL OF OUR
PEOPLE.

LESSER BEINGS
ARE SOMETIMES
BETTER OFF WITH SOMEONE
MORE INTELLIGENT BEING IN
CONTROL. A DOMESTICATED DOG
IS BETTER OFF THAN A WILD ONE...

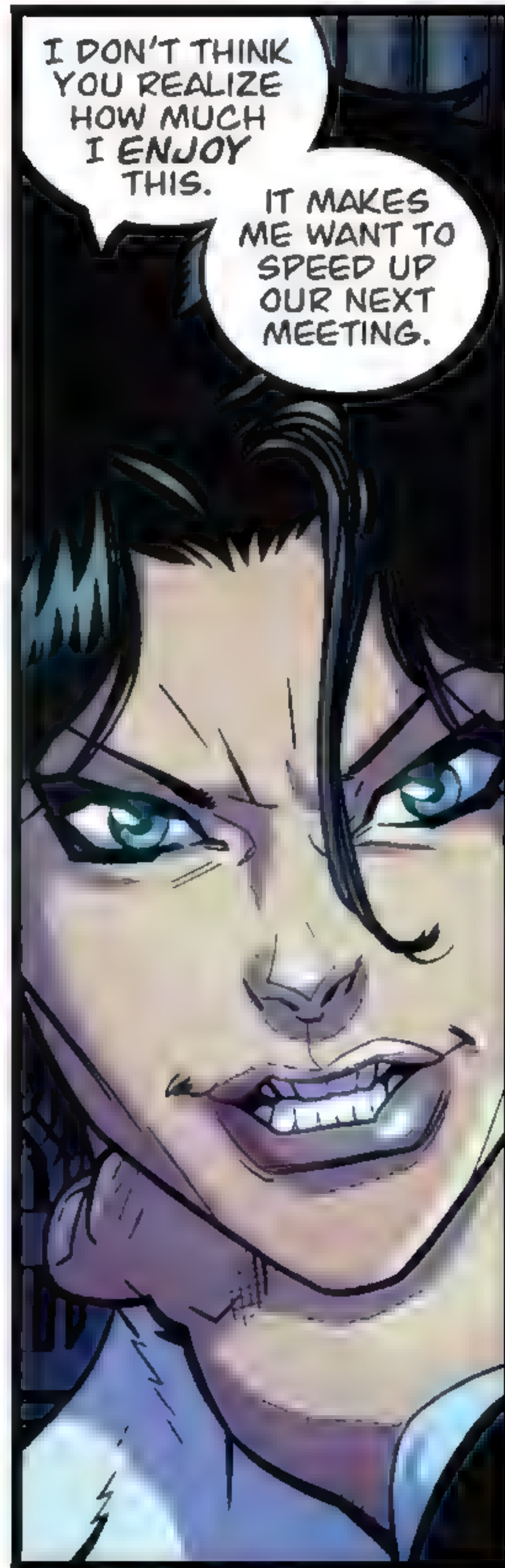
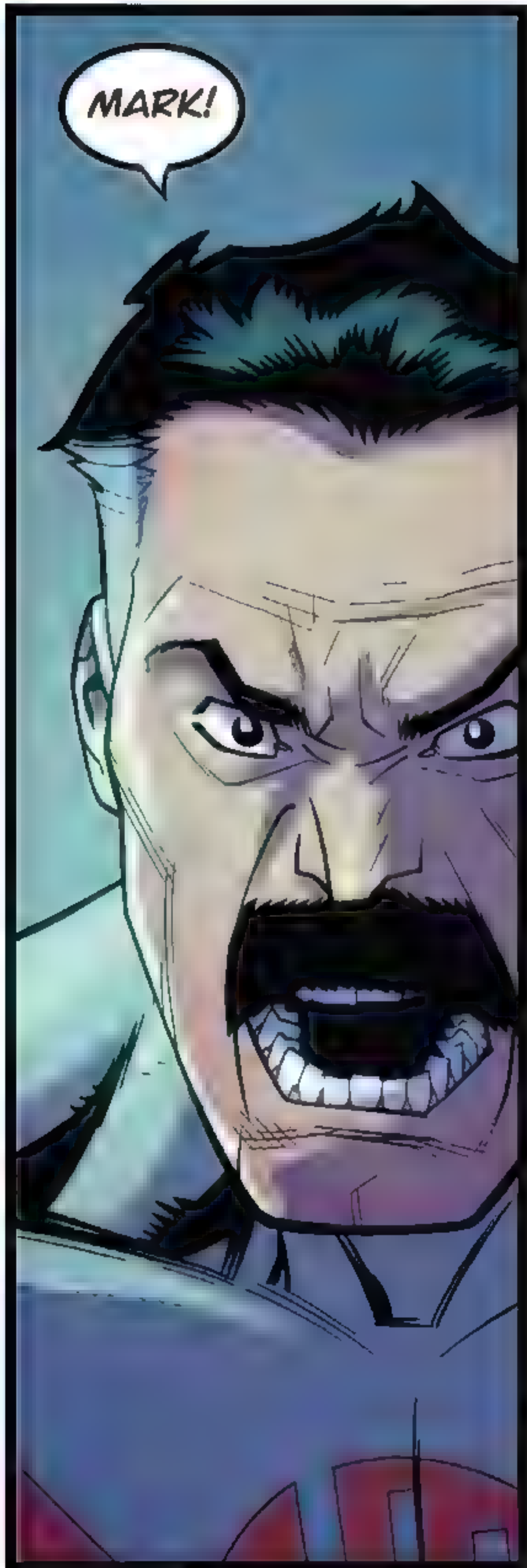
BUT
IS IT
FREE?

JESUS,
DAD.

DOING NOTHING IS
WHAT'S BEST FOR
EVERYONE. YOU,
ME, VILTRUMITES,
HUMANS... THE
SITUATION CHANGES...
WE'LL TALK. UNTIL
THEN, I'M DONE
WITH THIS.

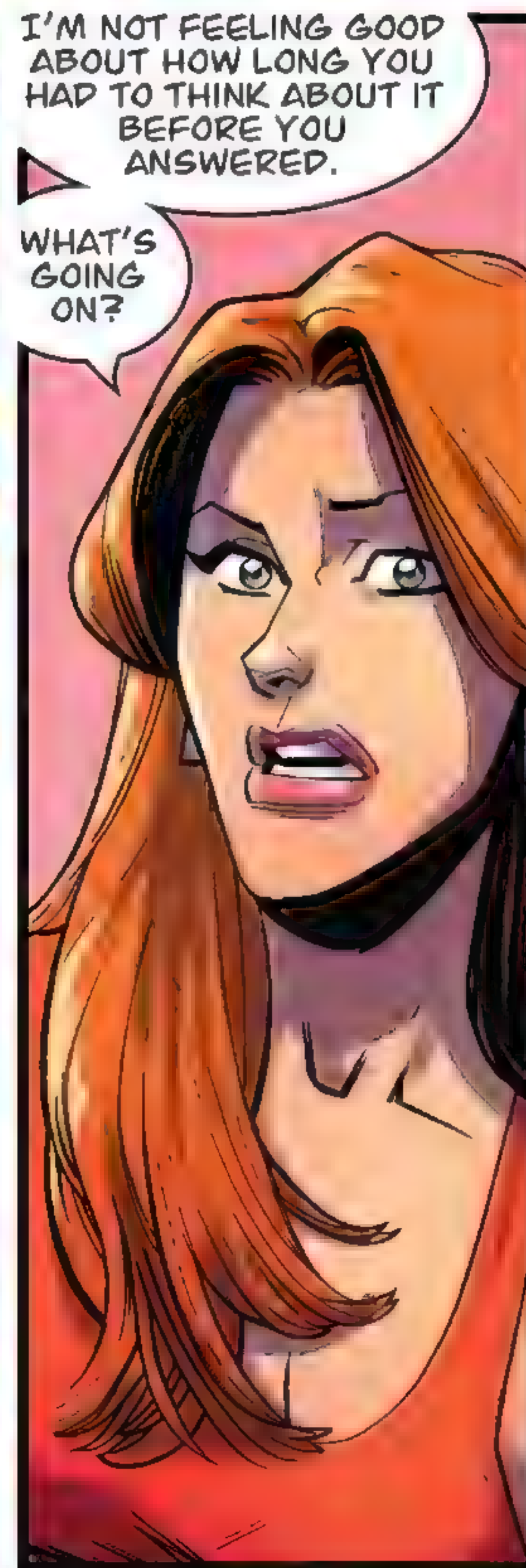
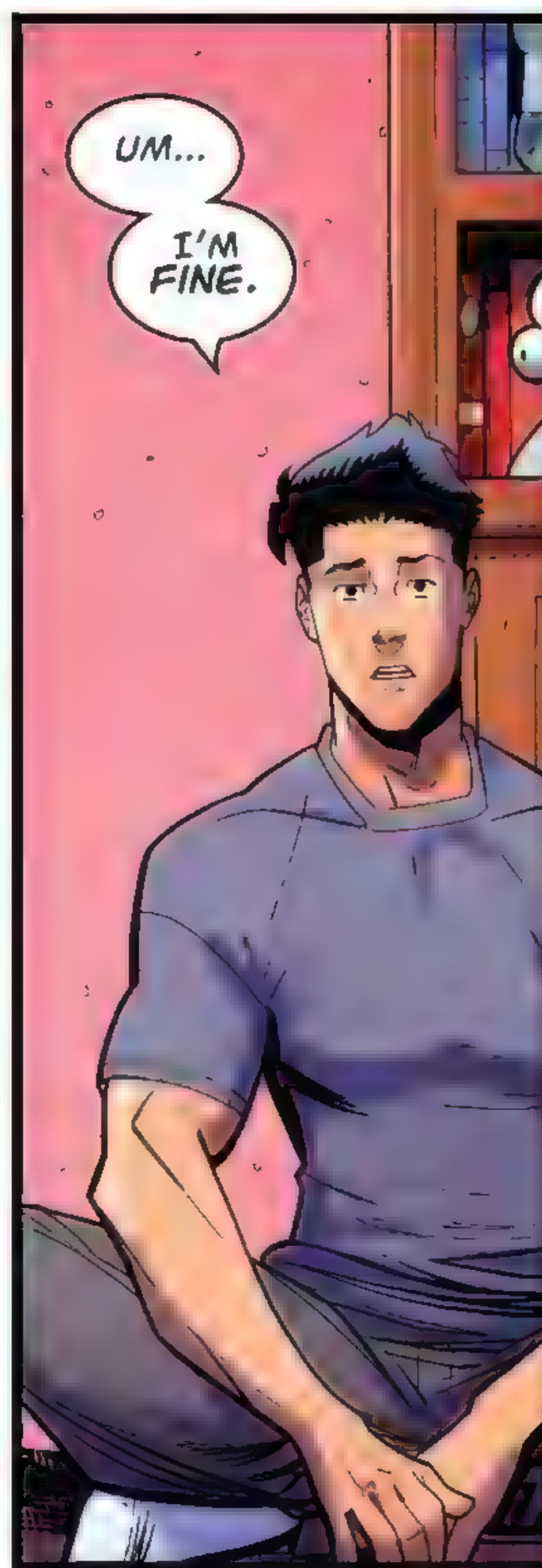
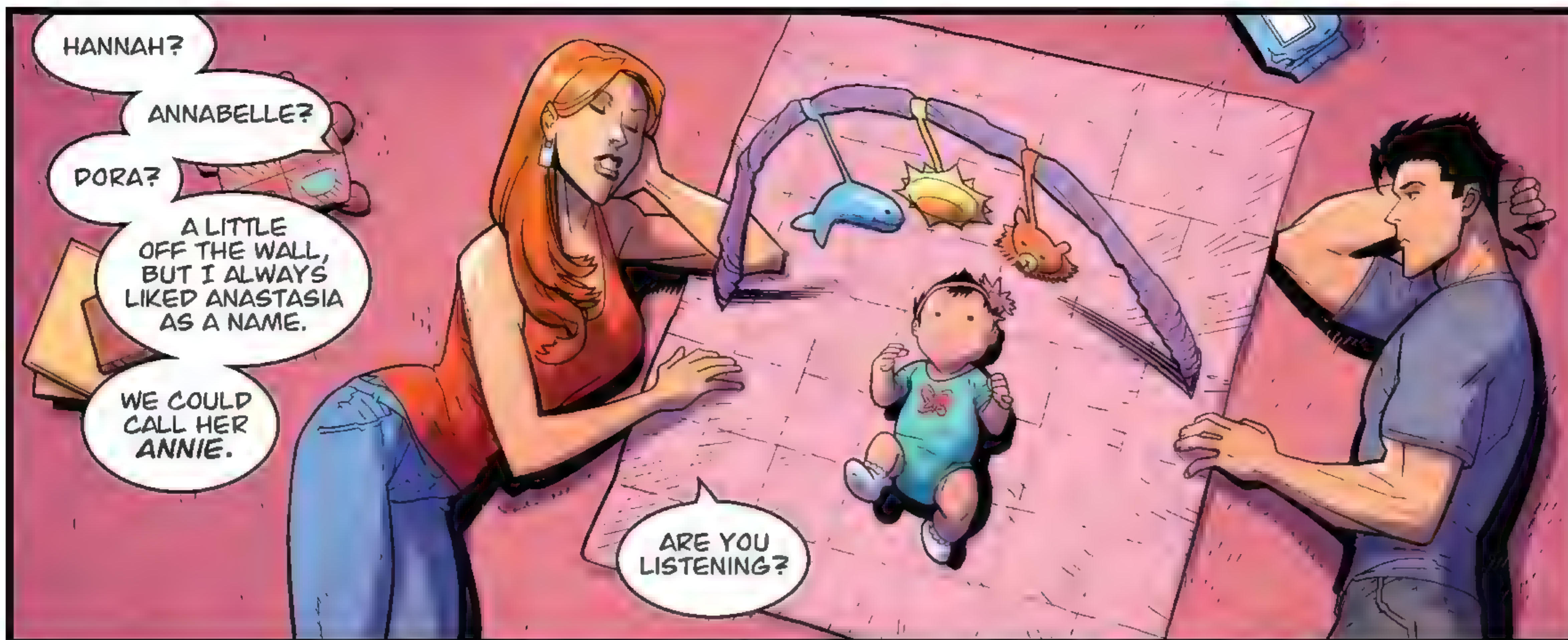
YOU TRY TO
FIX THINGS AND
YOU'RE ONLY GOING
TO GET YOURSELF
AND A WHOLE LOT OF
OTHER PEOPLE
KILLED.

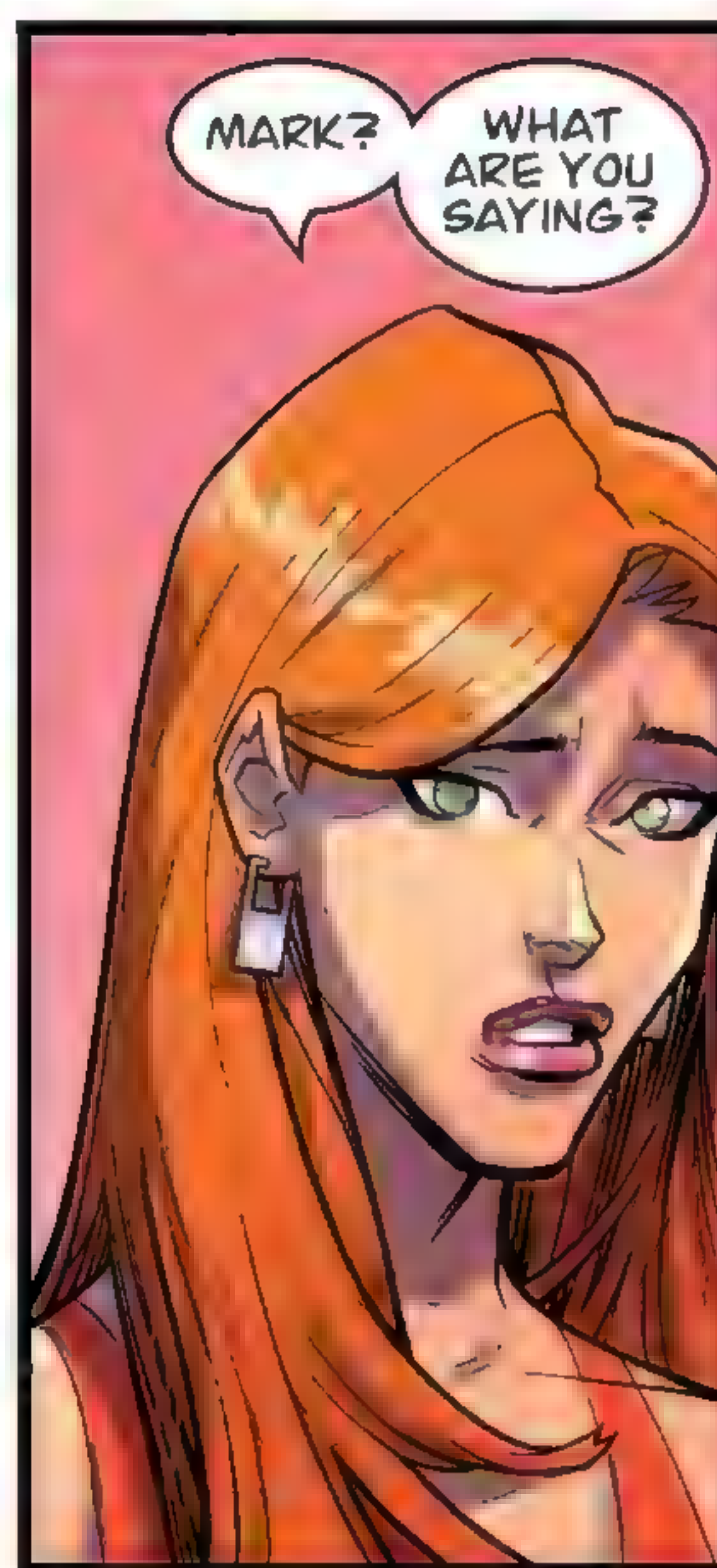
SO NICE
RUNNING
INTO YOU
LIKE THIS...



ELSEWHERE.









...SO I
THINK WE'RE
GOING TO
HAVE TO
LEAVE IT.

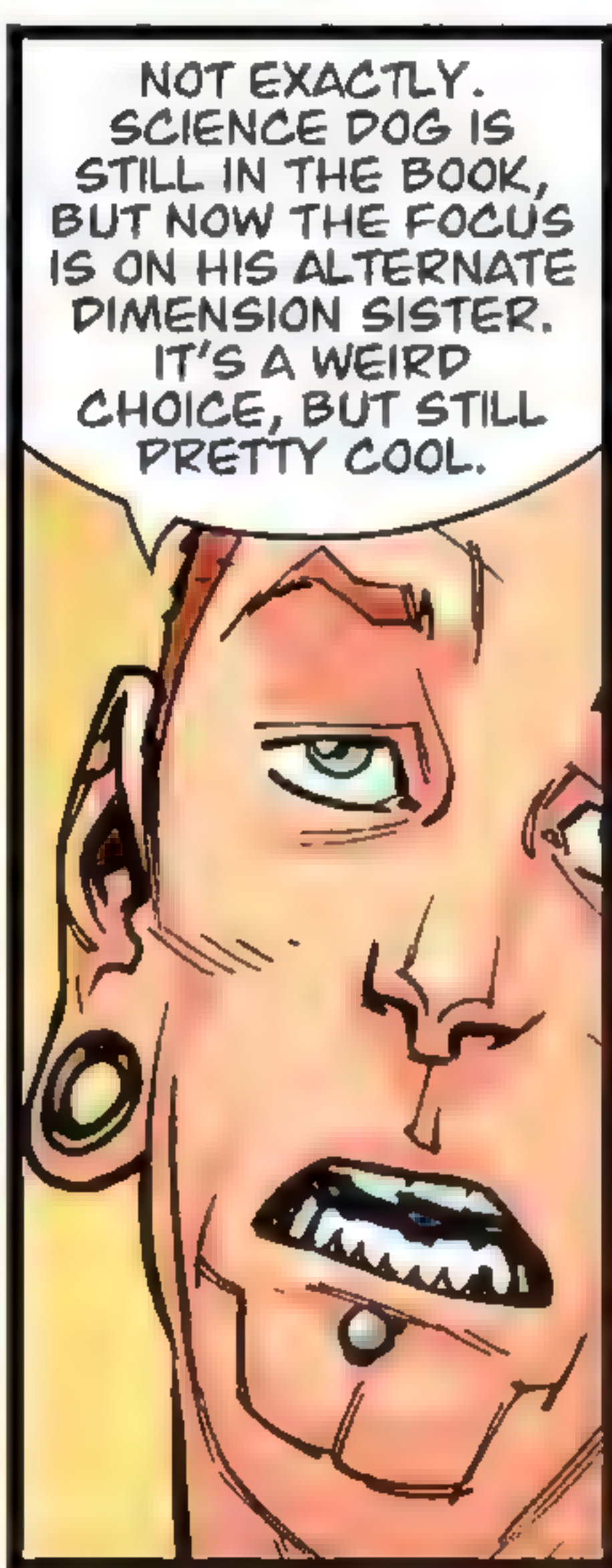
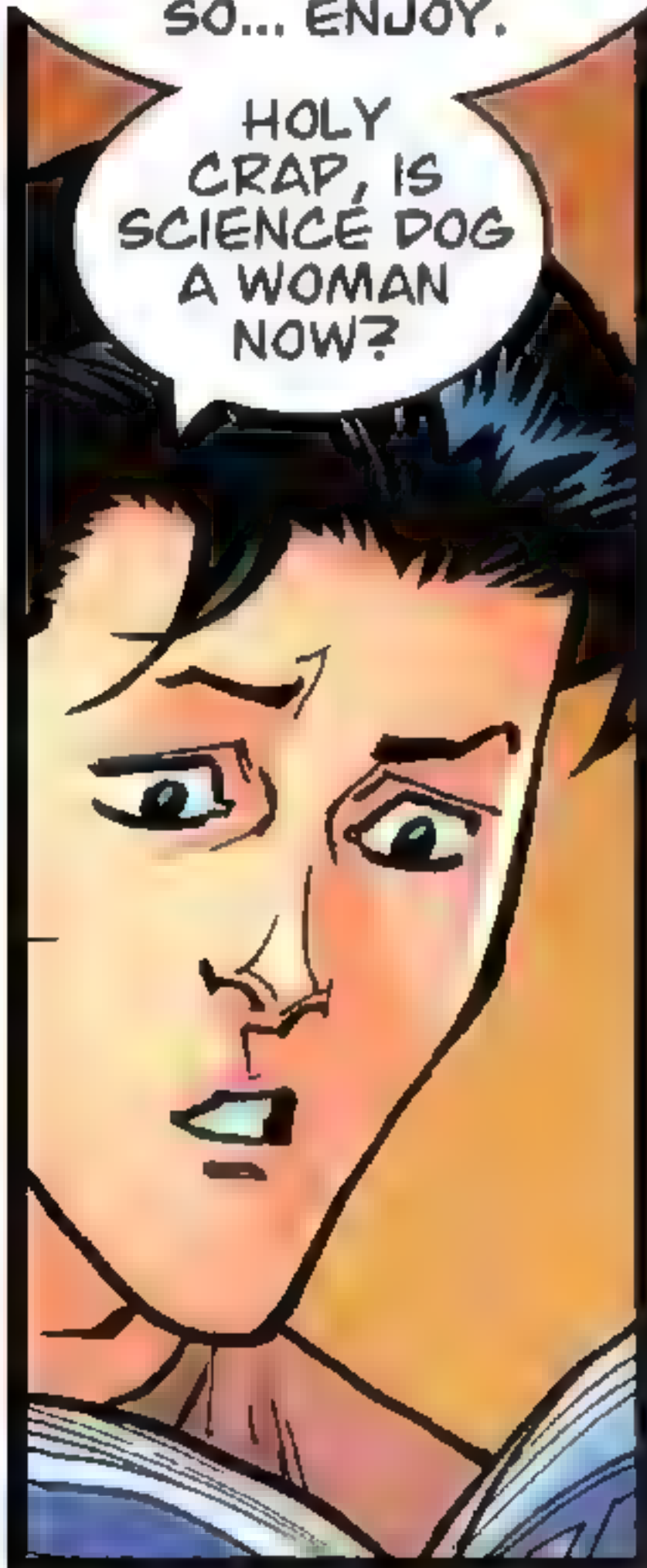


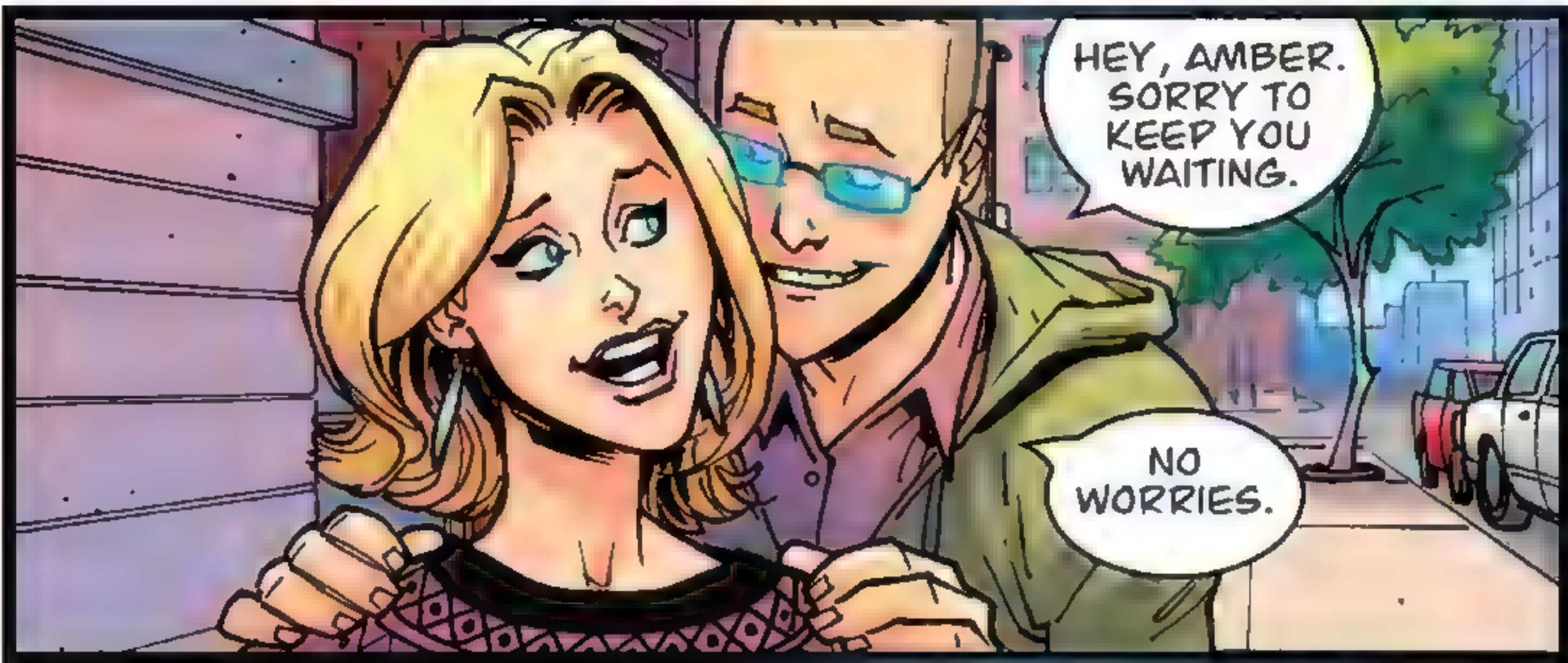
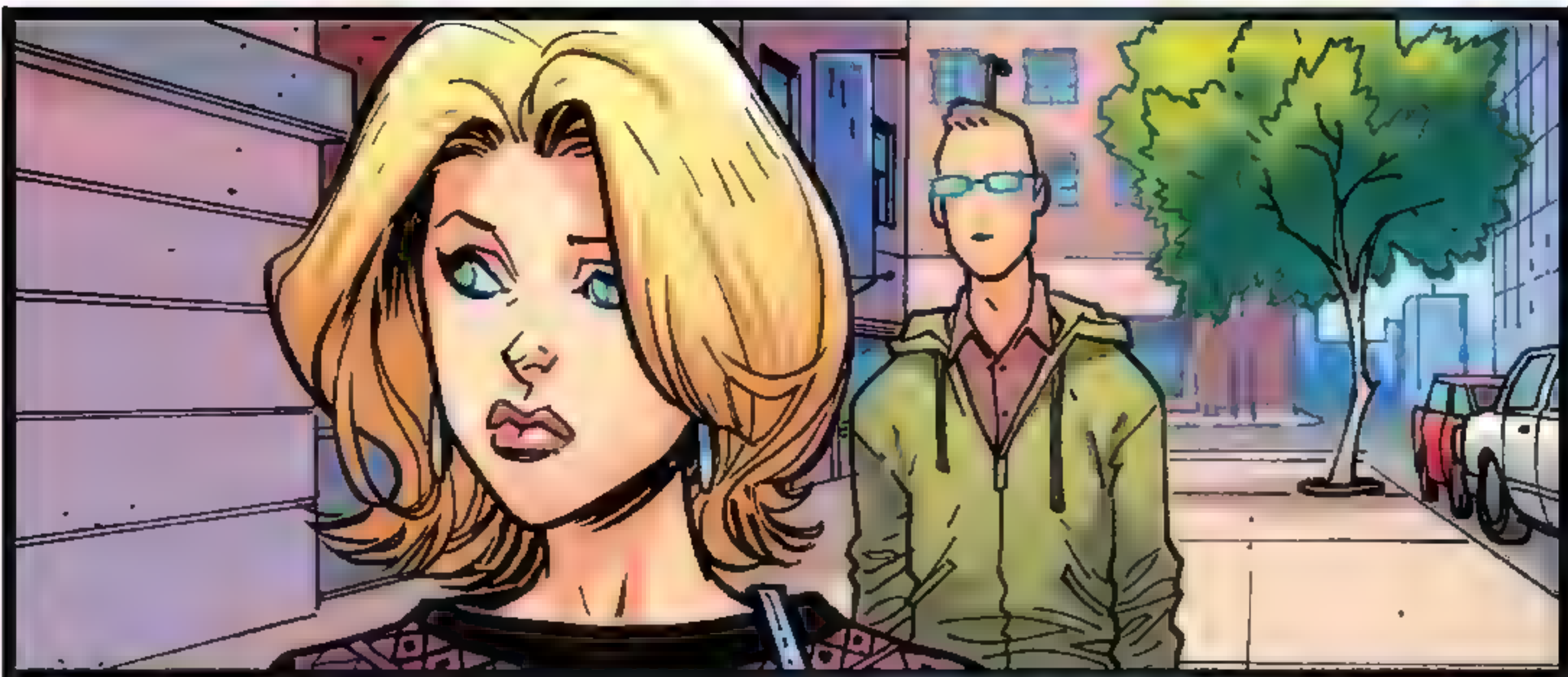
CHAPTER 17

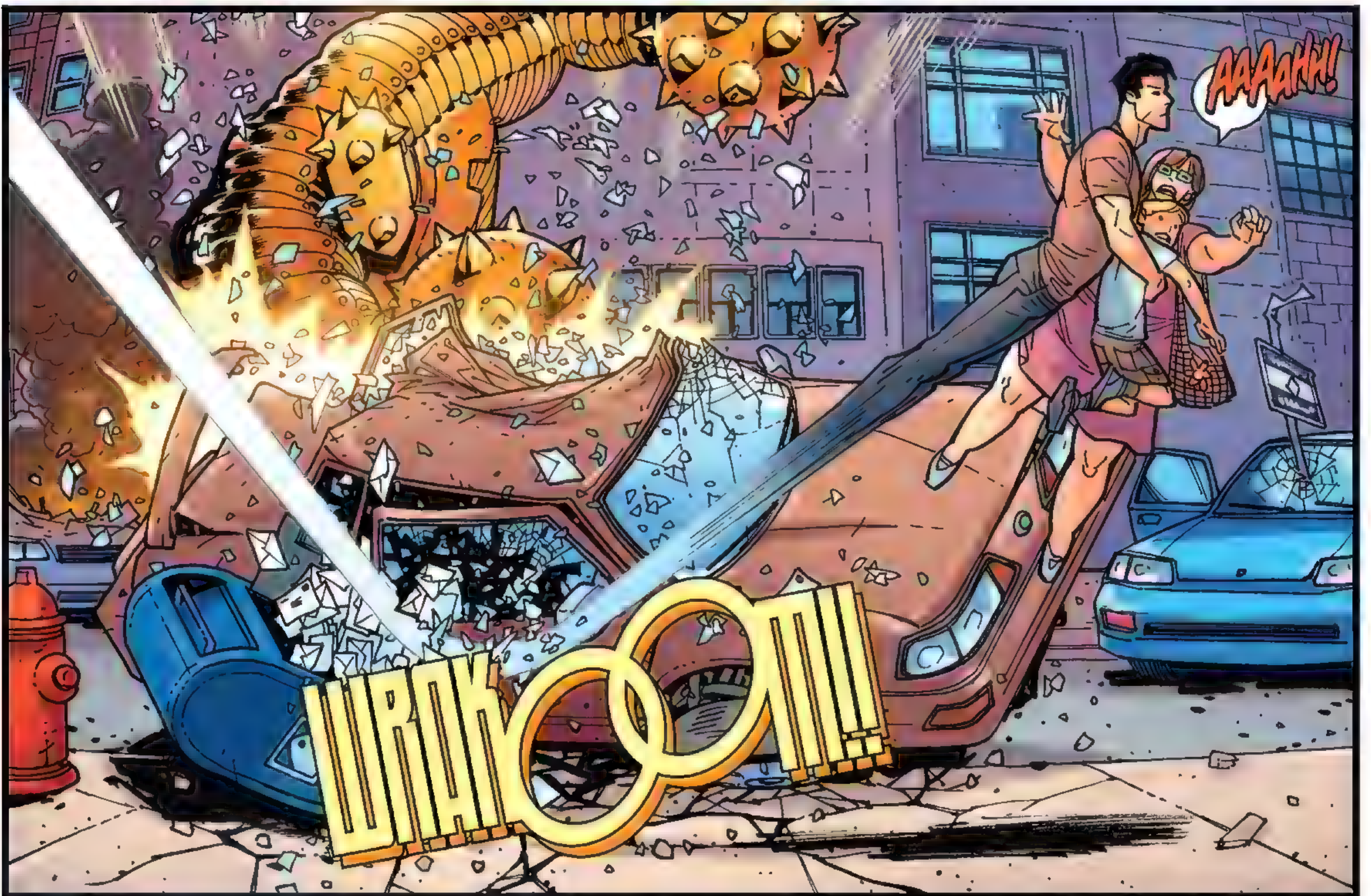


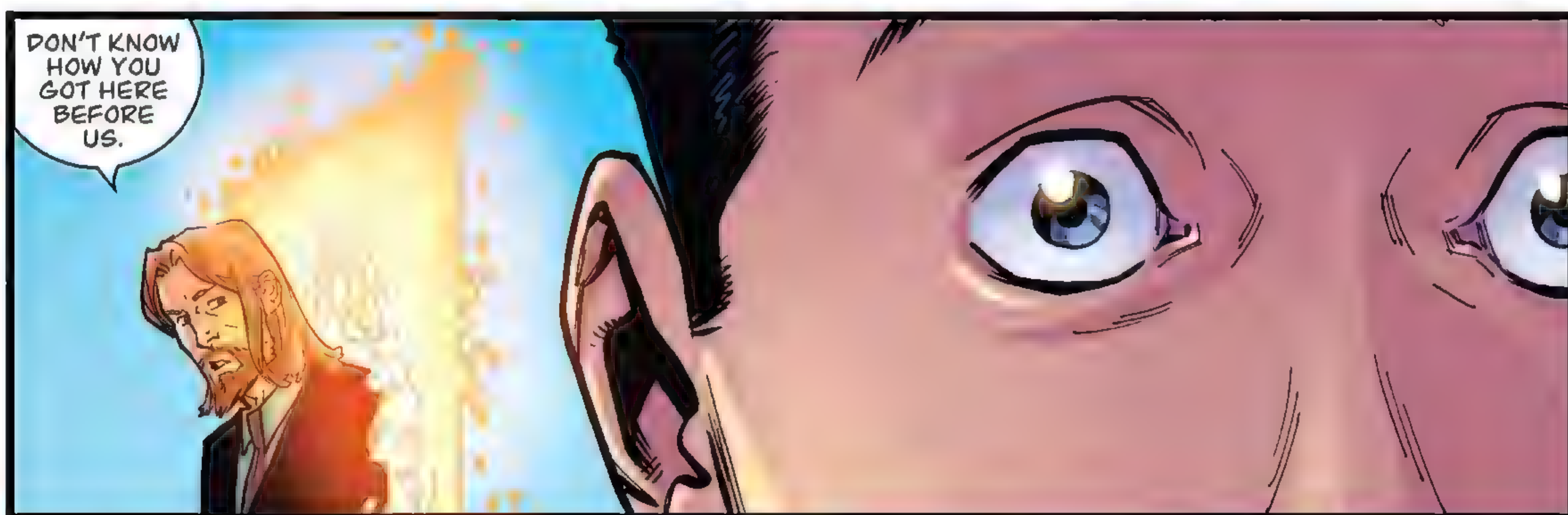


WELL, HUH... THANKS. IT'S PROBABLY GOING TO BE A WHILE BEFORE I COME IN AGAIN... SO... ENJOY.









THAT WAS THE
WHOLE POINT OF
ALL THIS, MARK.
TO HAVE SOMEONE
IN CHARGE WHO
COULD BE
ON TOP OF
THINGS.

EVEN
YOU HAVE TO
ADMIT THINGS
ARE... BETTER...
AREN'T
THEY?

YOU CAN BE IN DENIAL
ALL YOU WANT, BUT I
KNOW YOU'RE SMART
ENOUGH TO SEE
THE TRUTH.

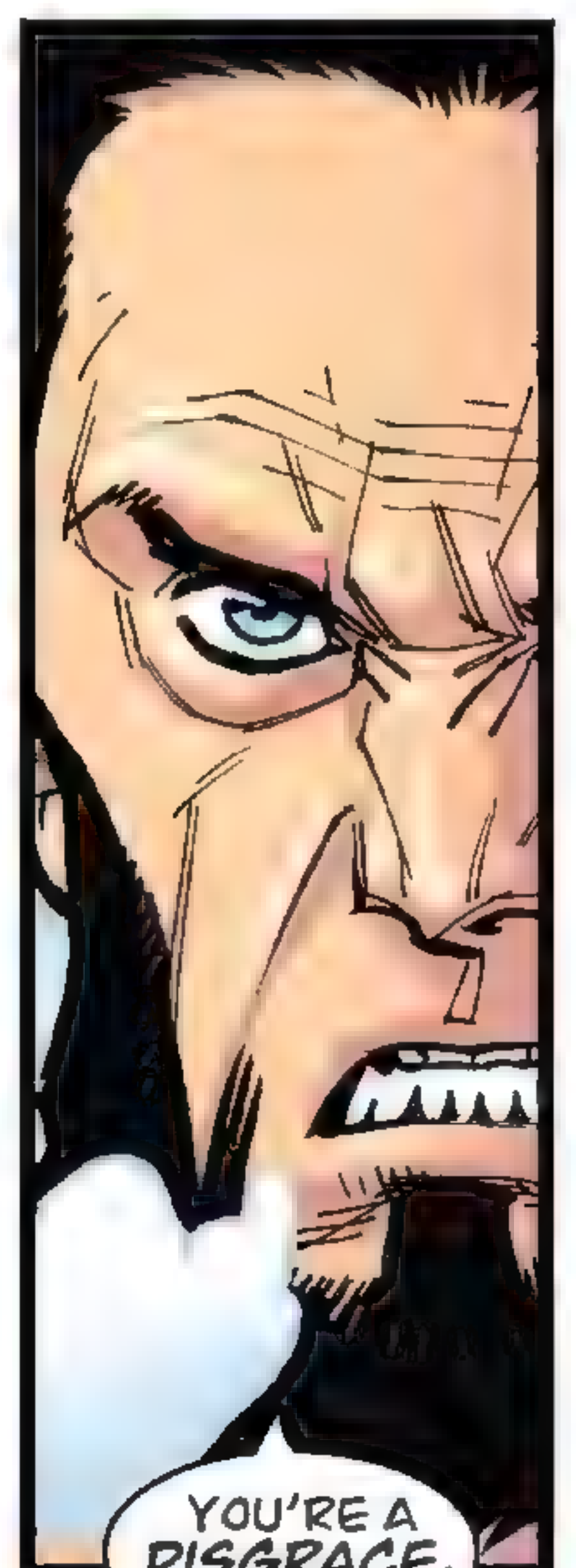
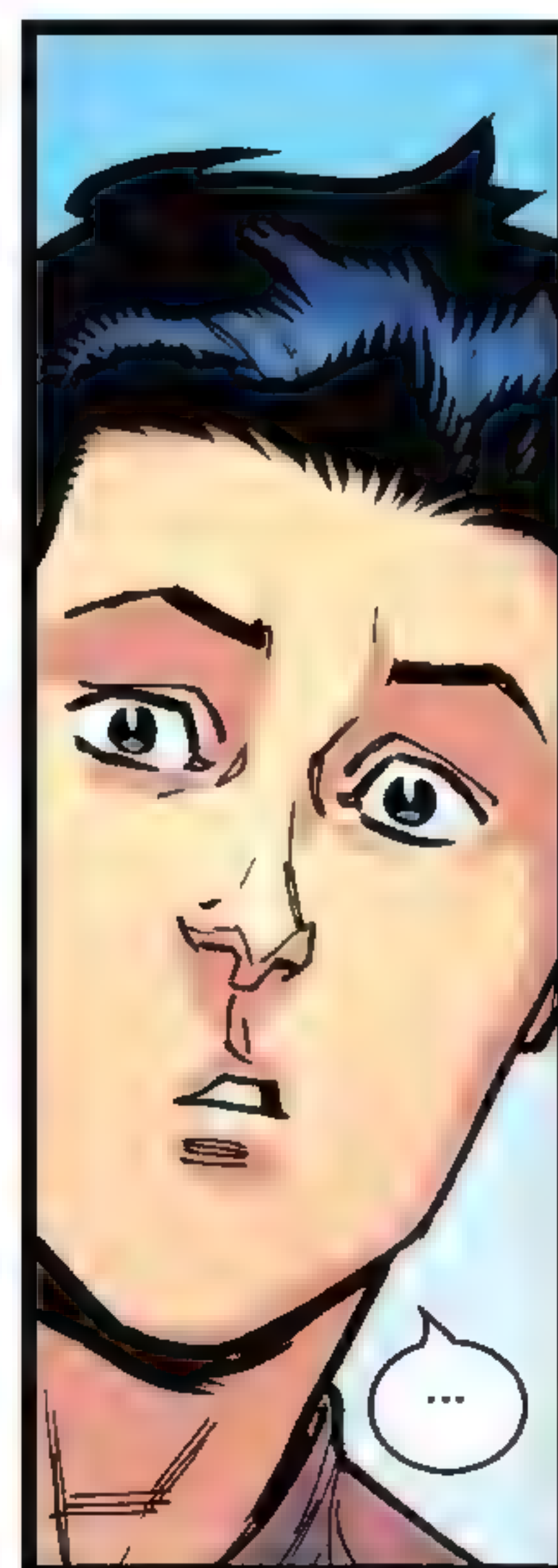
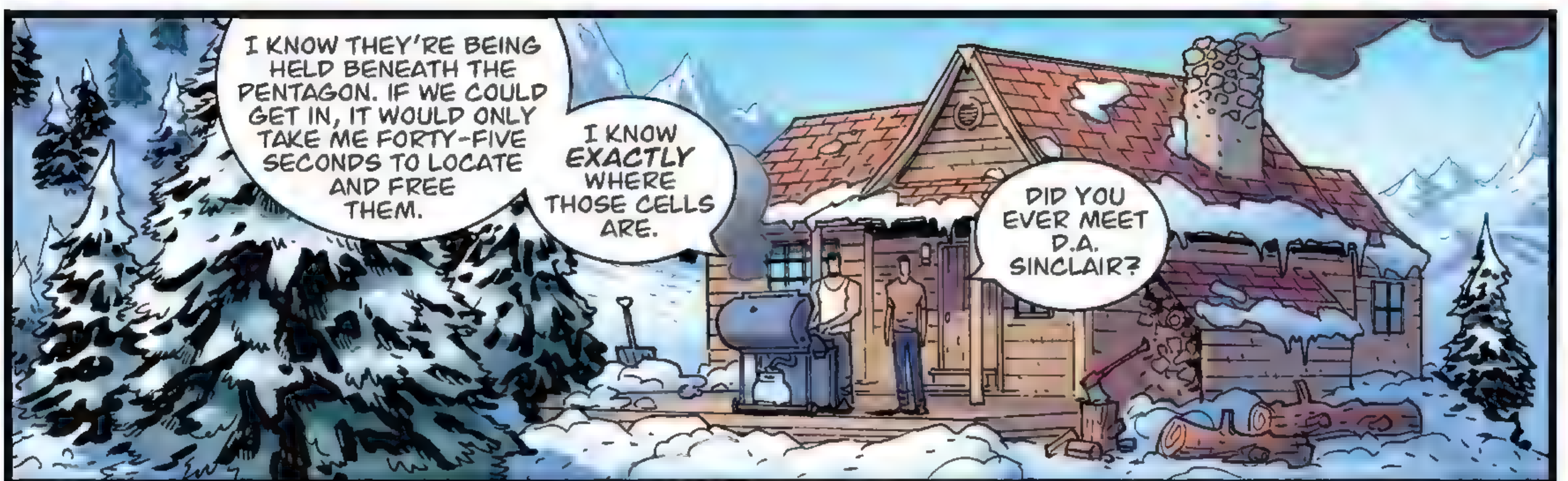
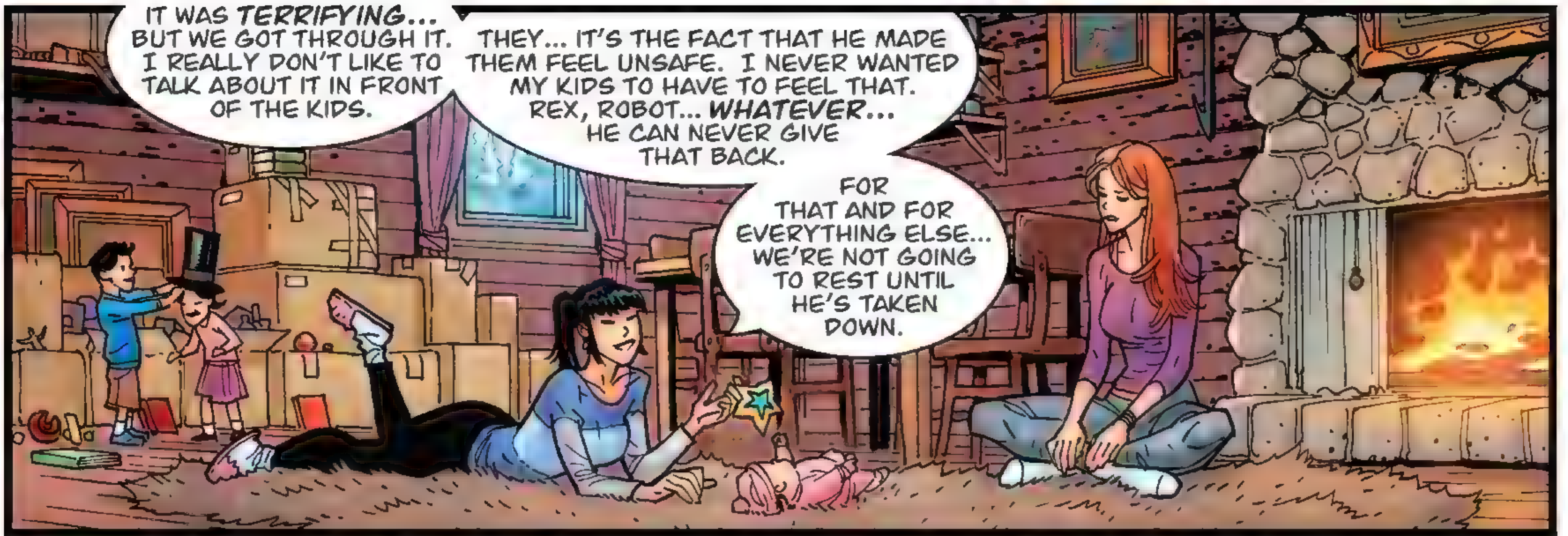
BEING HERE... STEPPING
IN... ARE YOU READY TO
WORK TOGETHER AGAIN?
HAVE YOU COME TO
MY SIDE OF
THINGS?

NO. YOU'RE
SMART ENOUGH
TO KNOW THAT
WILL NEVER
HAPPEN.

I DO FIND YOUR
RESISTANCE
TROUBLING. BUT
WE'LL GET ALONG
FINE AS LONG
AS YOU DON'T
INTERFERE.

WOOOSH!
STRIKE A
NERVE?







I'M SORRY, BUT--

NO... DON'T GIVE ME YOUR EXCUSES. I'M NOT GOING TO WASTE TIME HEARING THEM. YOU ARE A COWARD.

DO YOU UNDERSTAND? EVERYTHING YOU'VE EVER FOUGHT FOR. EVERYTHING YOU'VE EVER SACRIFICED... IT'S BEEN FOR NOTHING.

YOU'RE THROWING IT ALL AWAY.



OH, THAT'S BULLSHIT AND YOU KNOW IT. EVE AND I HAVE A CHILD NOW. I'VE GOT A LOT MORE RESPONSIBILITY.

HOW MUCH TIME DID YOU TAKE OFF? HOW MANY BATTLES DID YOU AND KATE SIT OUT WHILE YOU WERE PLAYING MOM AND DAD?

EVE AND I DON'T GET TO BE HAPPY? IT'S JUST YOU?

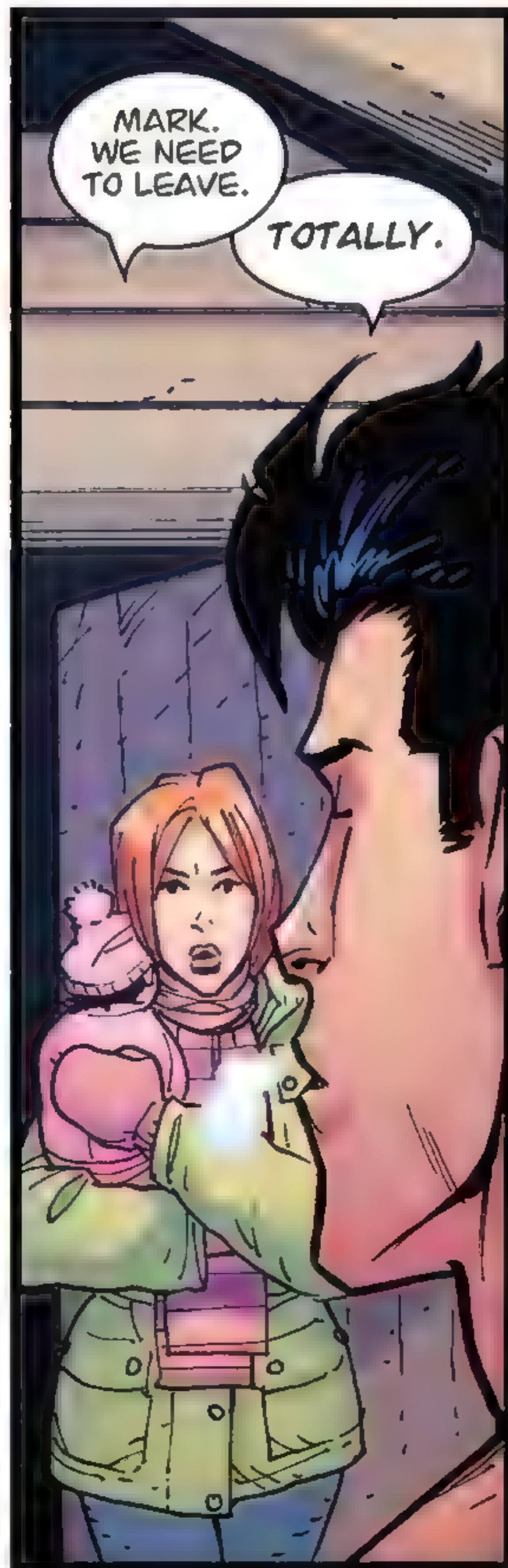


I DON'T KNOW WHAT'S GOTTEN INTO YOU, IF YOU GOT BORED... OR IF YOU JUST FEEL GUILTY, BUT I'M NOT RISKING MY LIFE OR MY FAMILY TO PUT THINGS BACK TO NORMAL.

I DON'T TRUST HIM EITHER... BUT IT'S JUST NOT WORTH IT TO ME.



WHEN THE EXPERIMENT FAILS... THEN CALL ME.



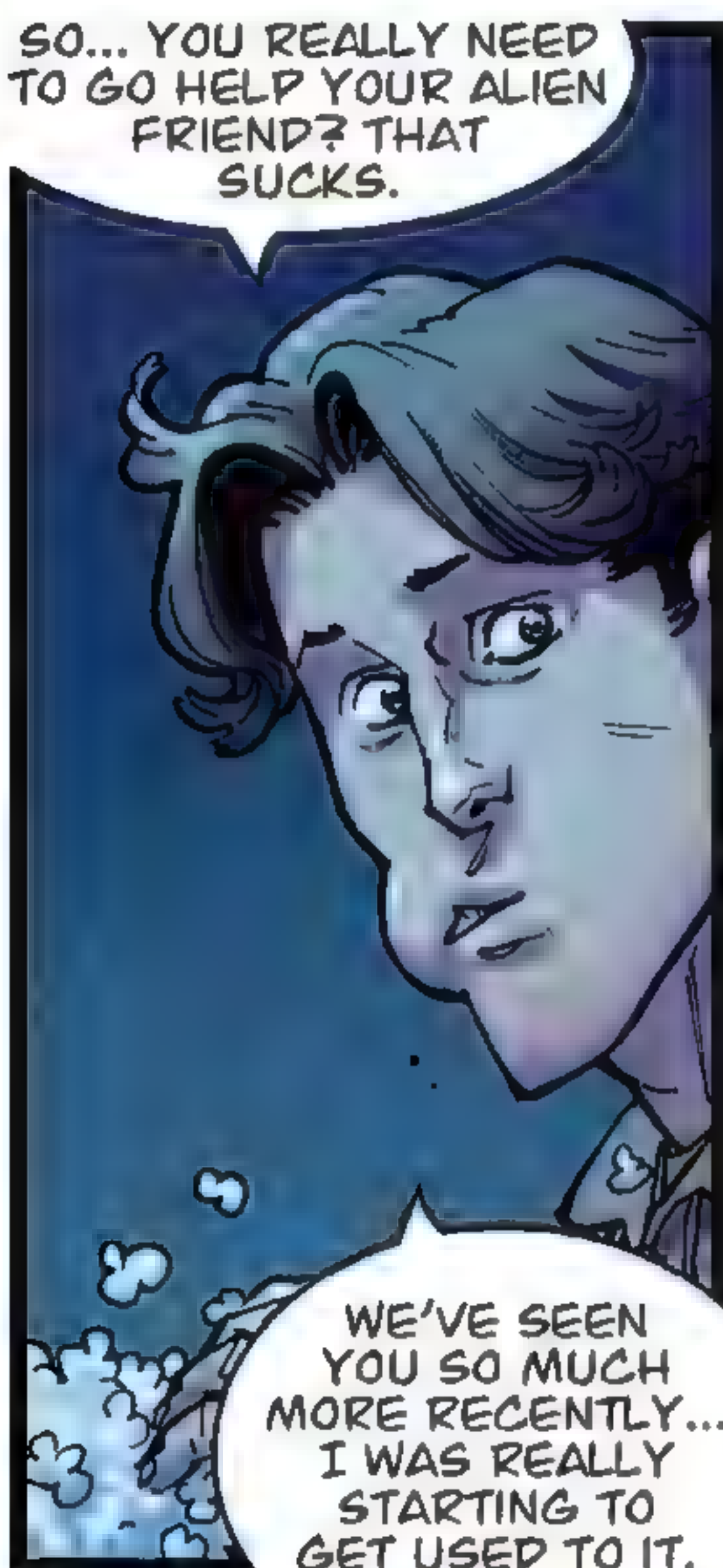
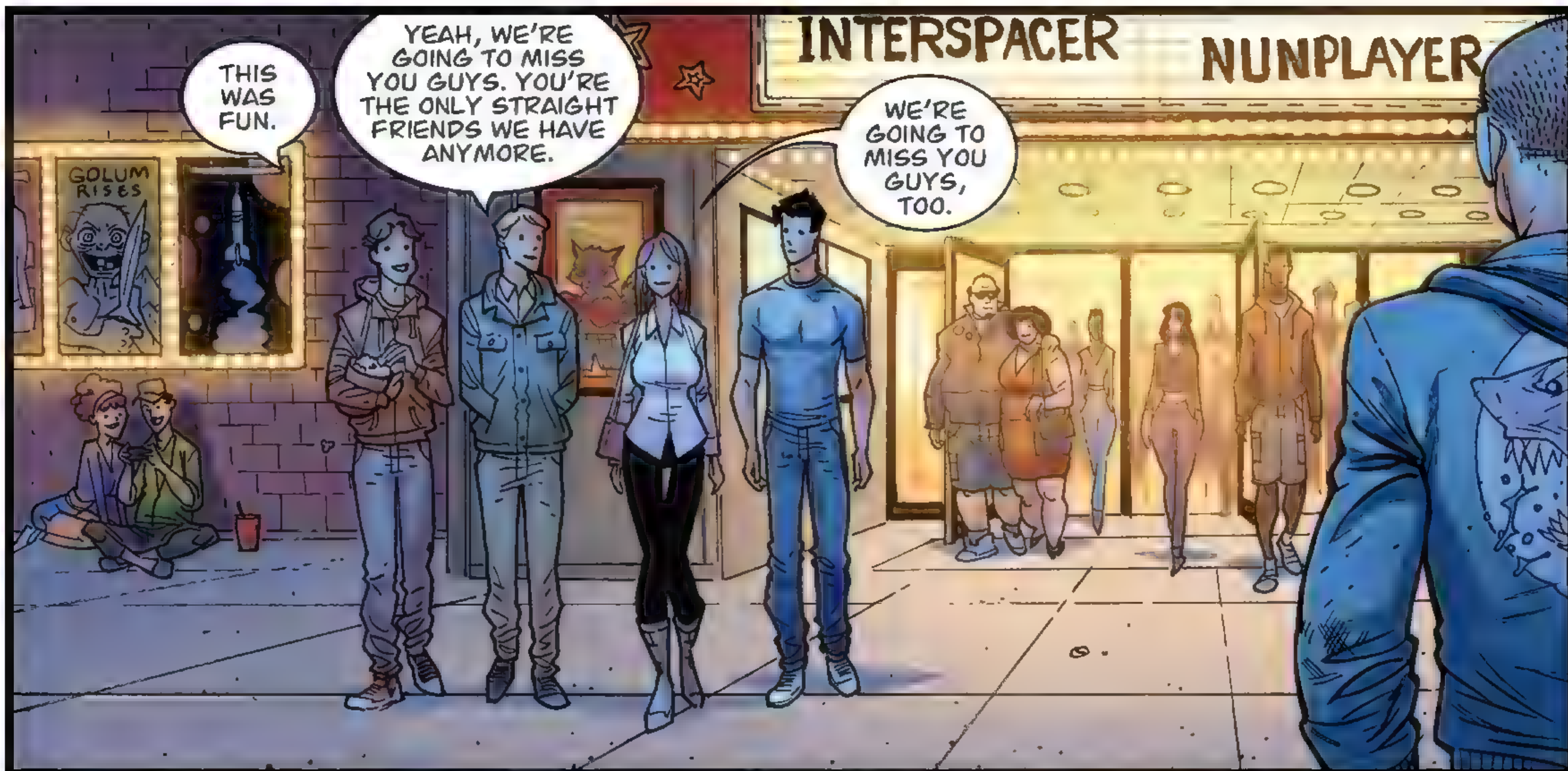
MARK. WE NEED TO LEAVE.

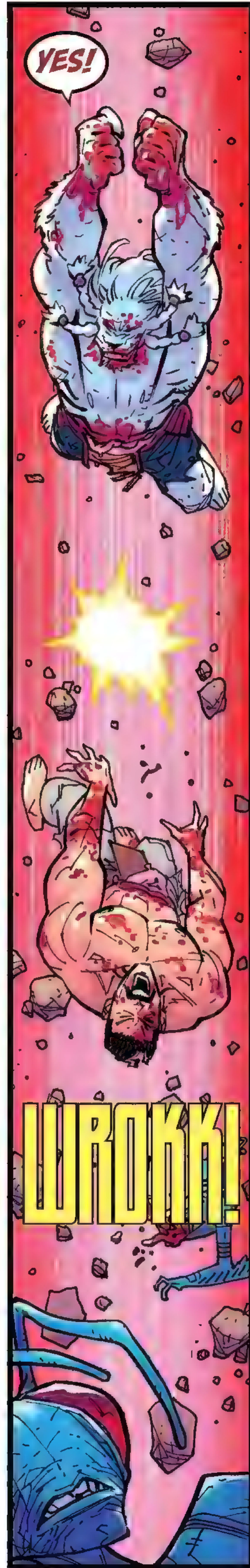
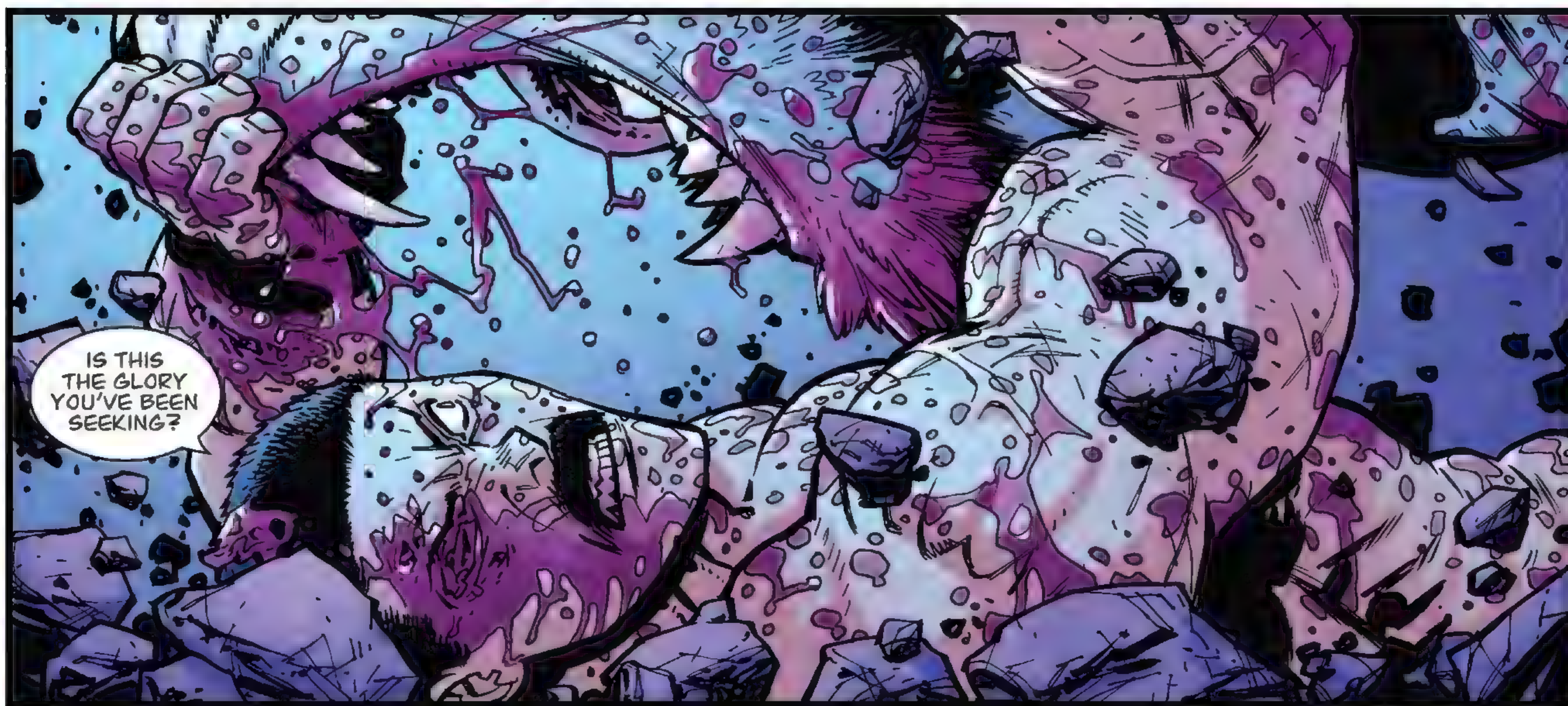
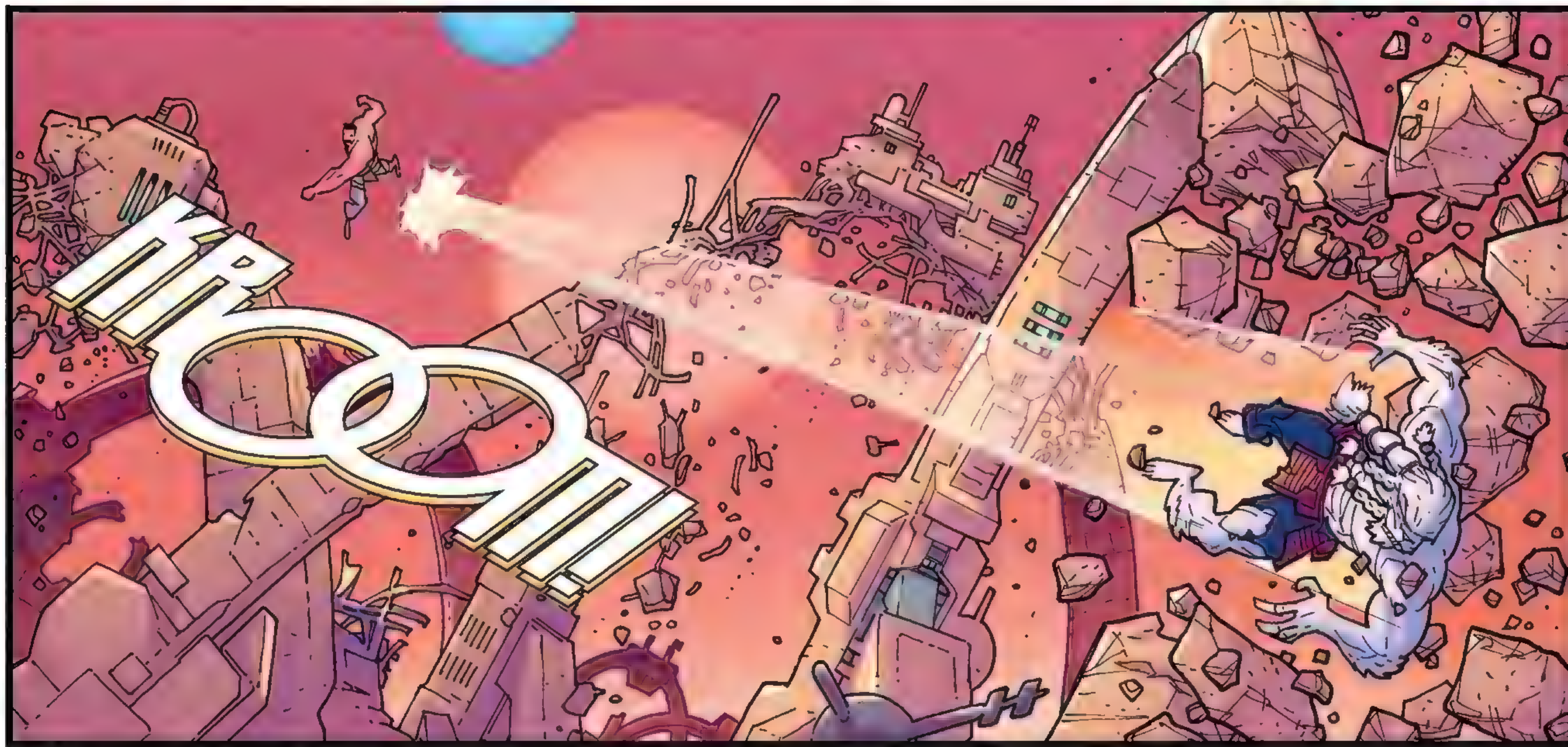
TOTALLY.

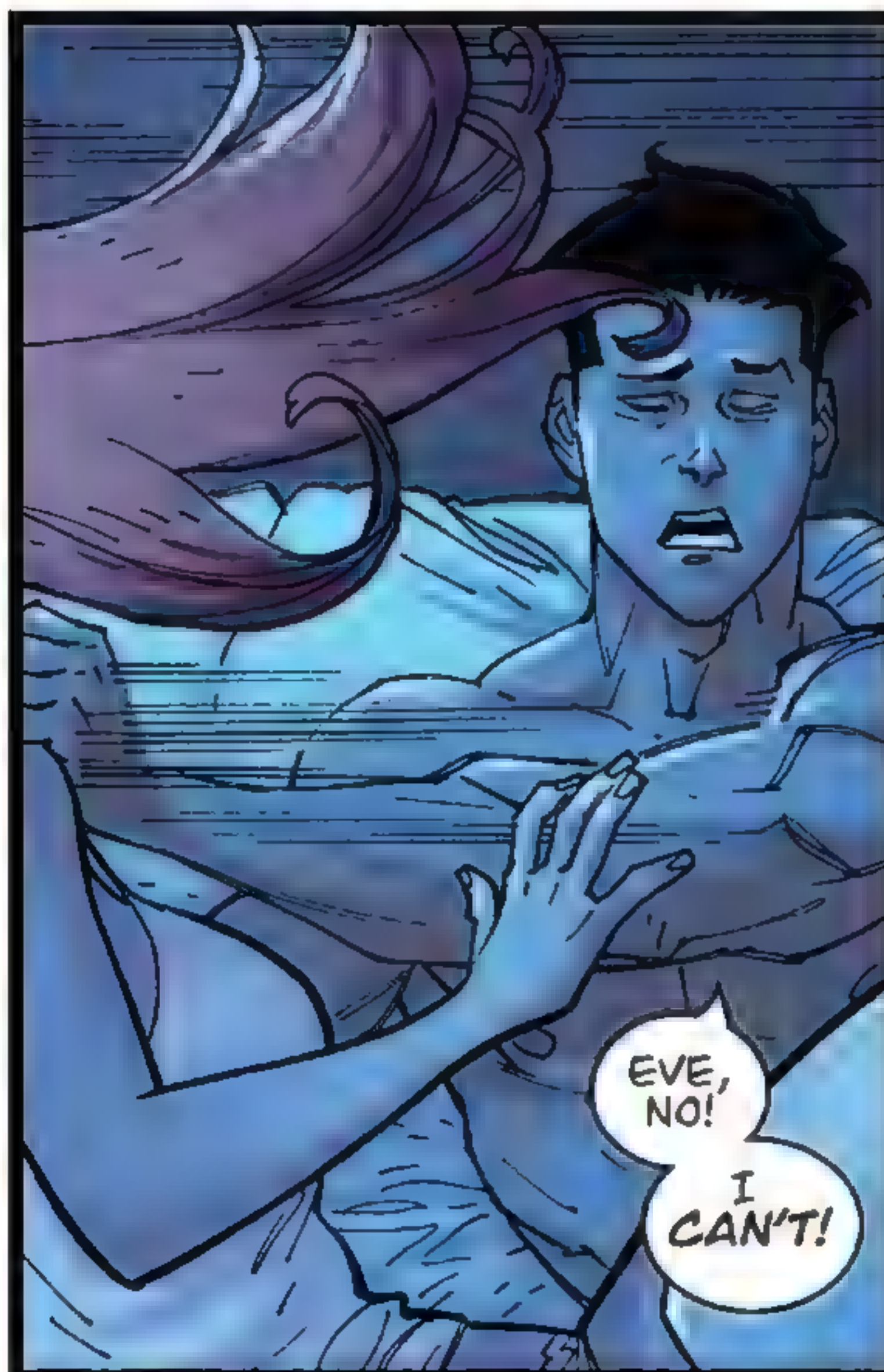
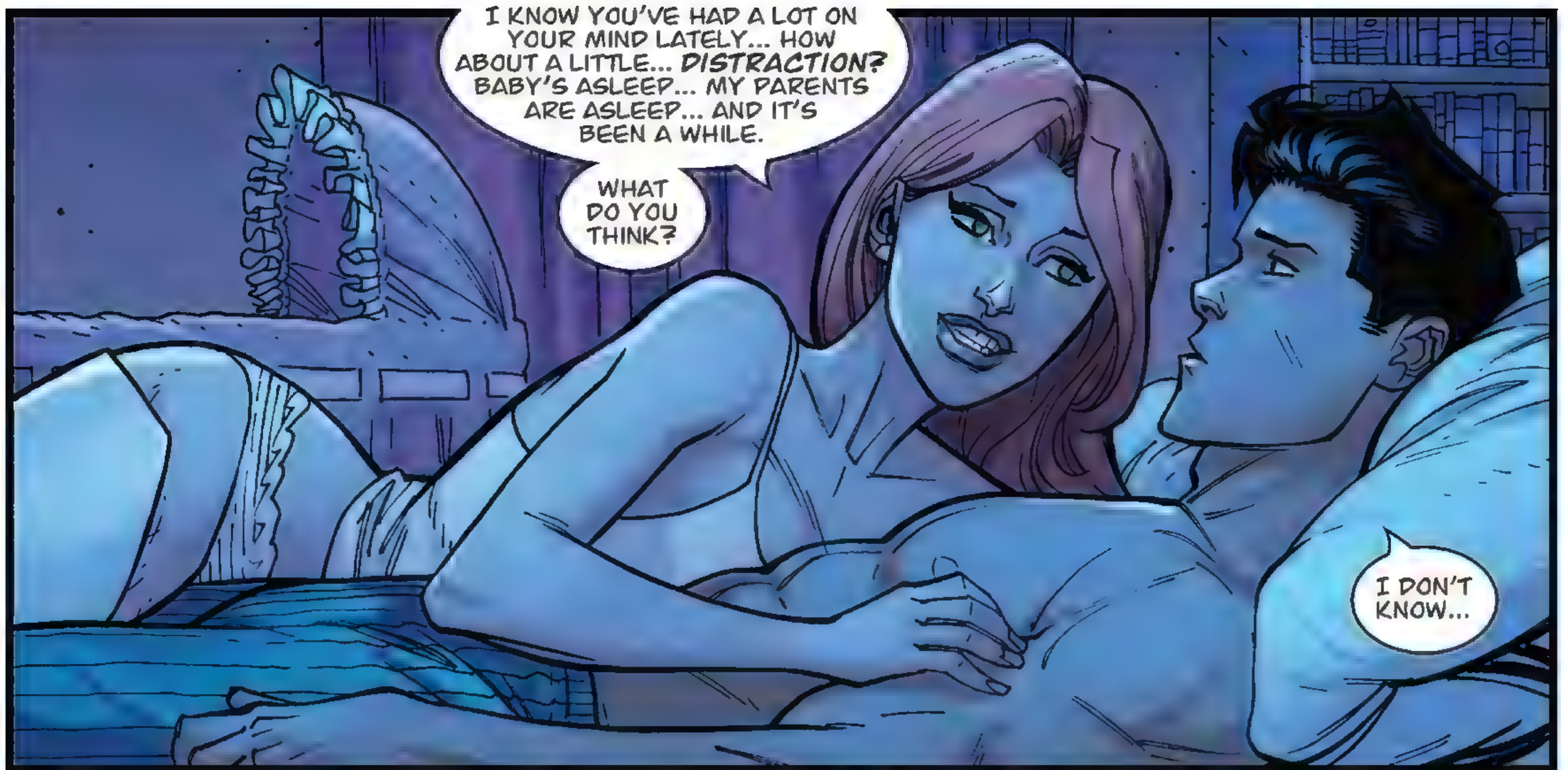


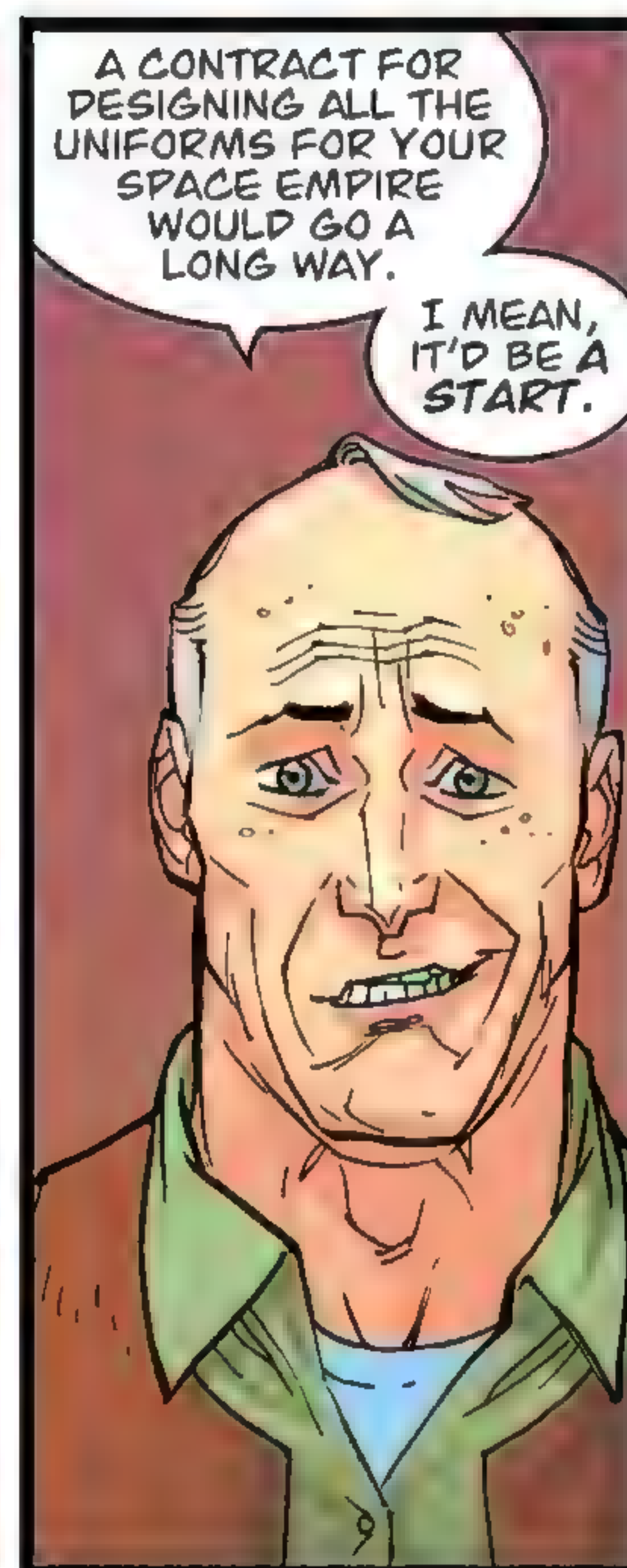
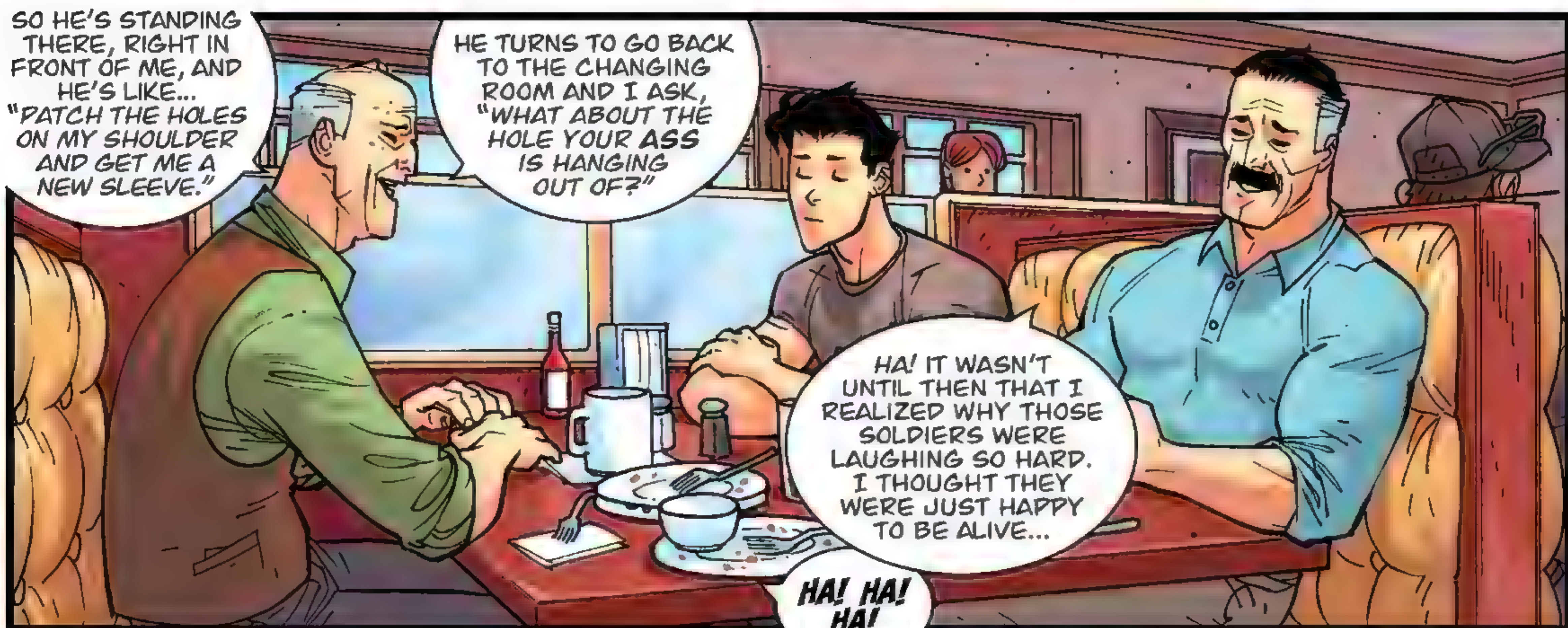
ENJOY SPACE, YOU COLD-HEARTED COWARD.

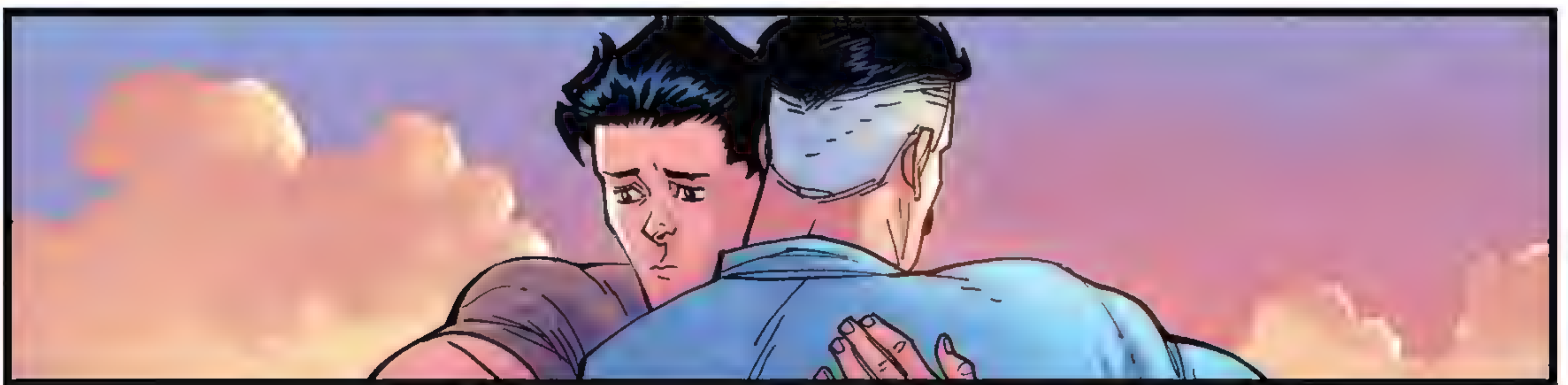
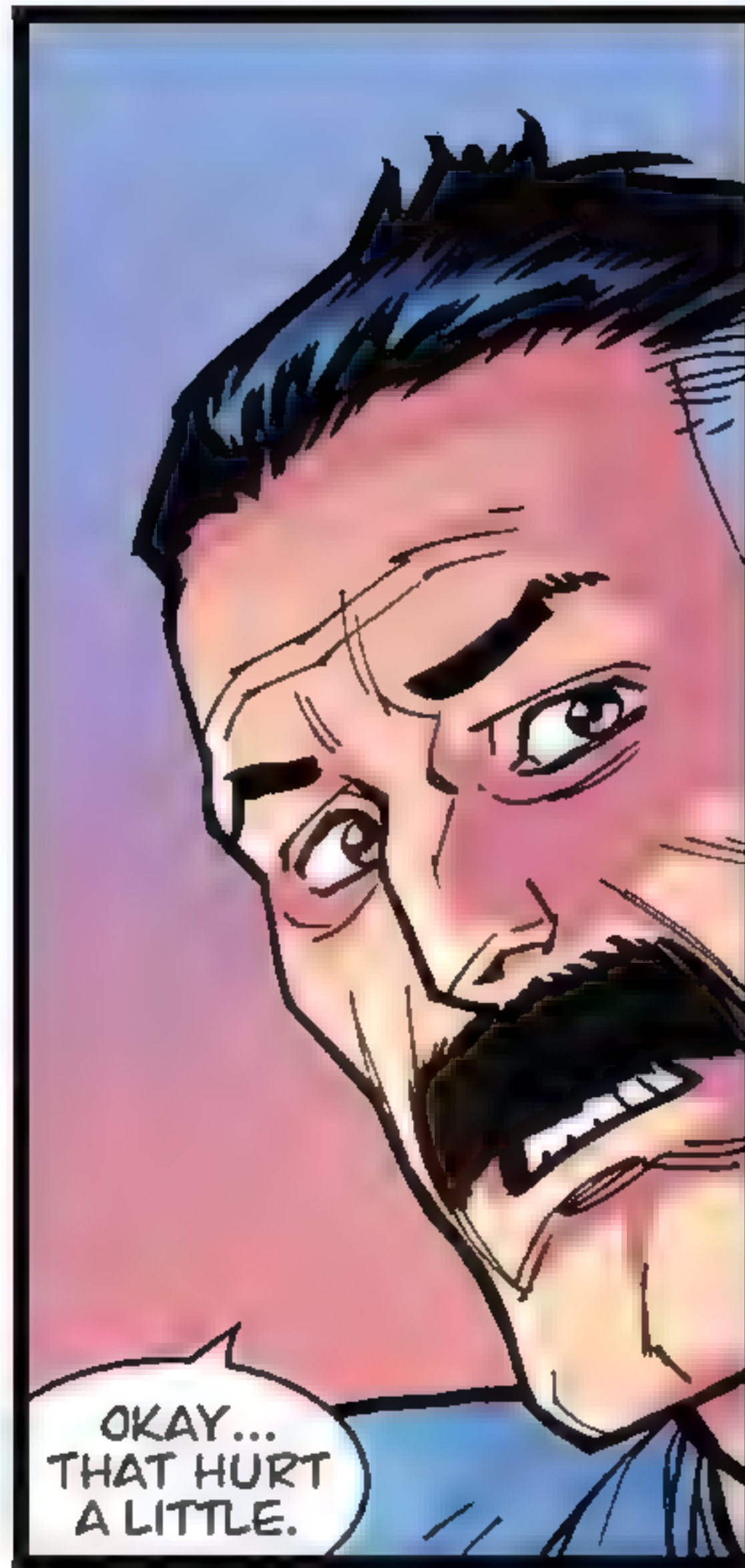
THEY'RE GOING OUT TO SPACE?

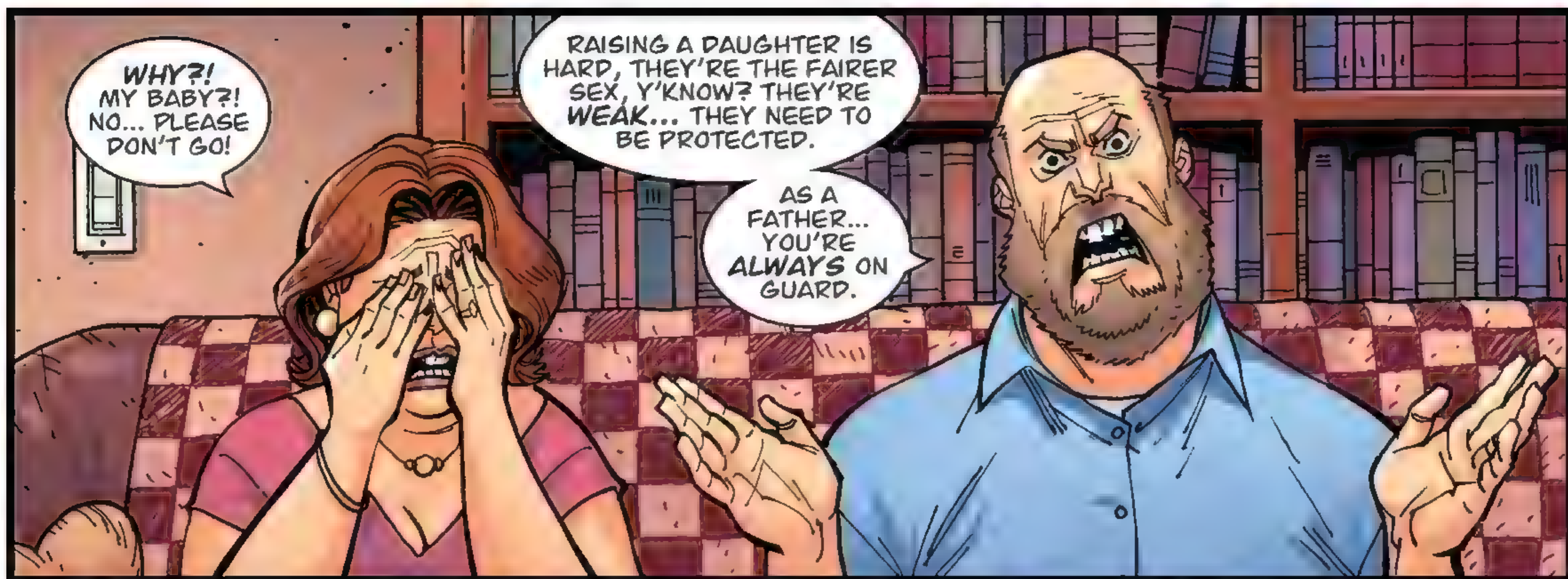








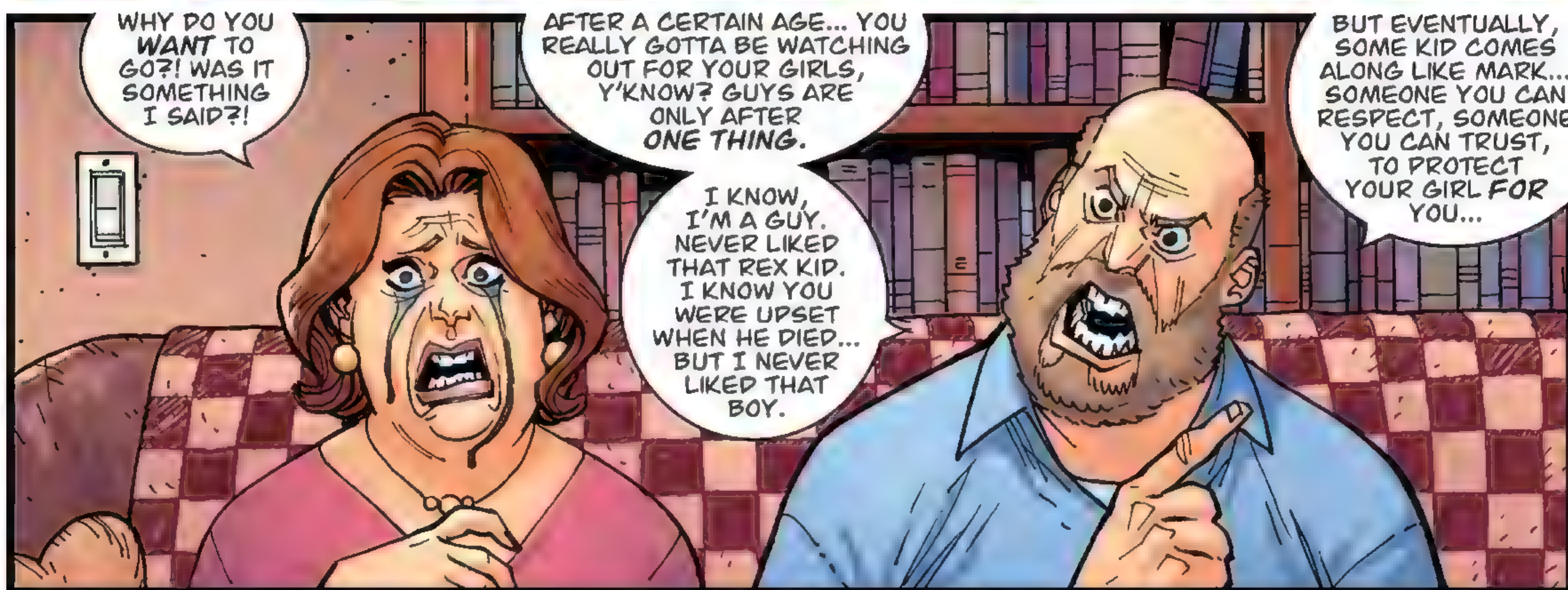




WHY?!
MY BABY?!
NO... PLEASE
DON'T GO!

RAISING A DAUGHTER IS
HARD, THEY'RE THE FAIRER
SEX, Y'KNOW? THEY'RE
WEAK... THEY NEED TO
BE PROTECTED.

AS A
FATHER...
YOU'RE
ALWAYS ON
GUARD.

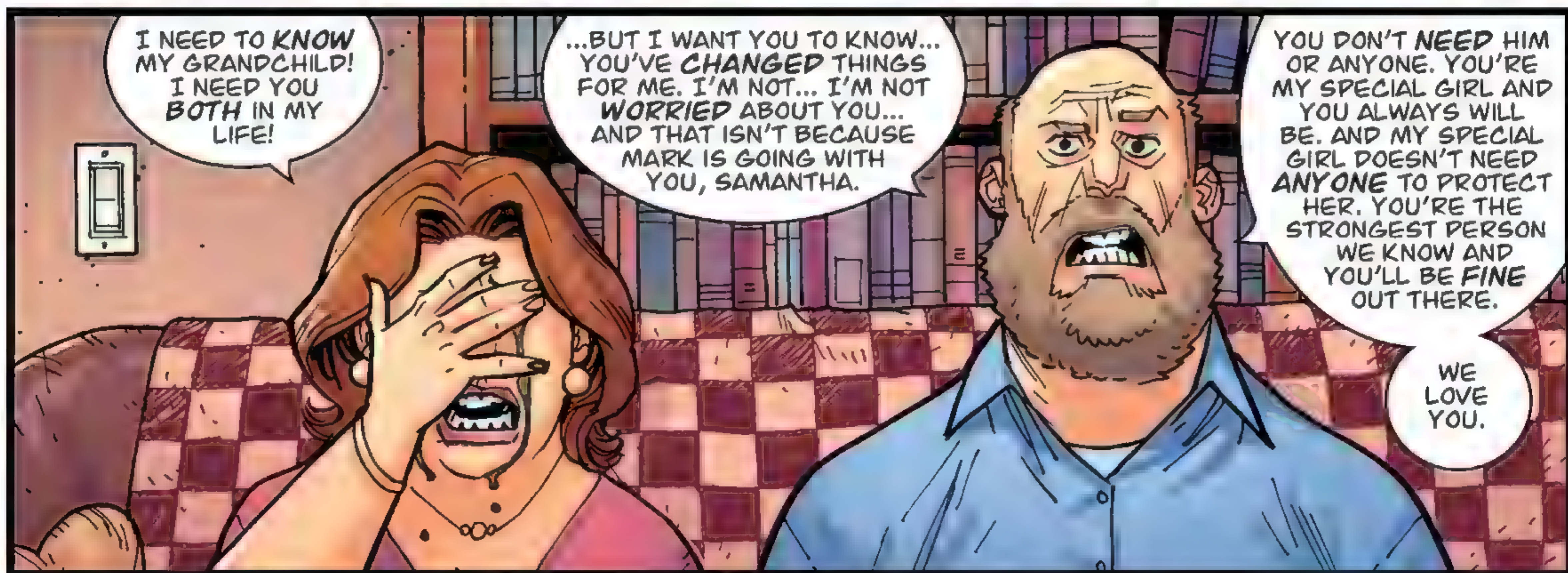


WHY DO YOU
WANT TO
GO?! WAS IT
SOMETHING
I SAID?!

AFTER A CERTAIN AGE... YOU
REALLY GOTTA BE WATCHING
OUT FOR YOUR GIRLS,
Y'KNOW? GUYS ARE
ONLY AFTER
ONE THING.

I KNOW,
I'M A GUY.
NEVER LIKED
THAT REX KID.
I KNOW YOU
WERE UPSET
WHEN HE DIED...
BUT I NEVER
LIKED THAT
BOY.

BUT EVENTUALLY,
SOME KID COMES
ALONG LIKE MARK...
SOMEONE YOU CAN
RESPECT, SOMEONE
YOU CAN TRUST,
TO PROTECT
YOUR GIRL FOR
YOU...



I NEED TO KNOW
MY GRANDCHILD!
I NEED YOU
BOTH IN MY
LIFE!

...BUT I WANT YOU TO KNOW...
YOU'VE **CHANGED** THINGS
FOR ME. I'M NOT... I'M NOT
WORRIED ABOUT YOU...
AND THAT ISN'T BECAUSE
MARK IS GOING WITH
YOU, SAMANTHA.

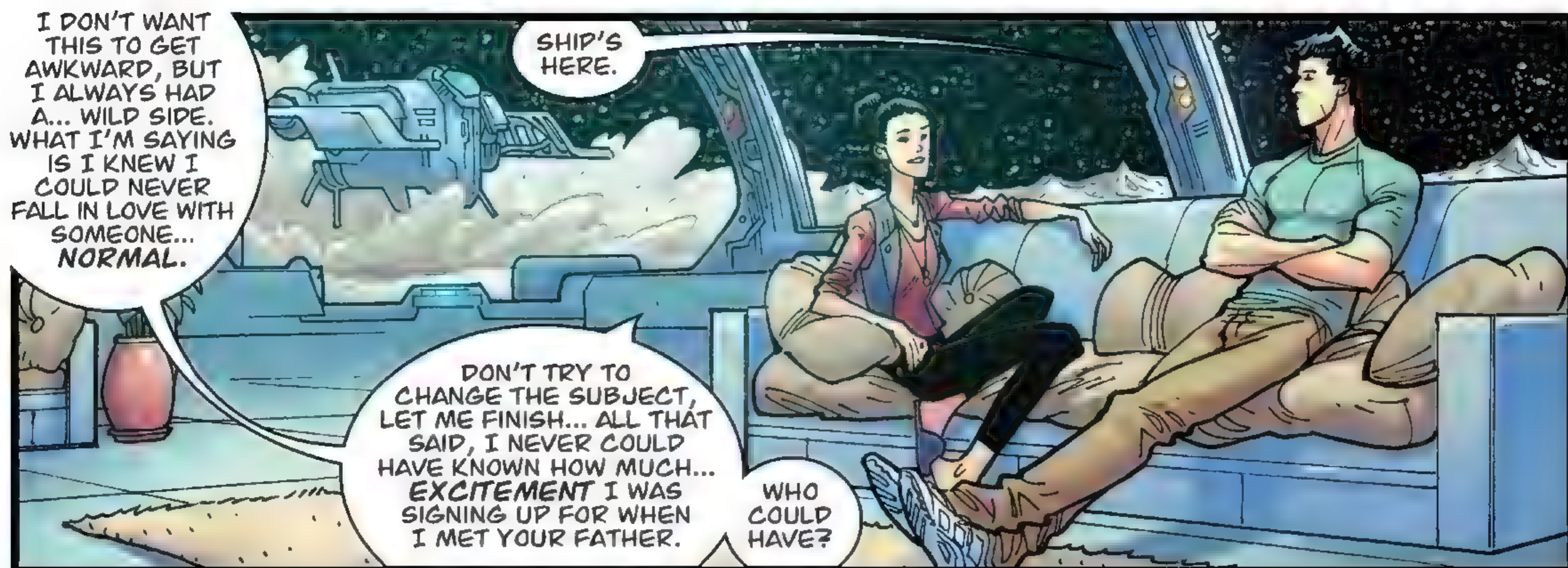
YOU DON'T NEED HIM
OR ANYONE. YOU'RE
MY SPECIAL GIRL AND
YOU ALWAYS WILL
BE. AND MY SPECIAL
GIRL DOESN'T NEED
ANYONE TO PROTECT
HER. YOU'RE THE
STRONGEST PERSON
WE KNOW AND
YOU'LL BE FINE
OUT THERE.

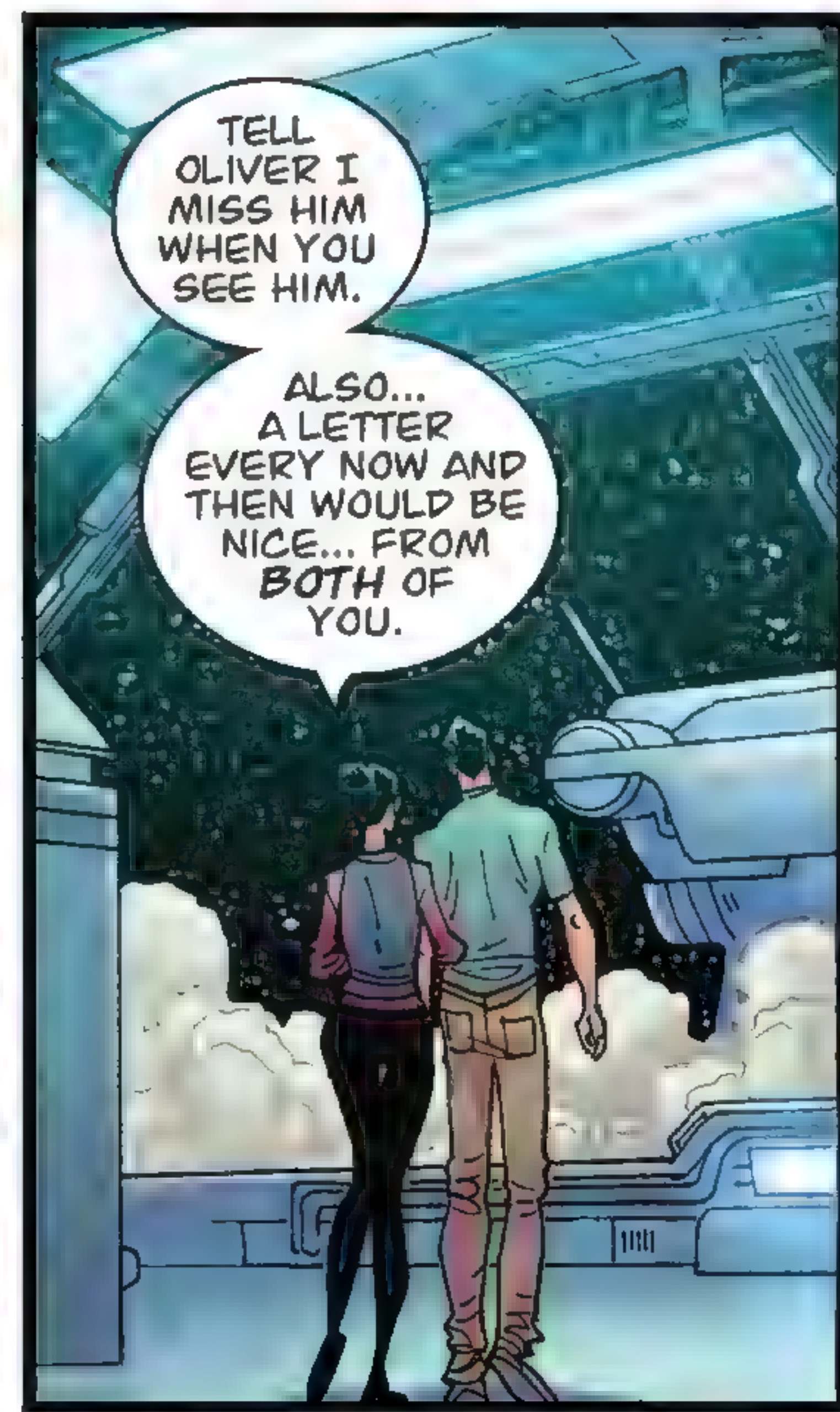
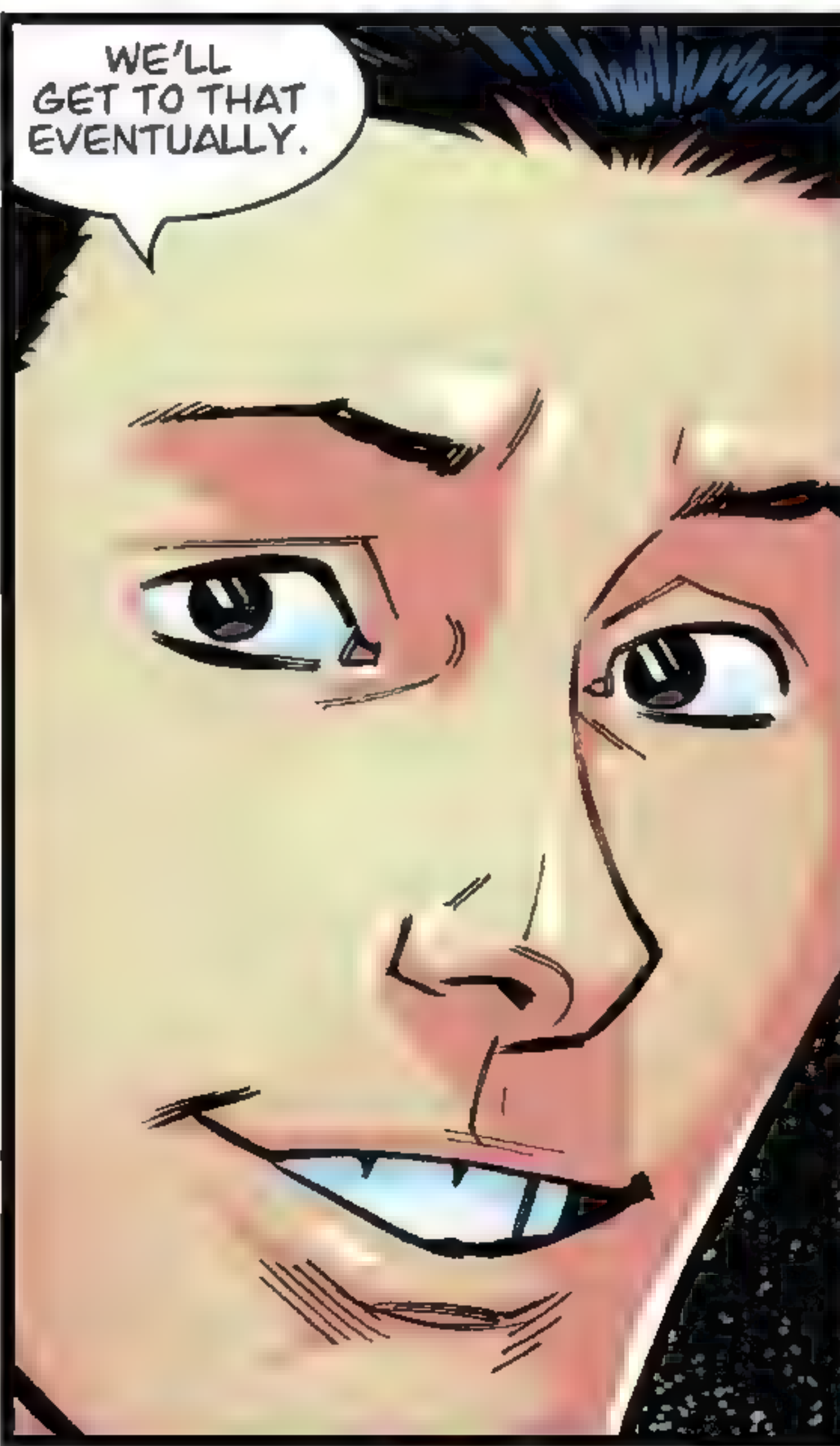
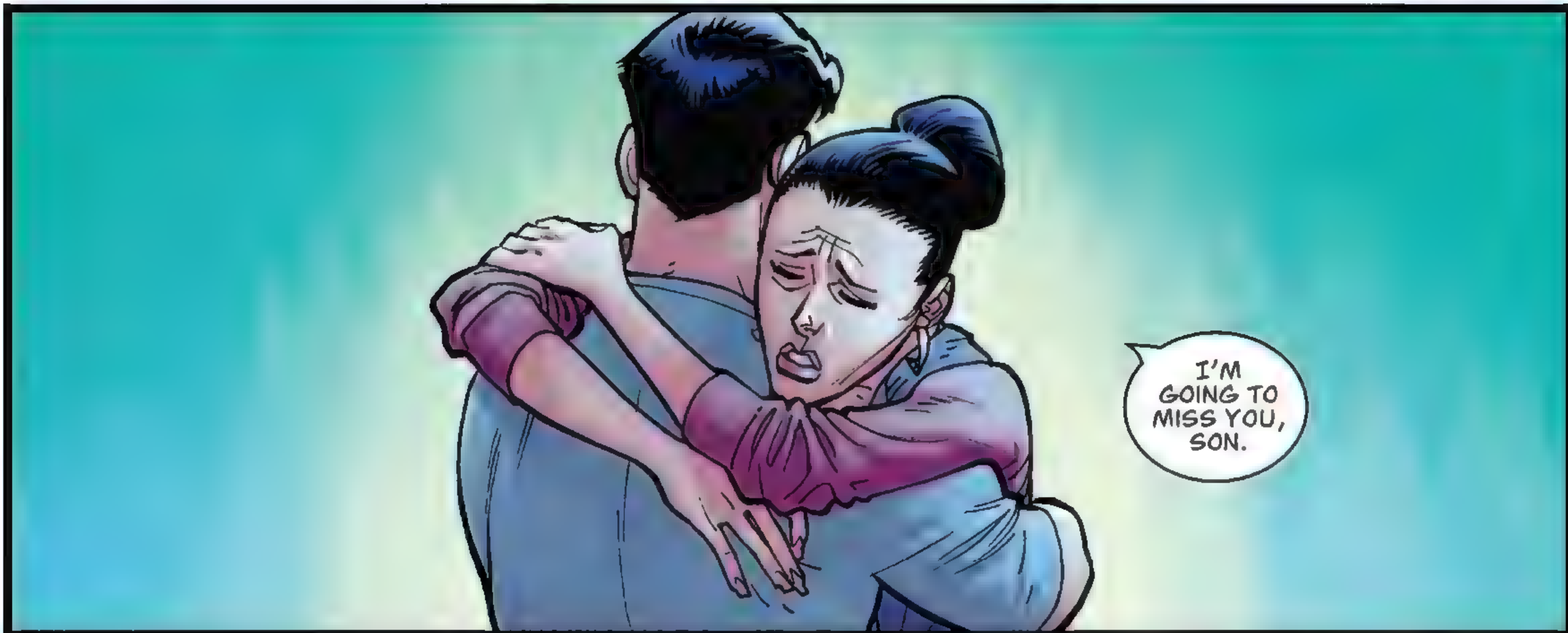
WE
LOVE
YOU.



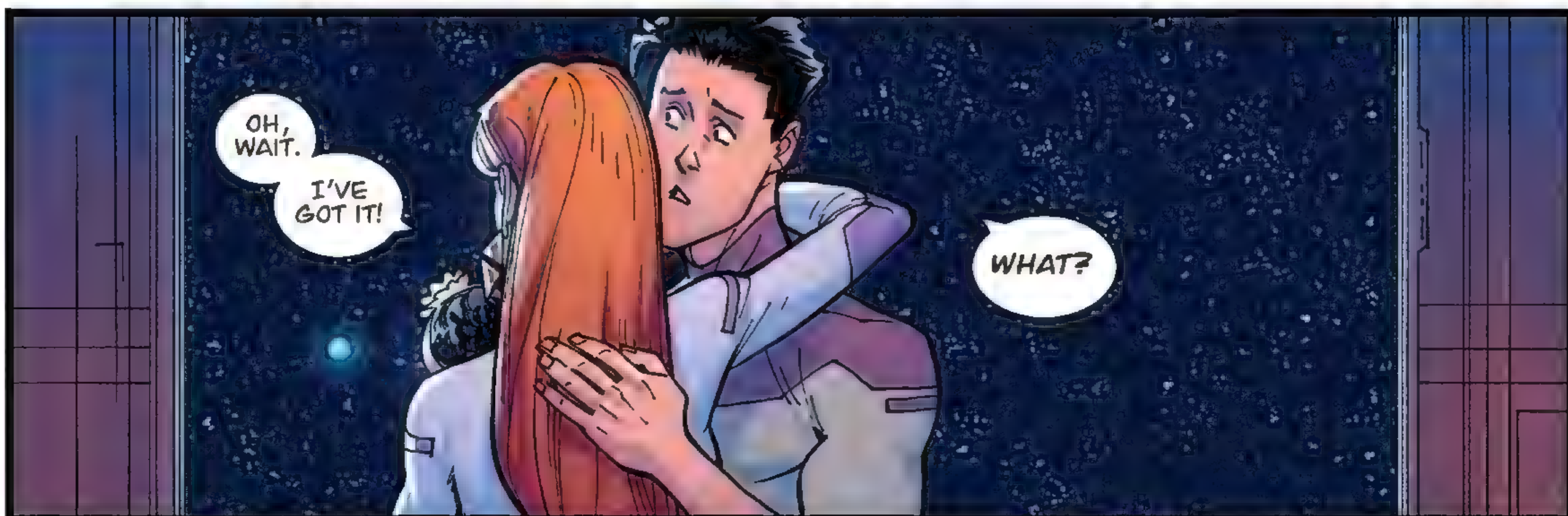
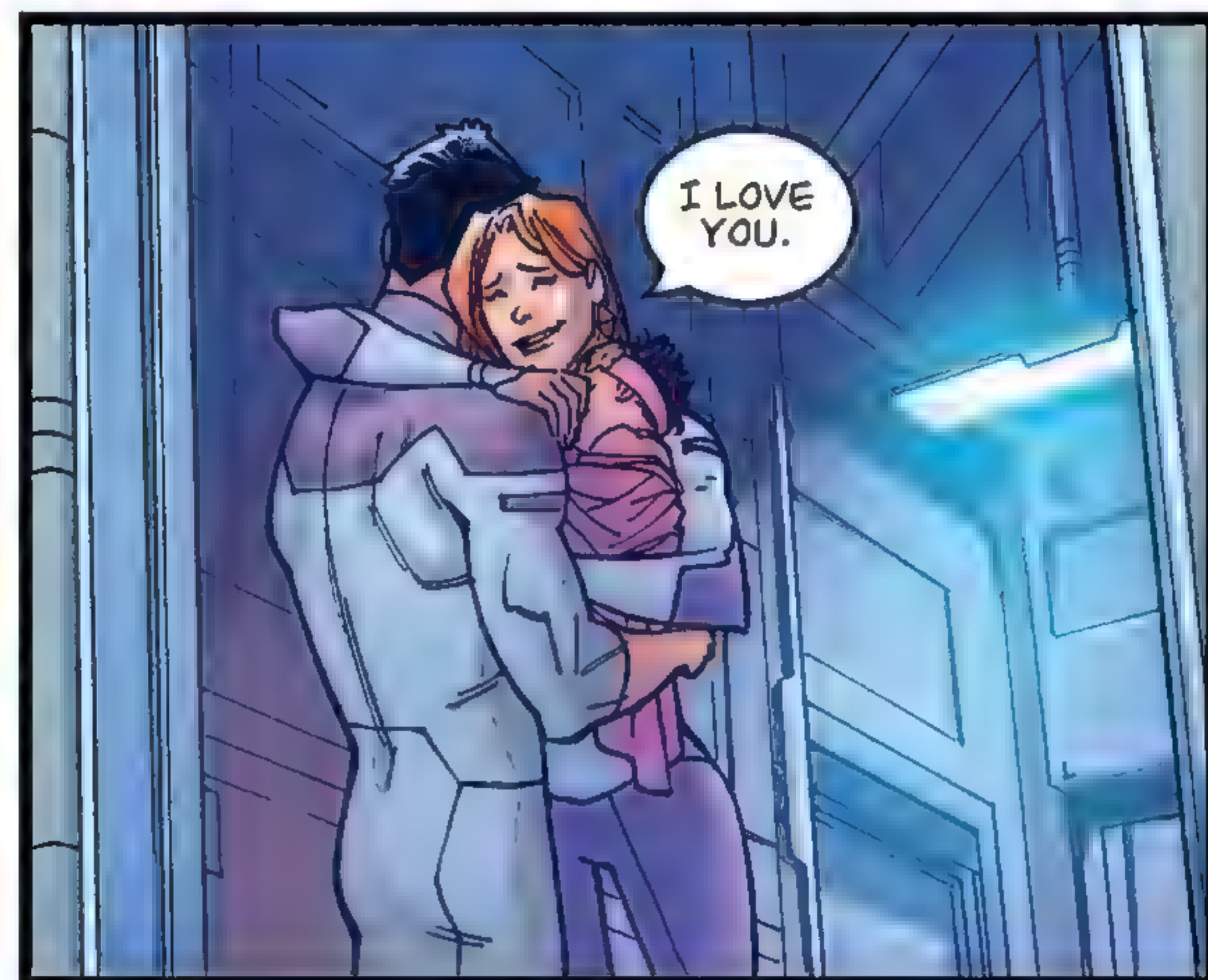
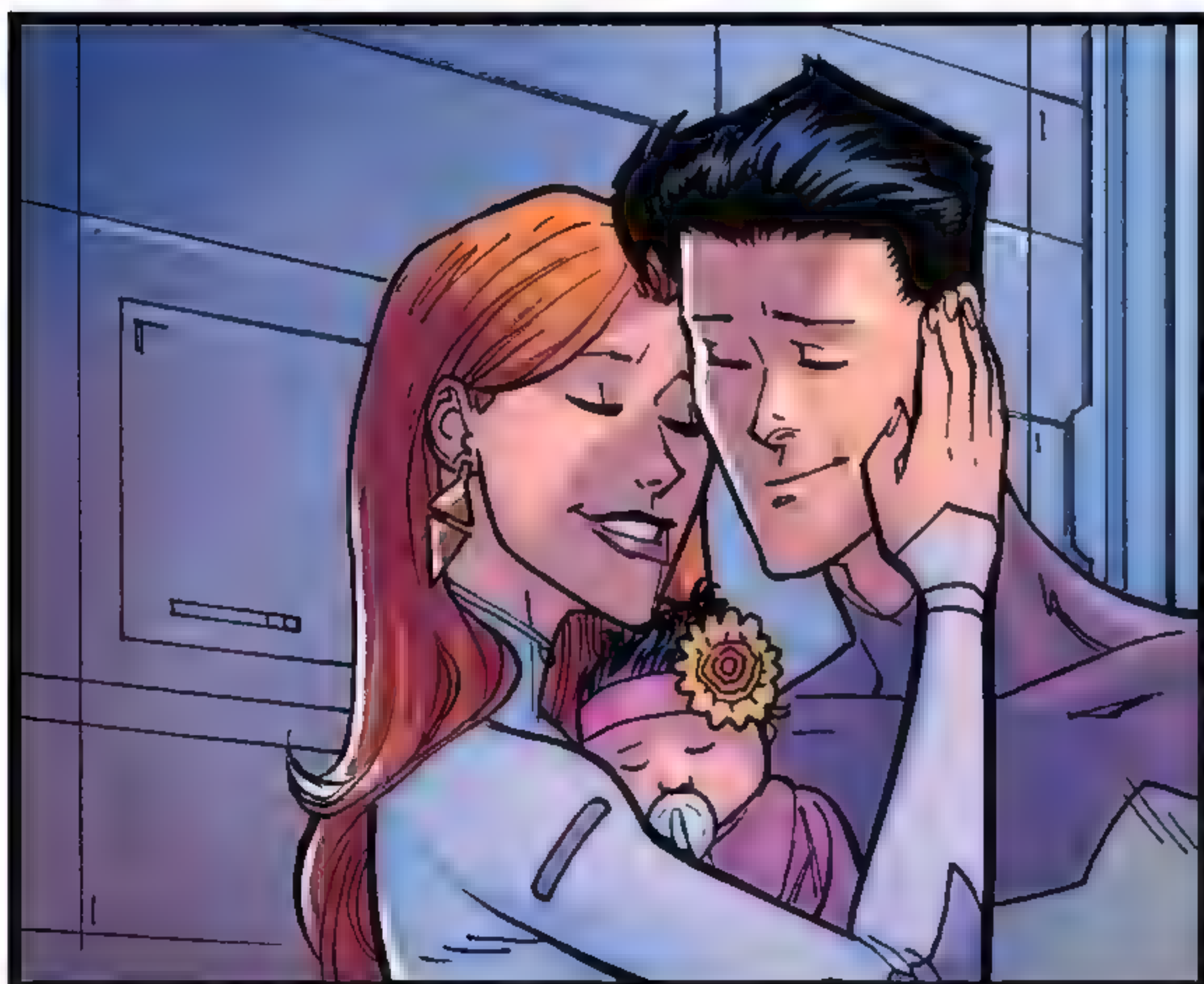
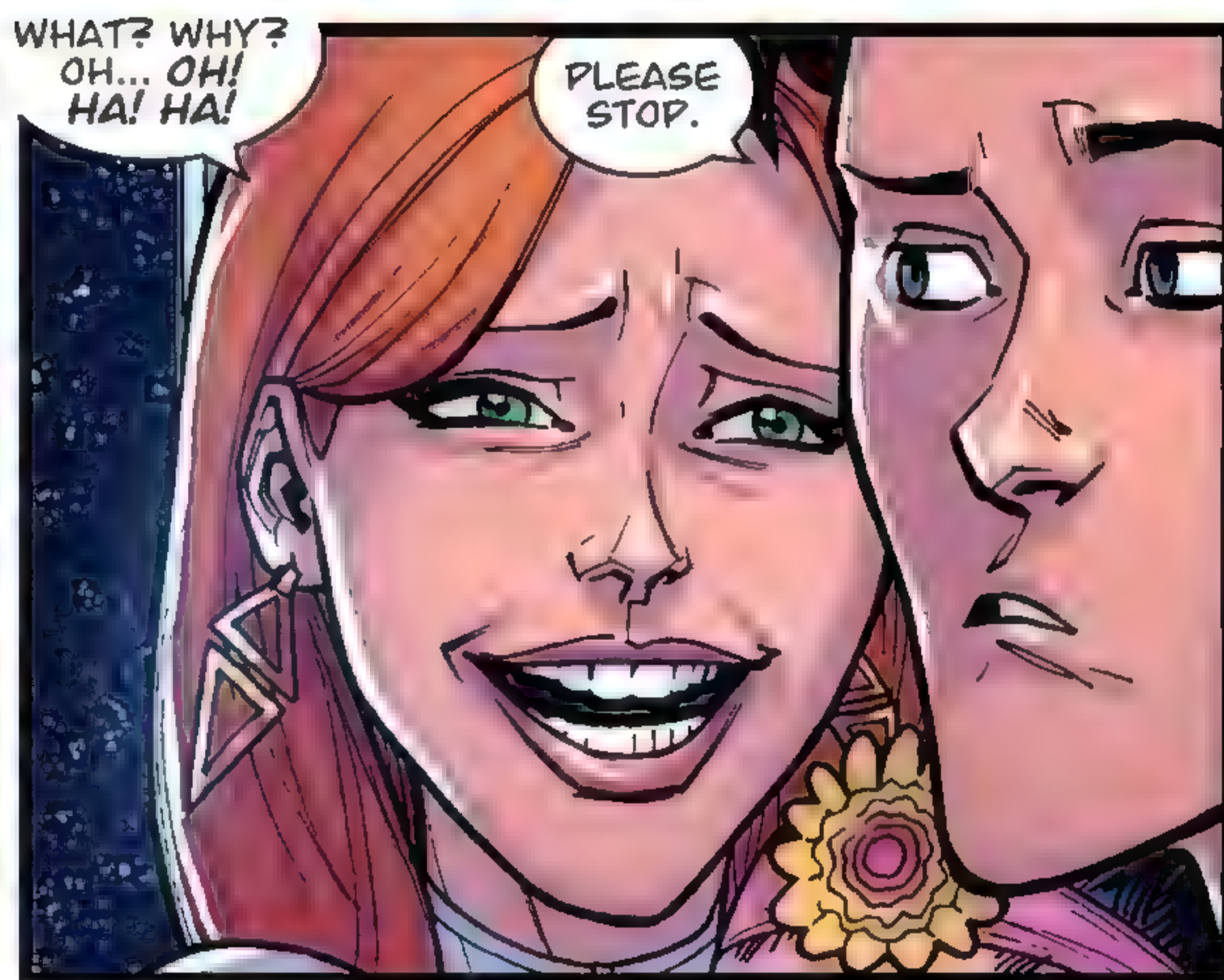
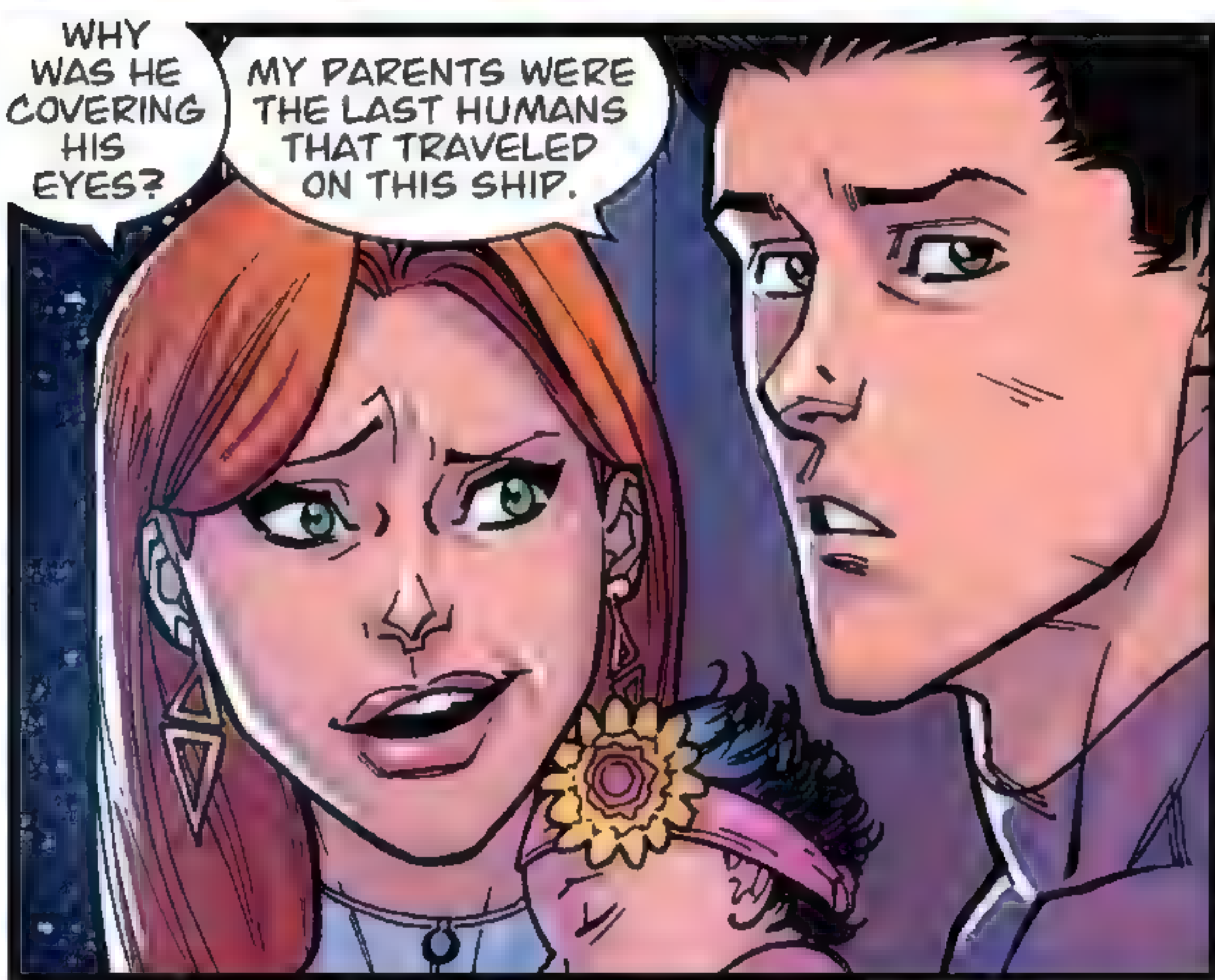
OKAY...

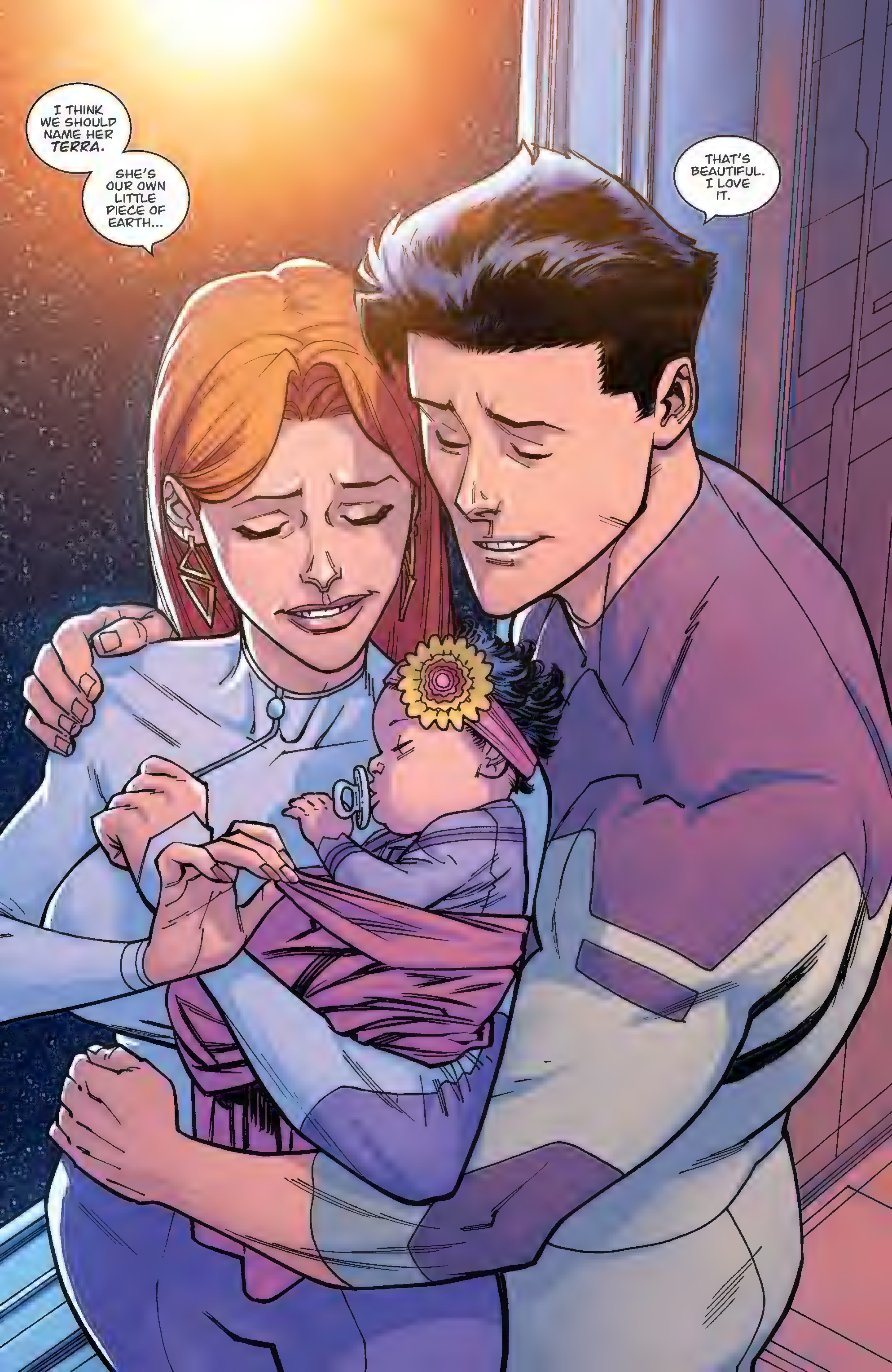
WOW, DAD...
YOU REALLY
TURNED THAT
AROUND AT
THE END.











I THINK
WE SHOULD
NAME HER
TERRA.

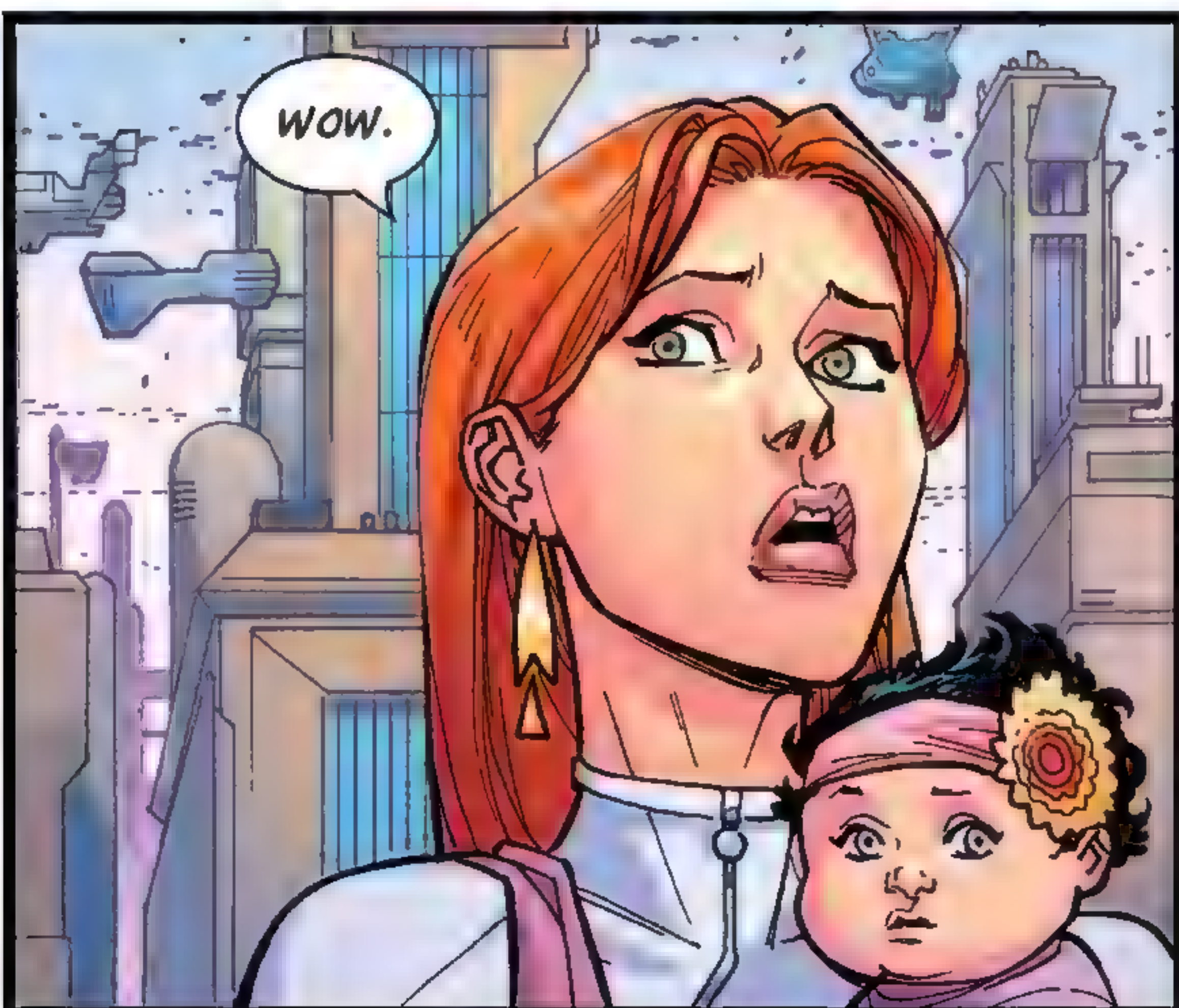
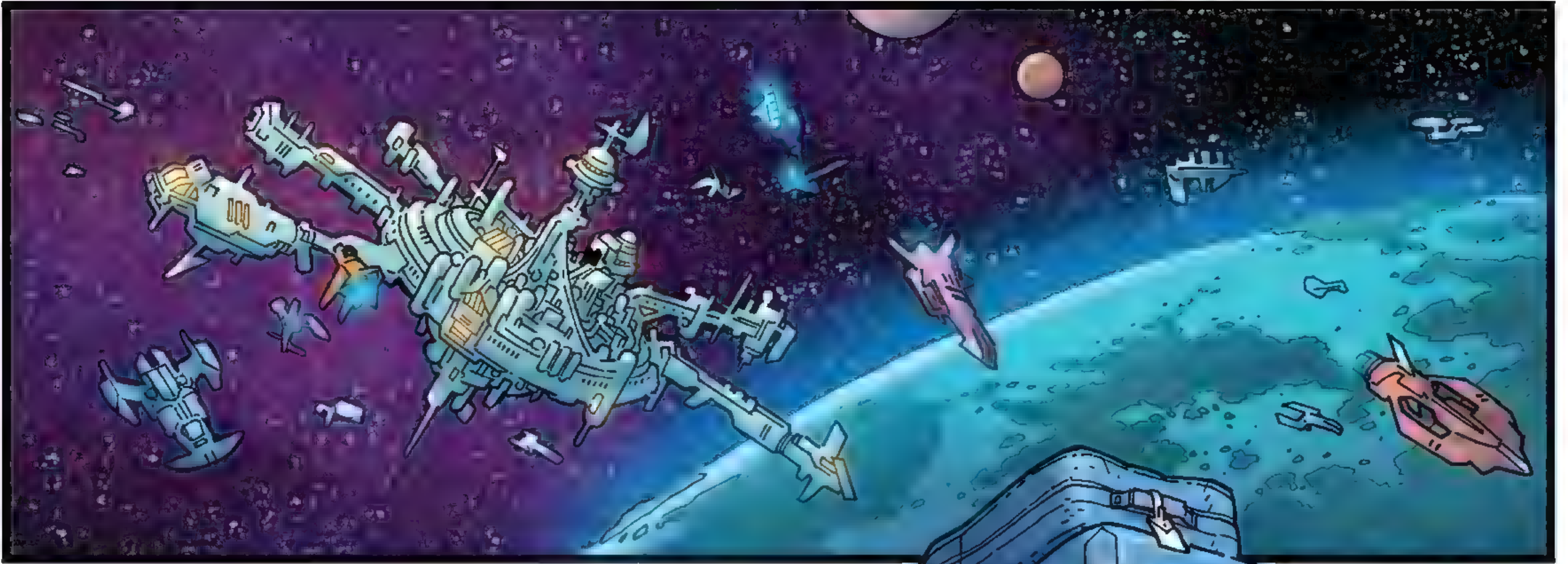
SHE'S
OUR OWN
LITTLE
PIECE OF
EARTH...

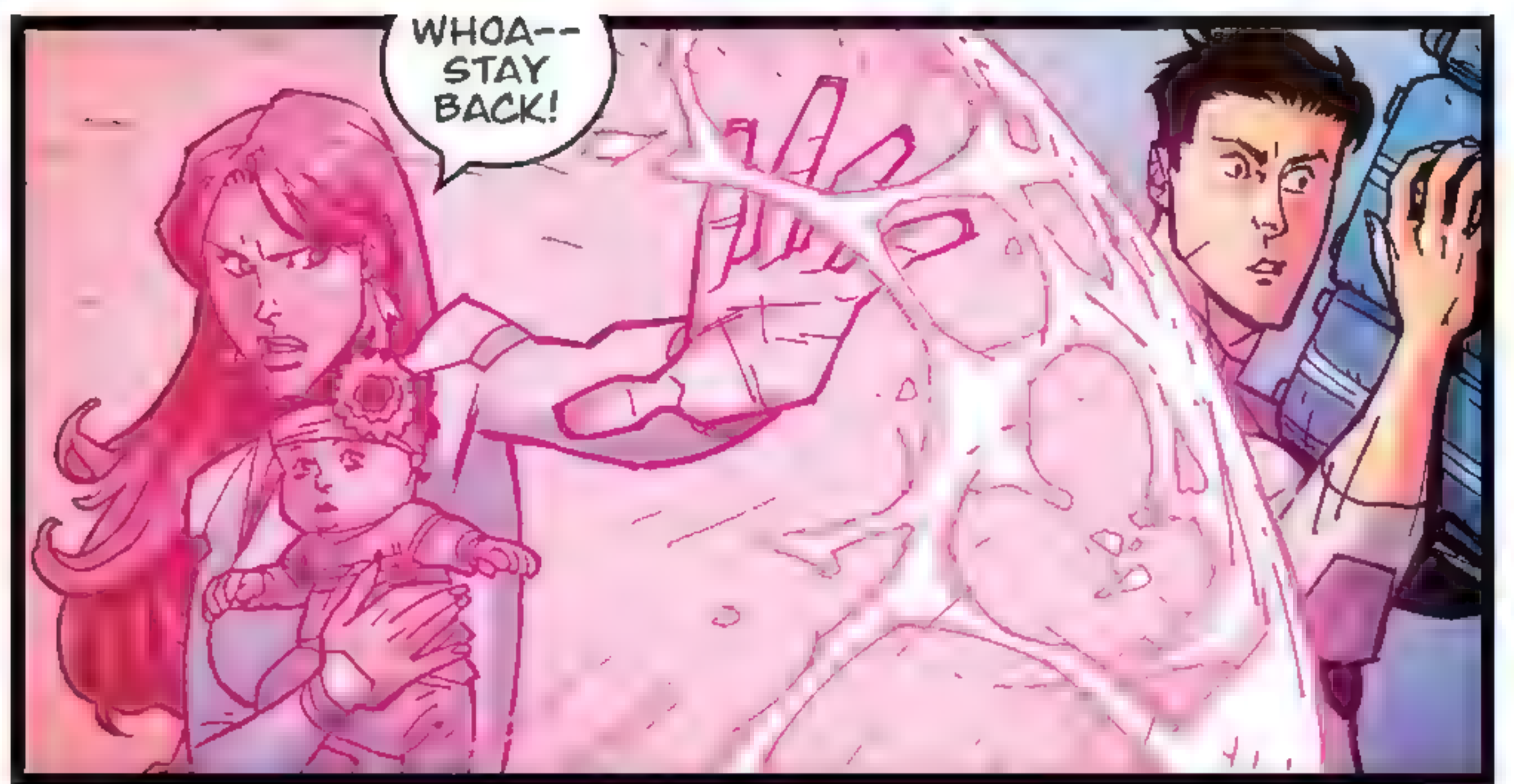
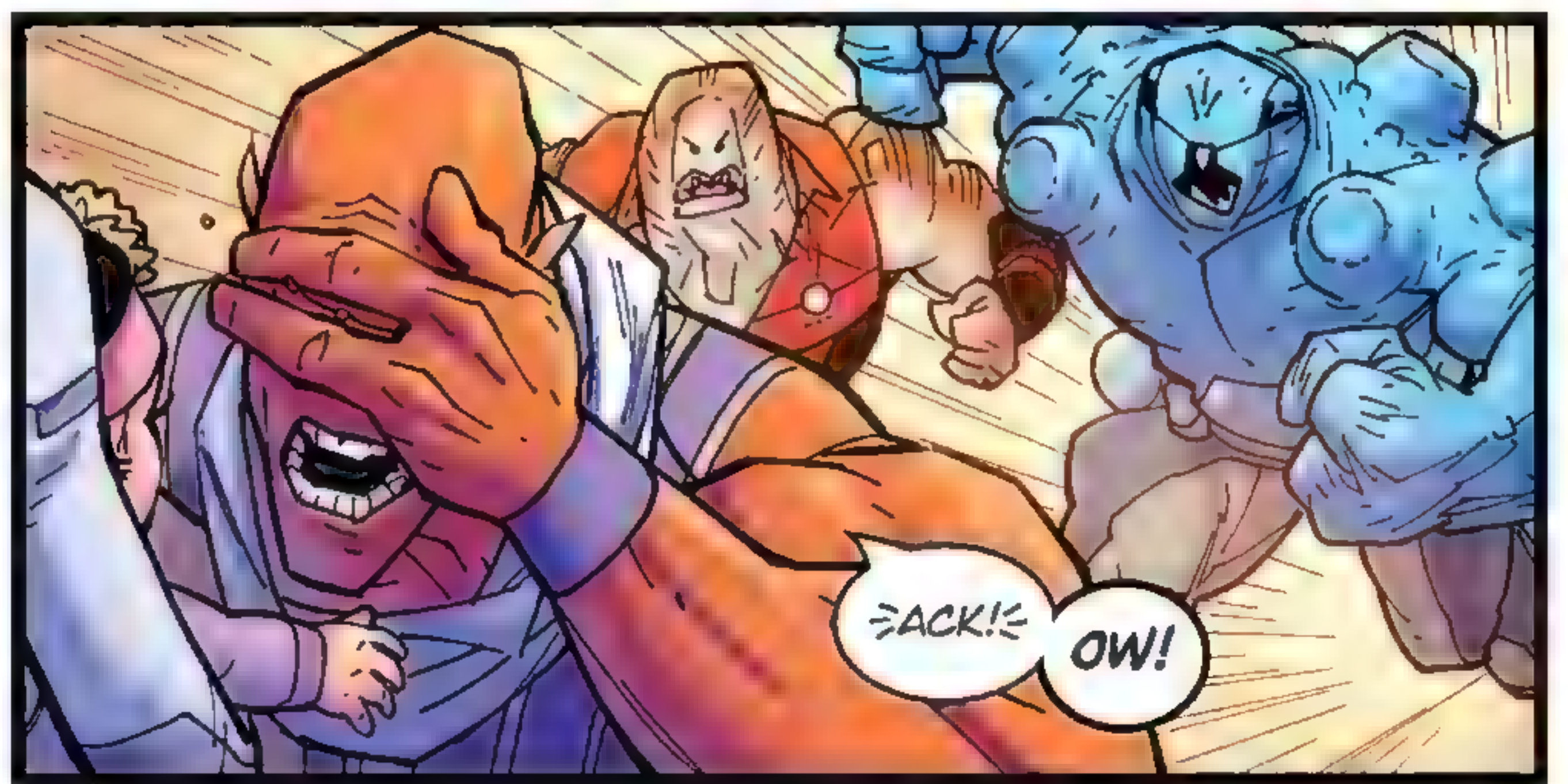
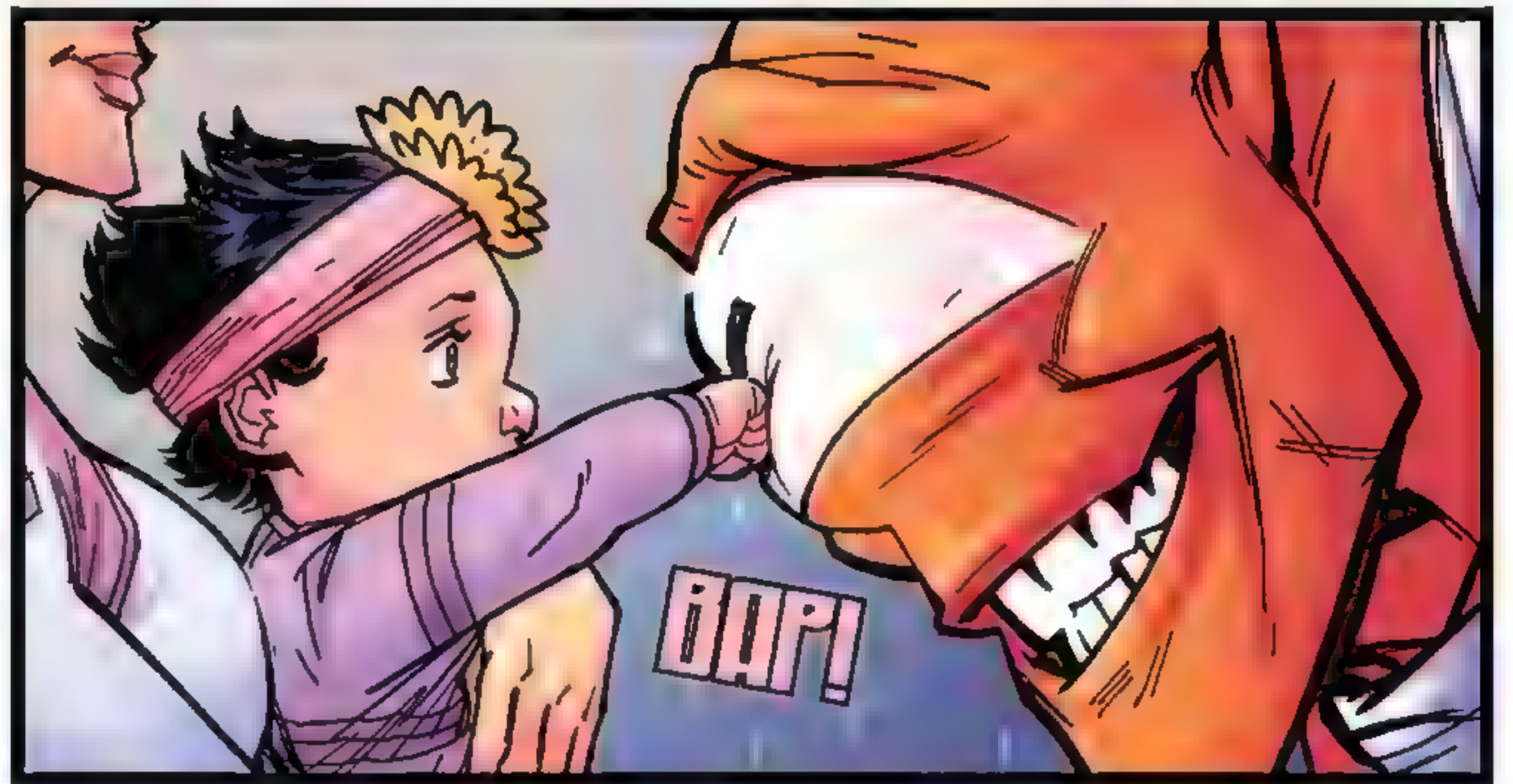
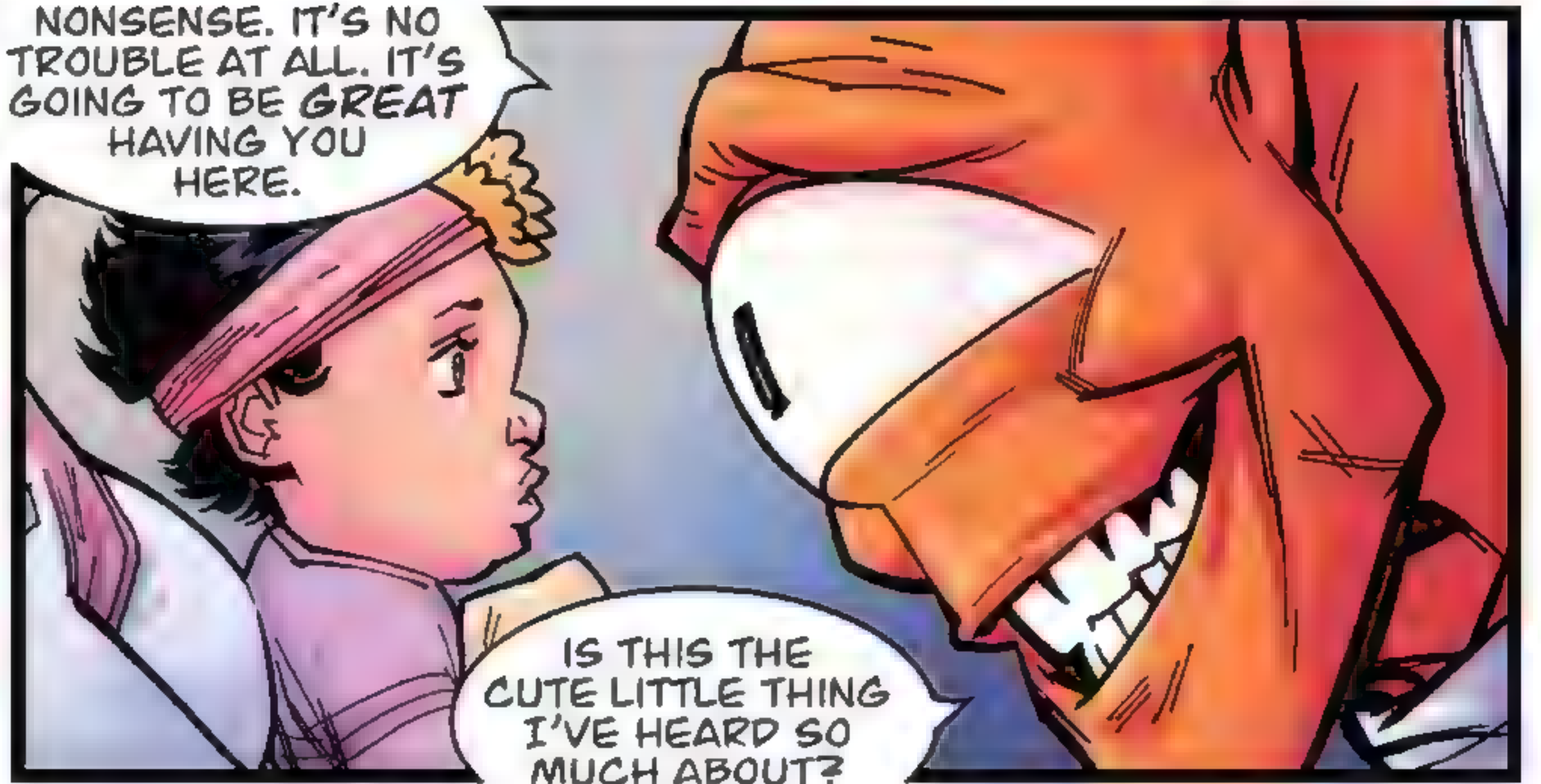
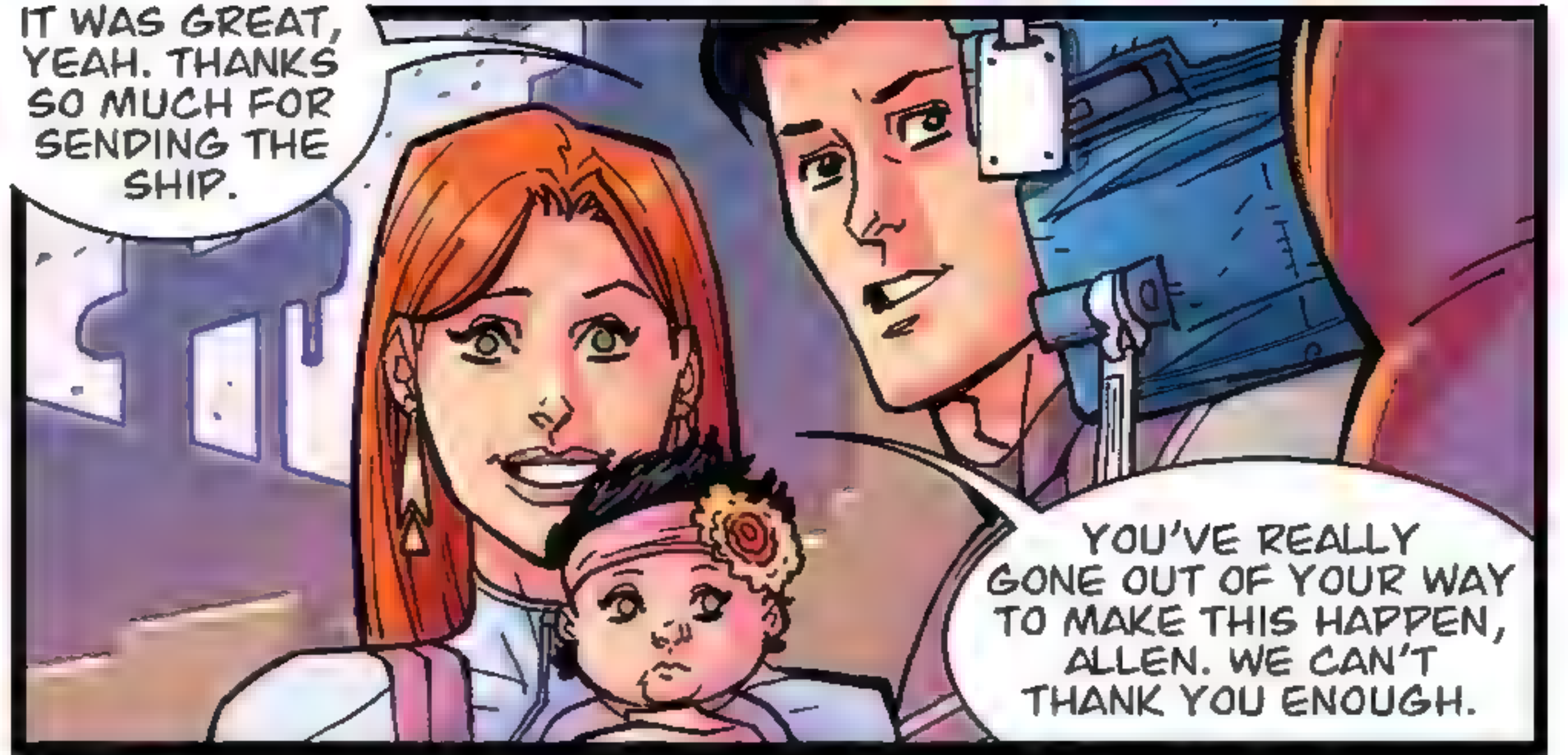
THAT'S
BEAUTIFUL.
I LOVE
IT.

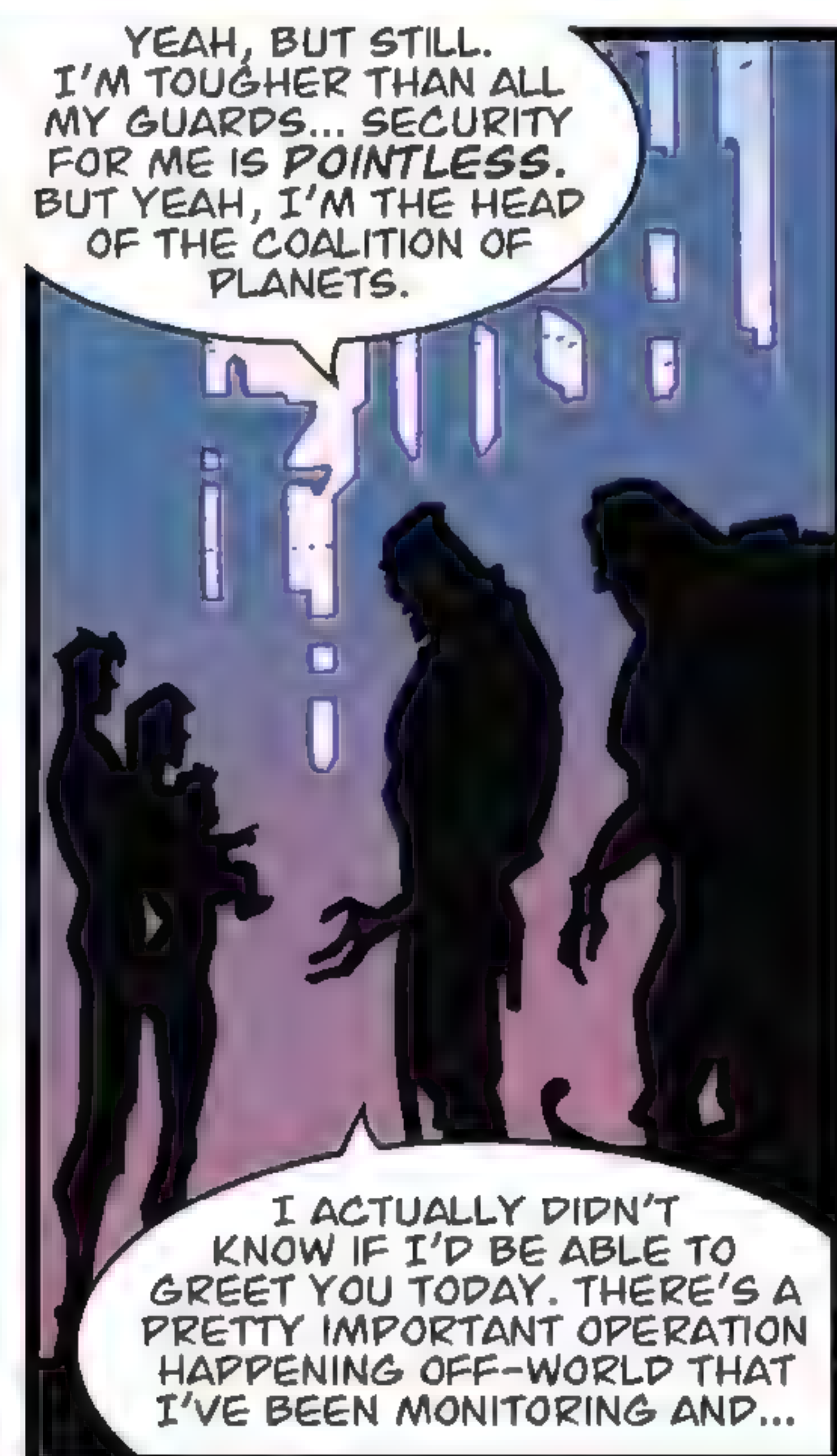
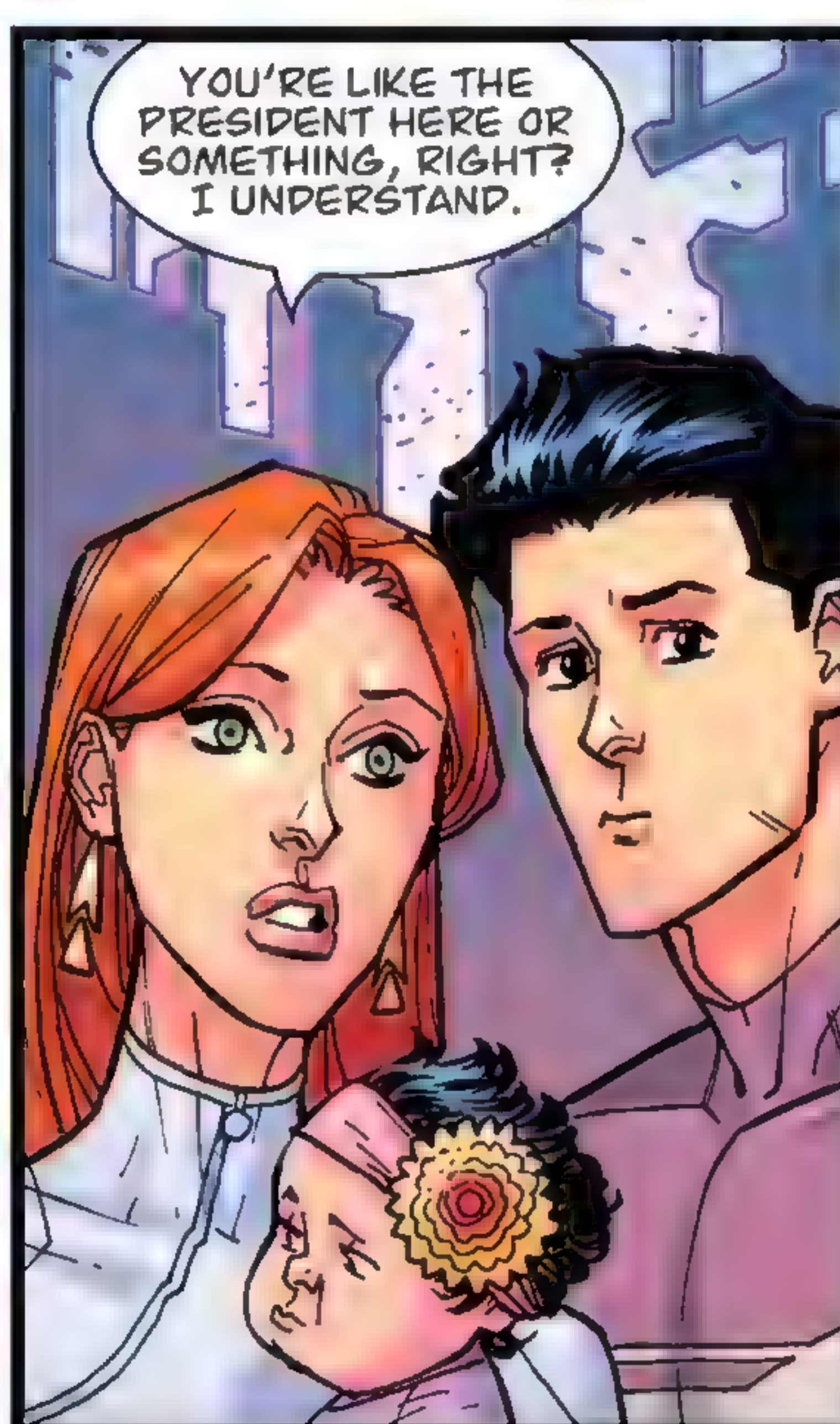


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SORRY ABOUT THAT. I KIND OF LOST TRACK OF TIME.

I'M STILL PRETTY IRRESPONSIBLE. WHAT CAN YOU DO?



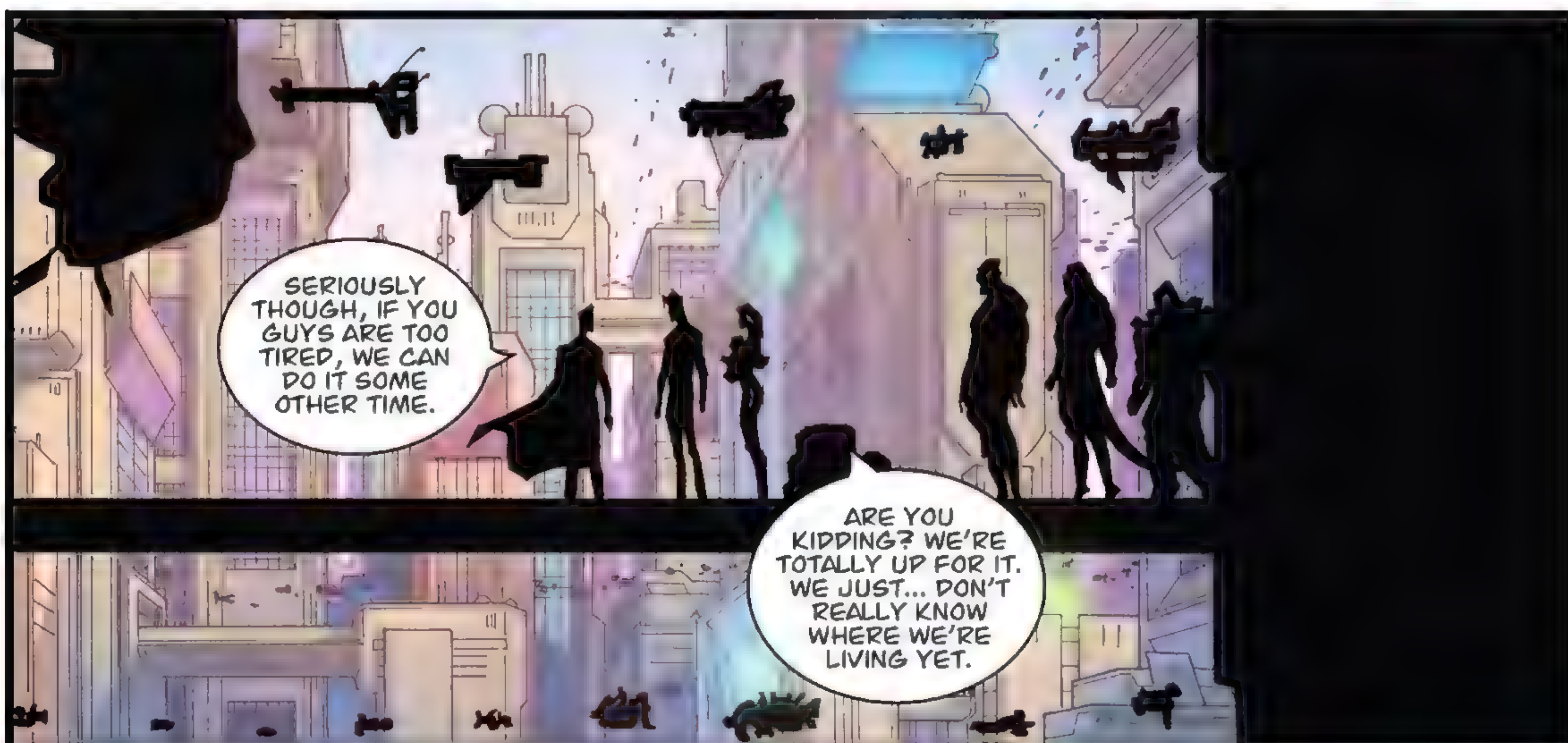
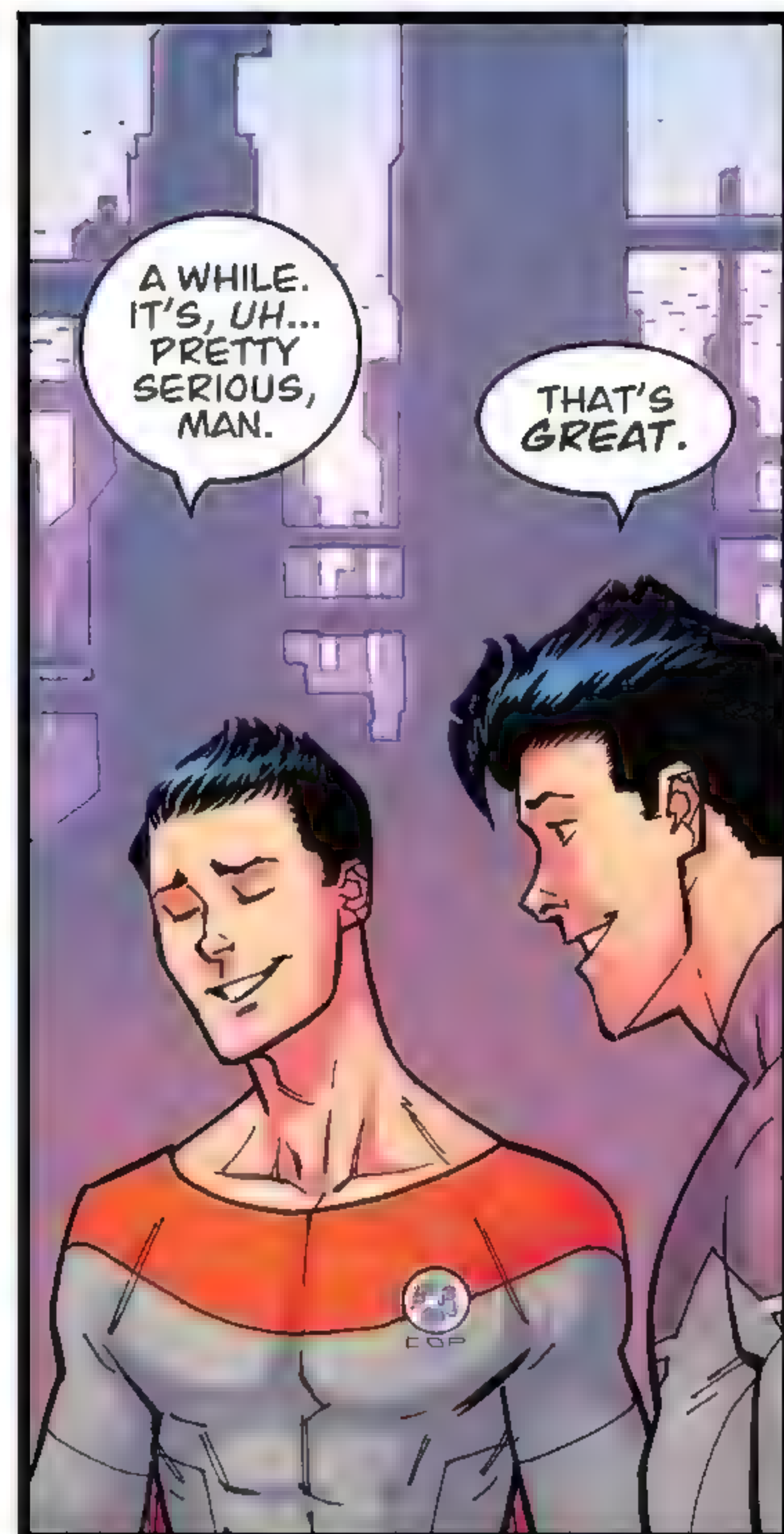
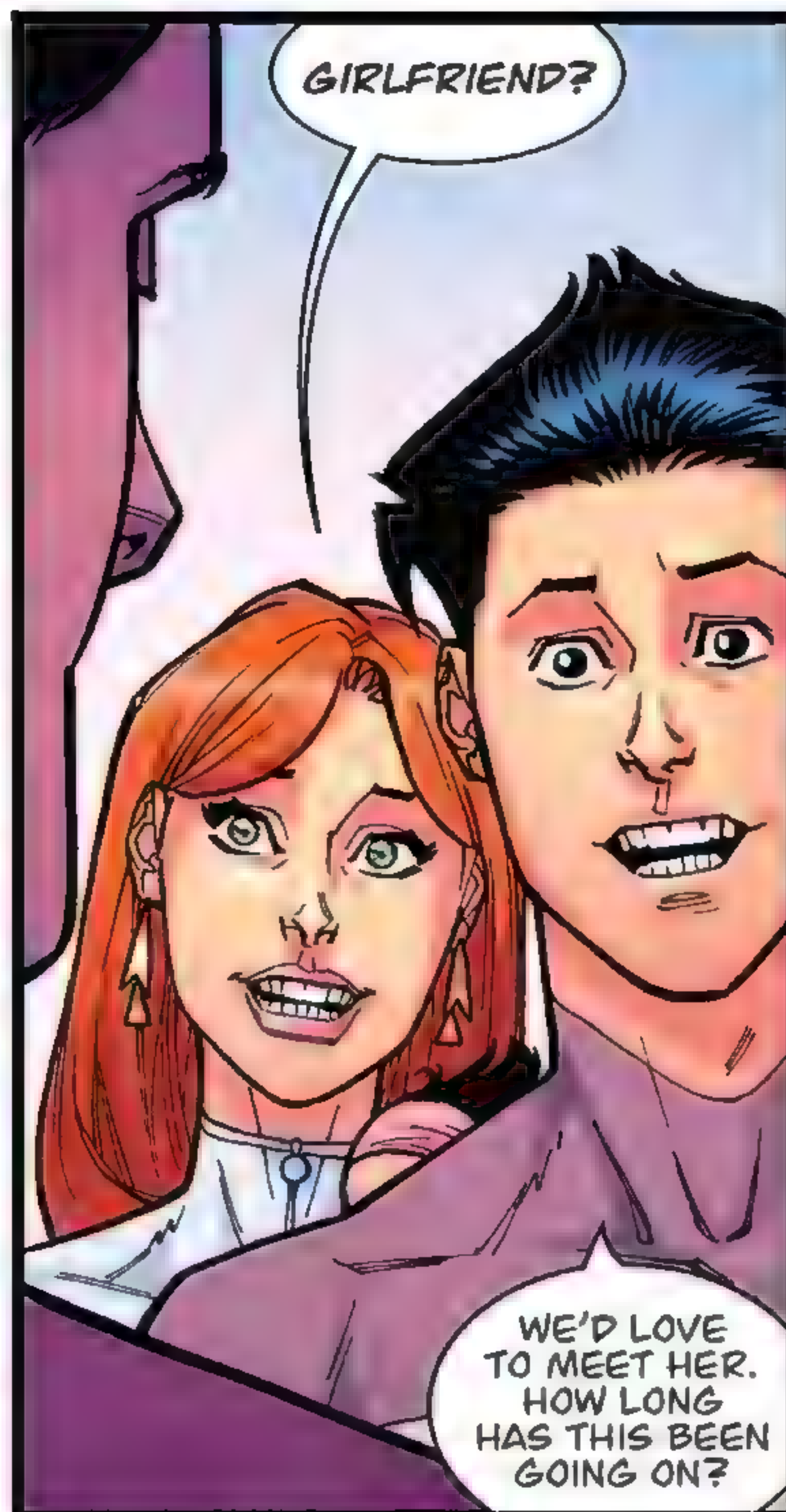
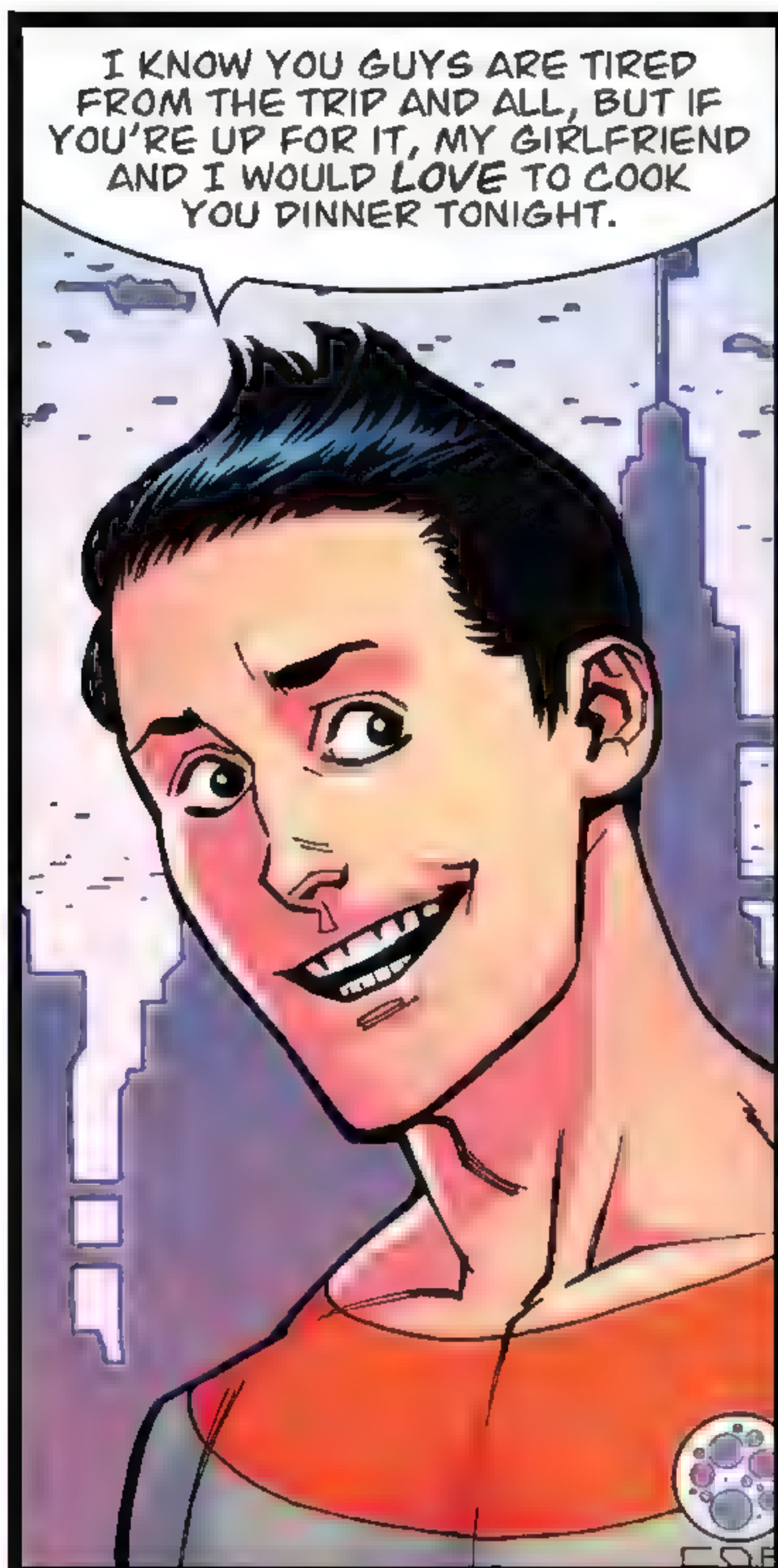
OLIVER?

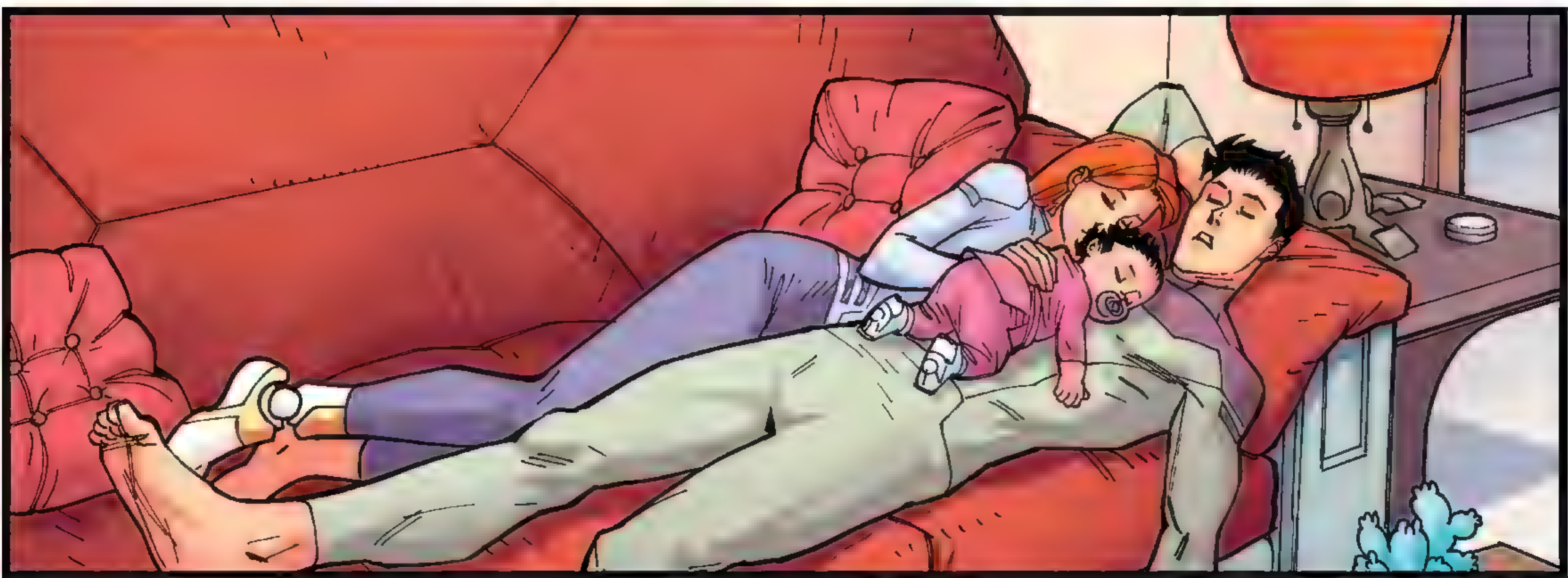
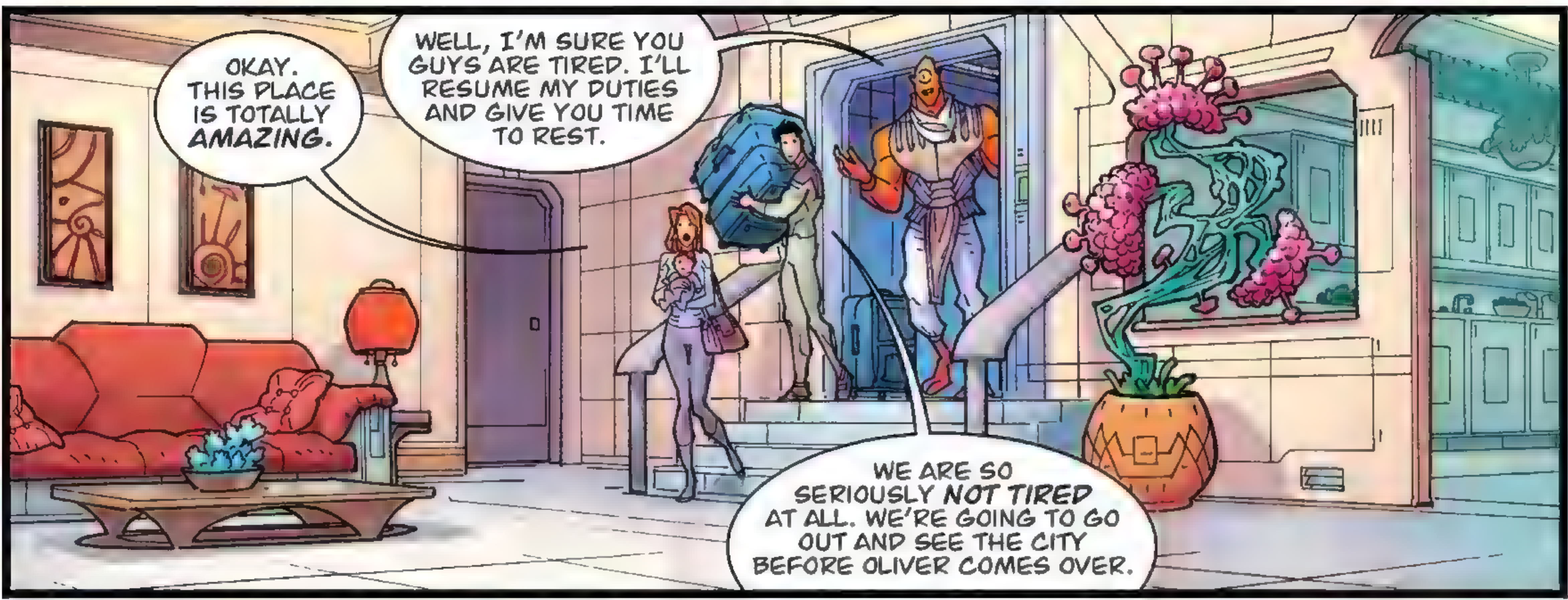
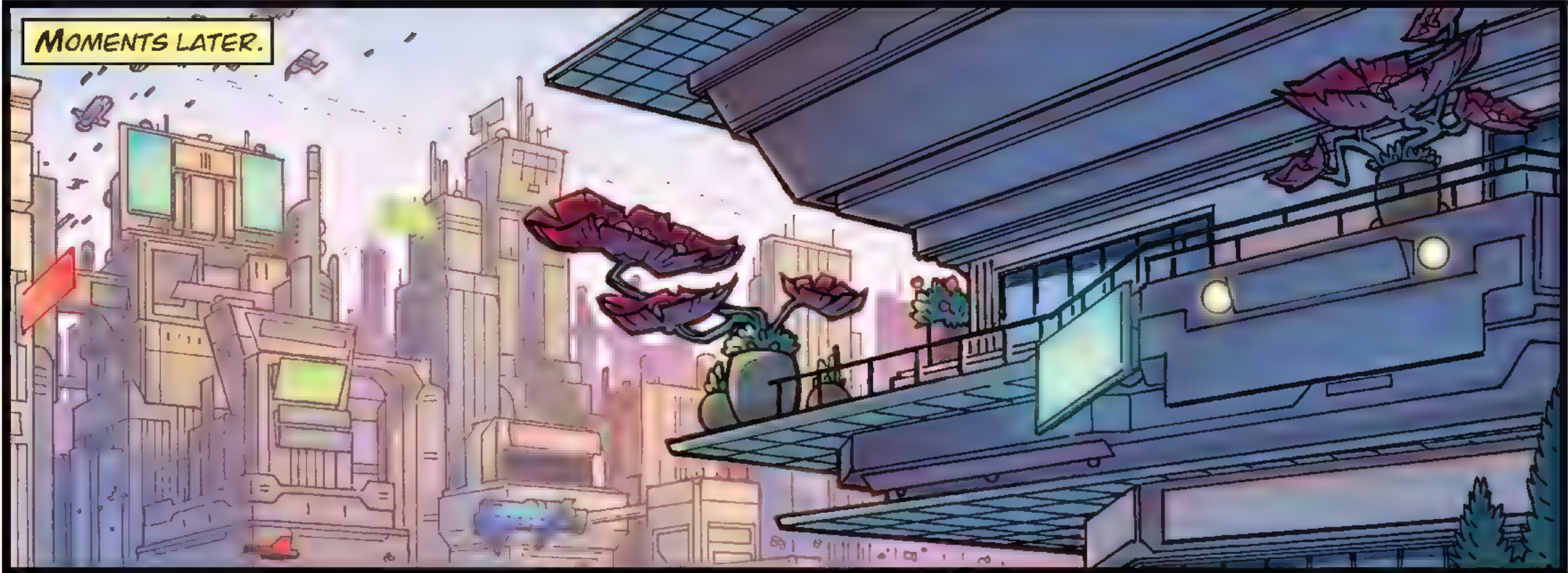
WHOA, MAN. YOU'RE GOING TO BE OLDER THAN ME SOON.

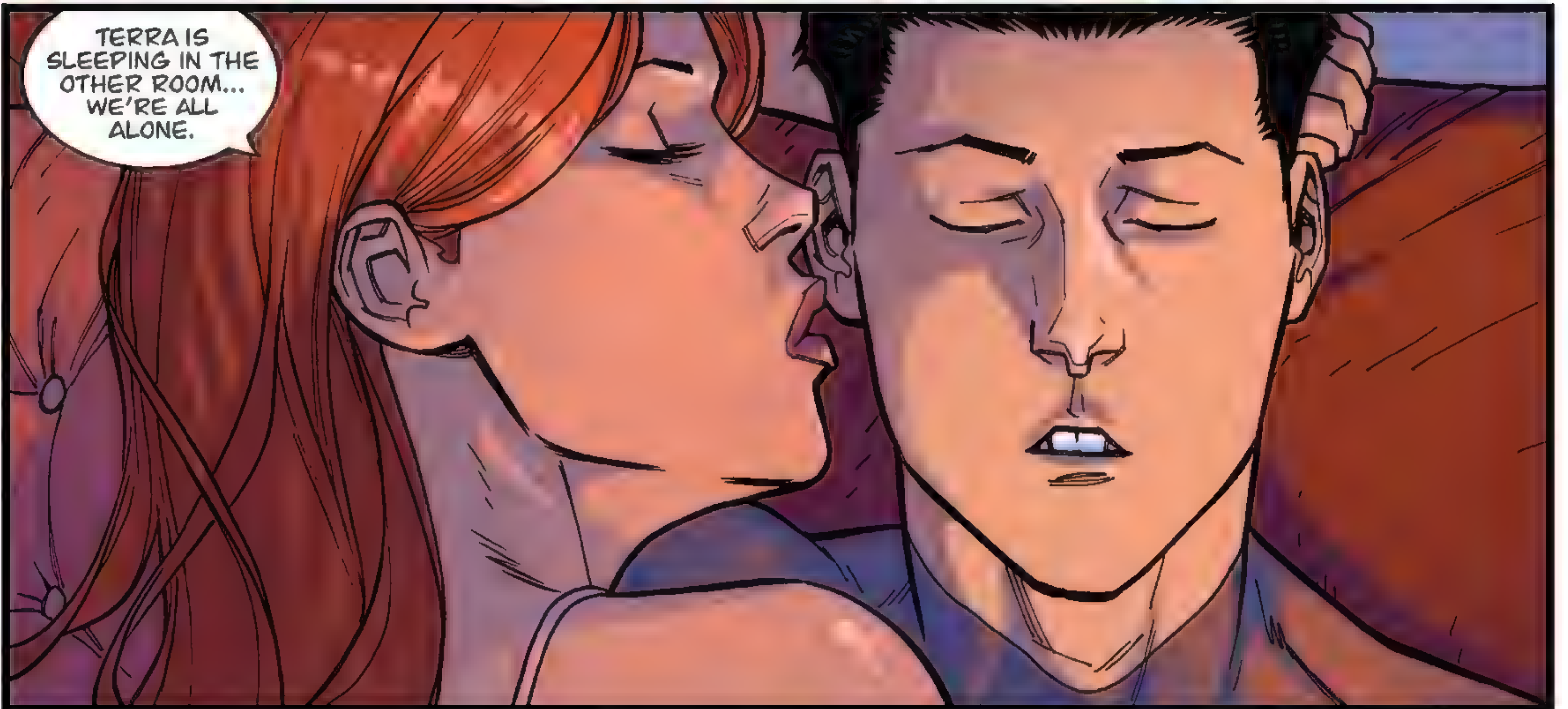
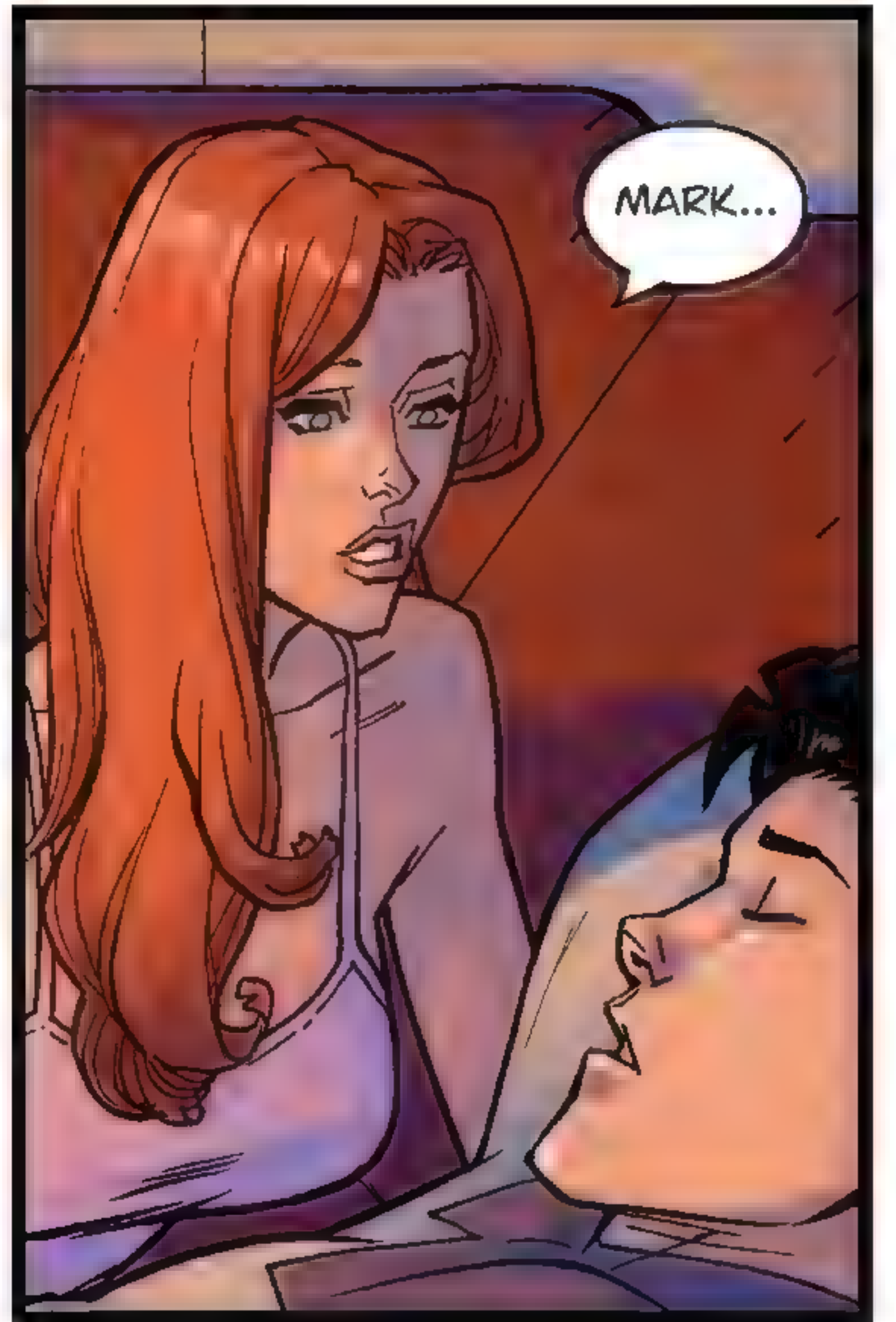
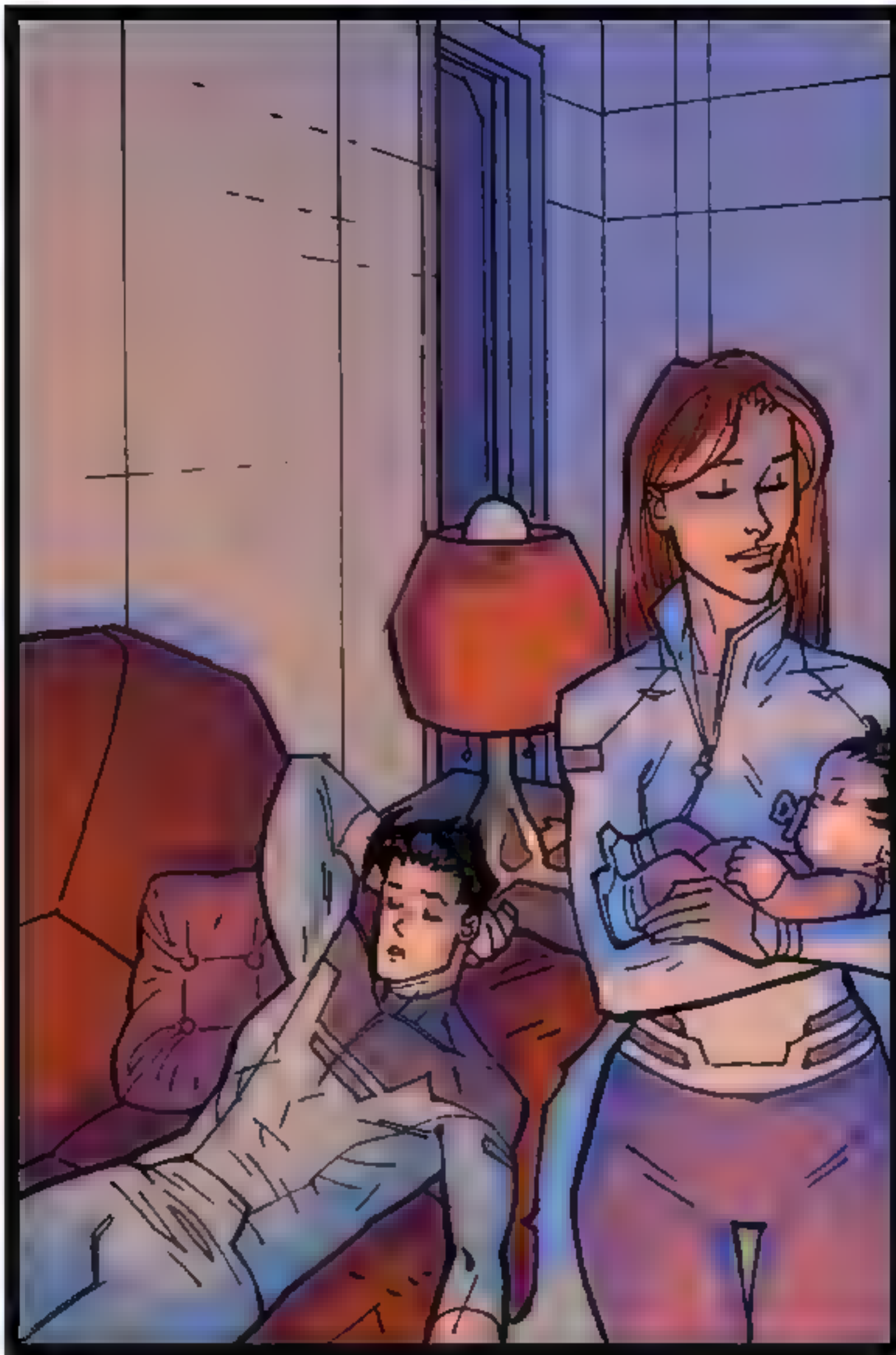
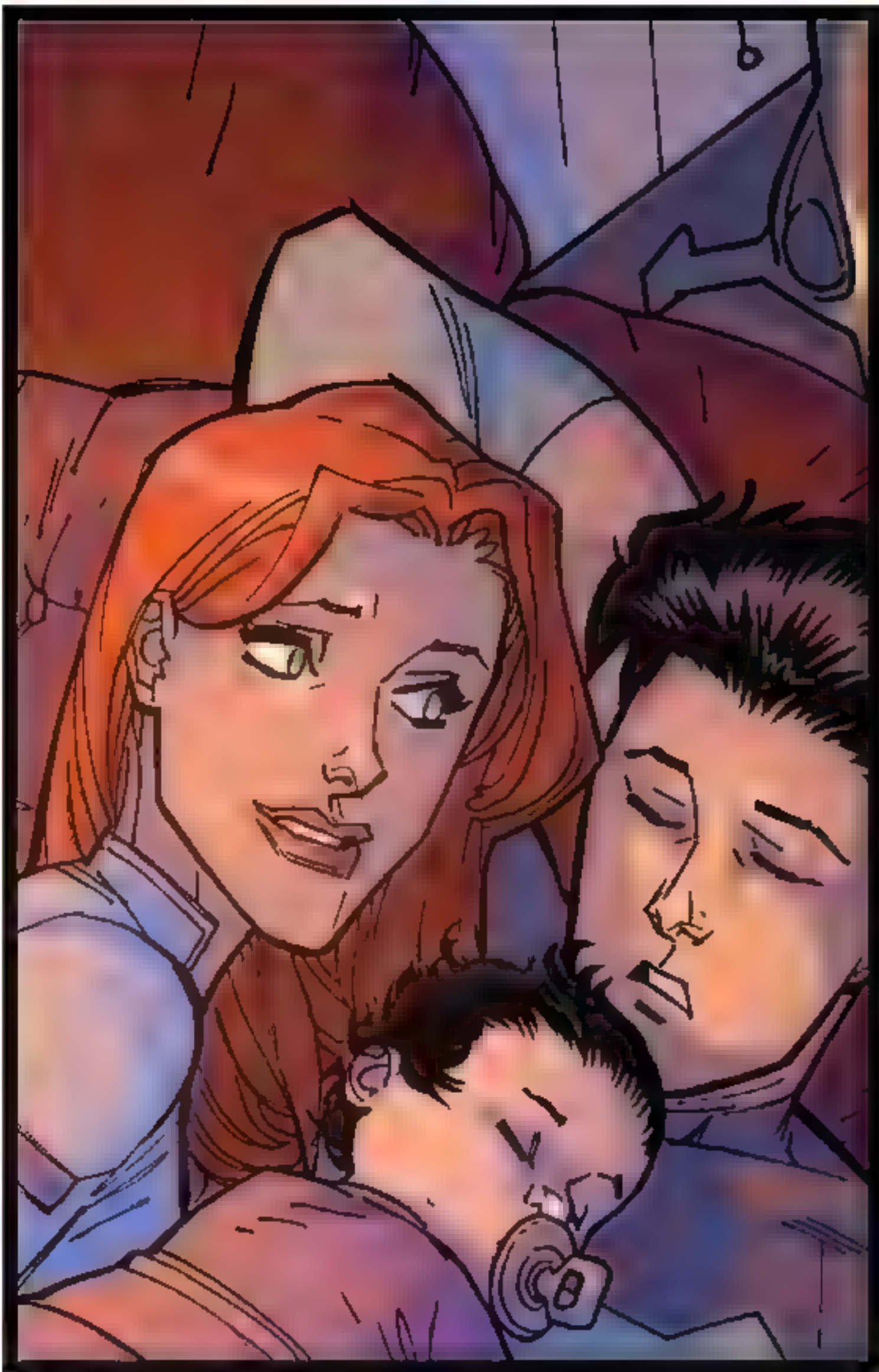
THIS IS CRAZY.

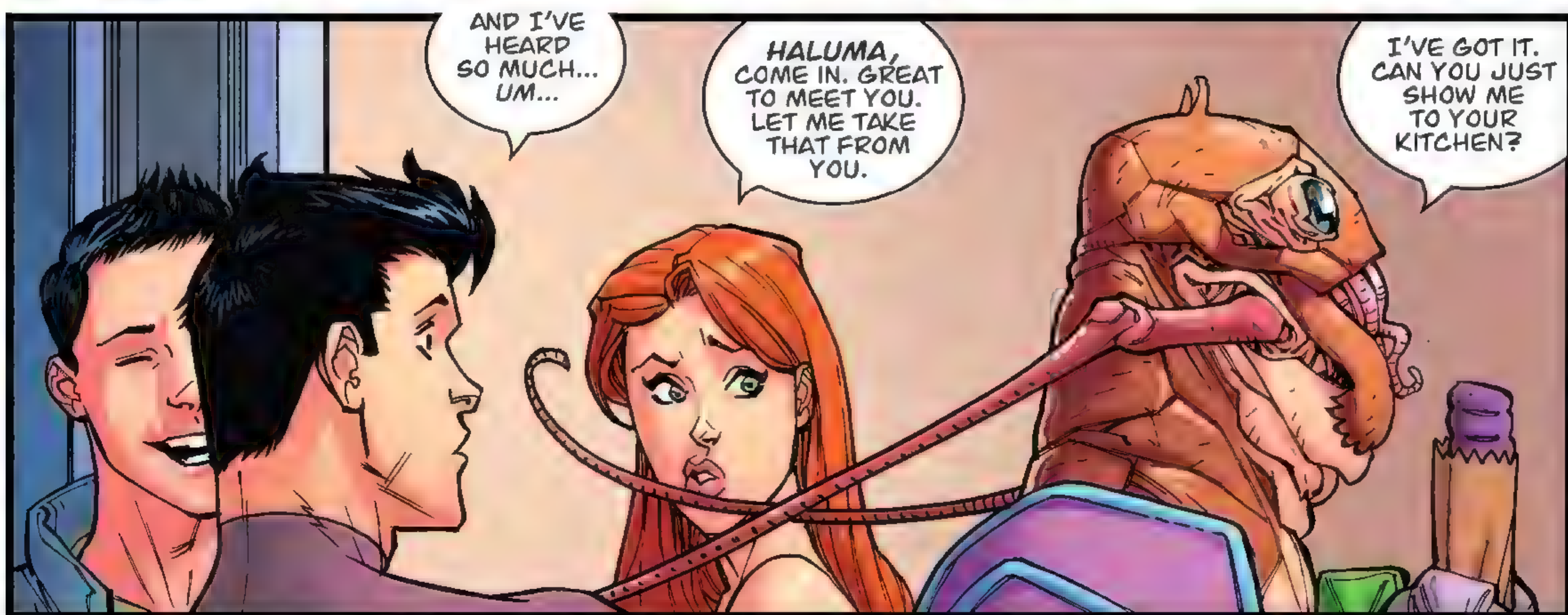
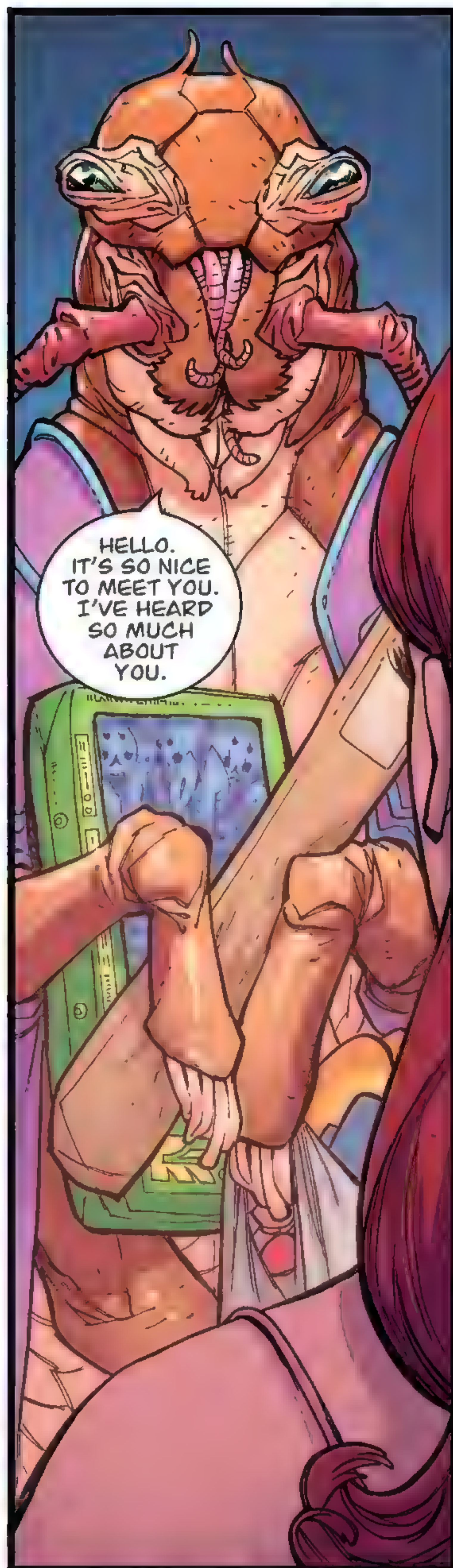
WELL, MY AGING IS SLOWING AS I GET OLDER... WE'LL PROBABLY BE THE SAME AGE FOR A WHILE, BIG BROTHER.

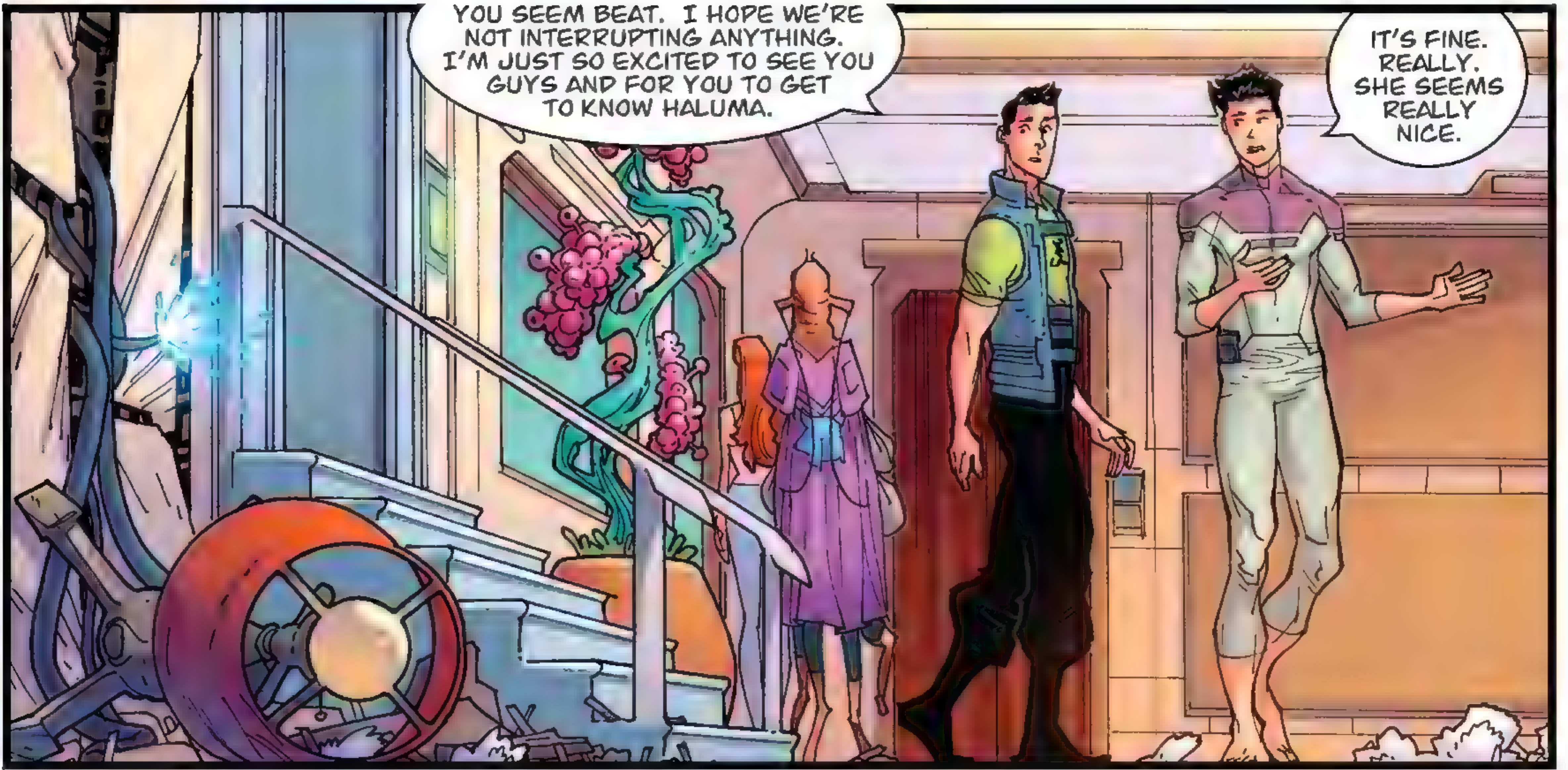




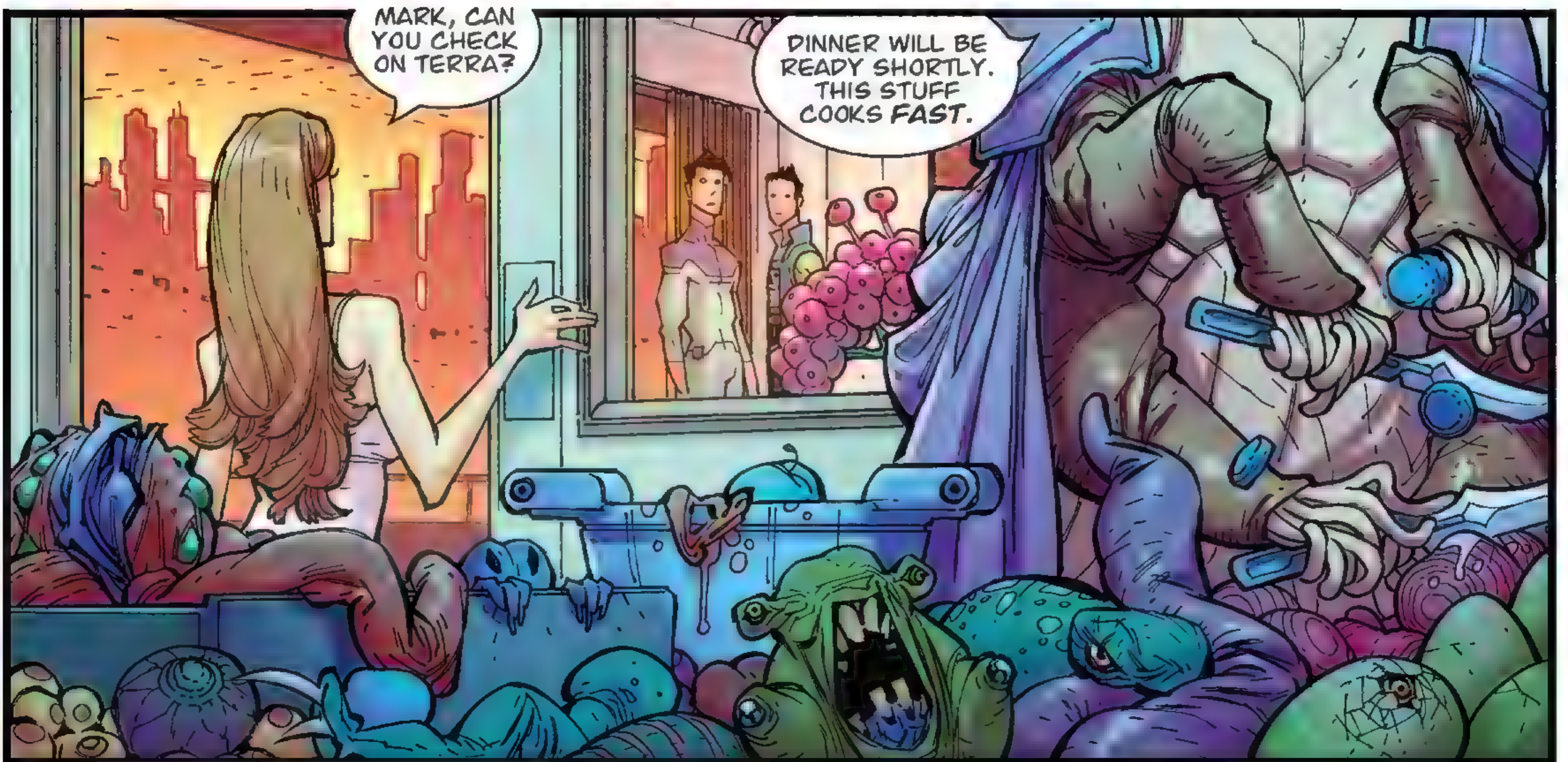
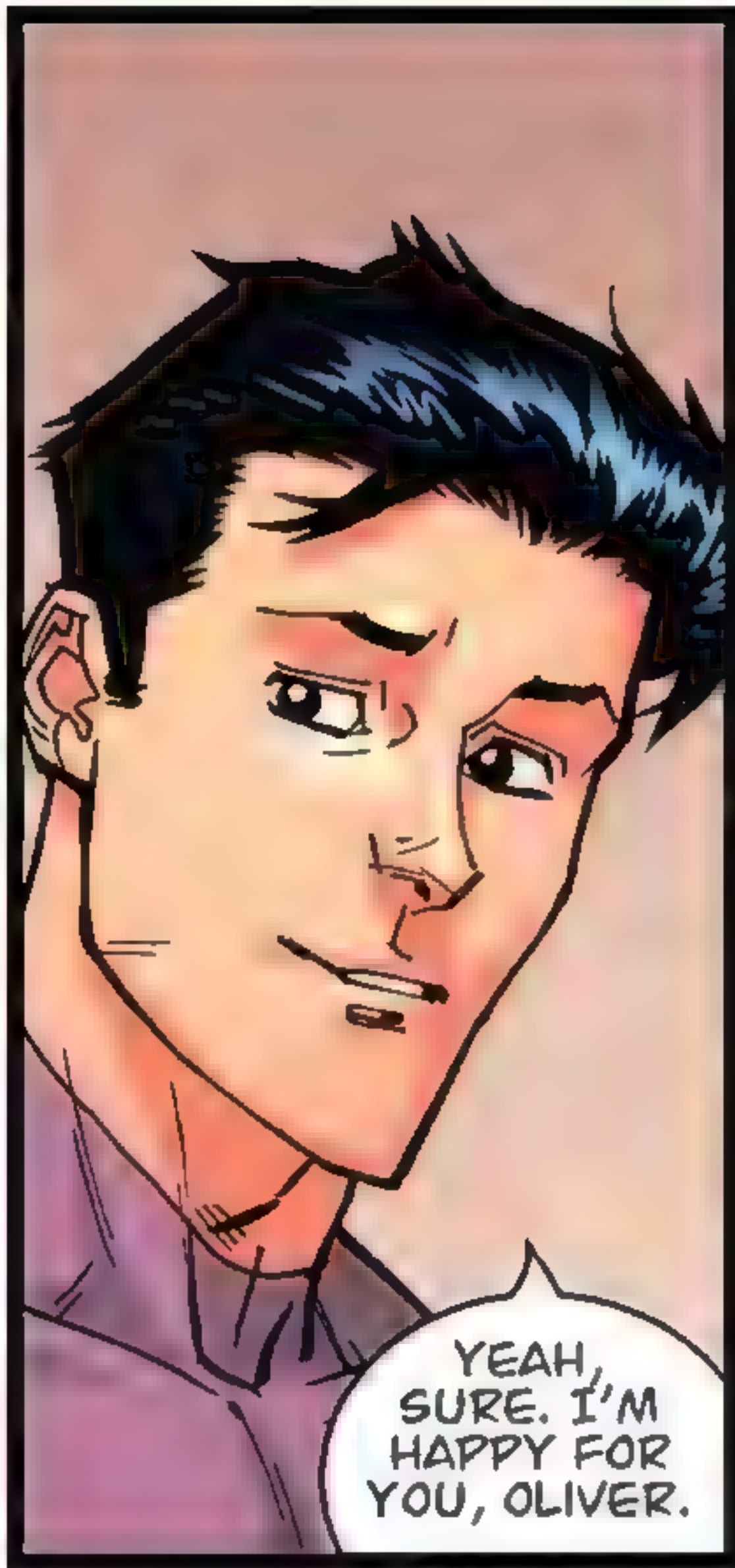


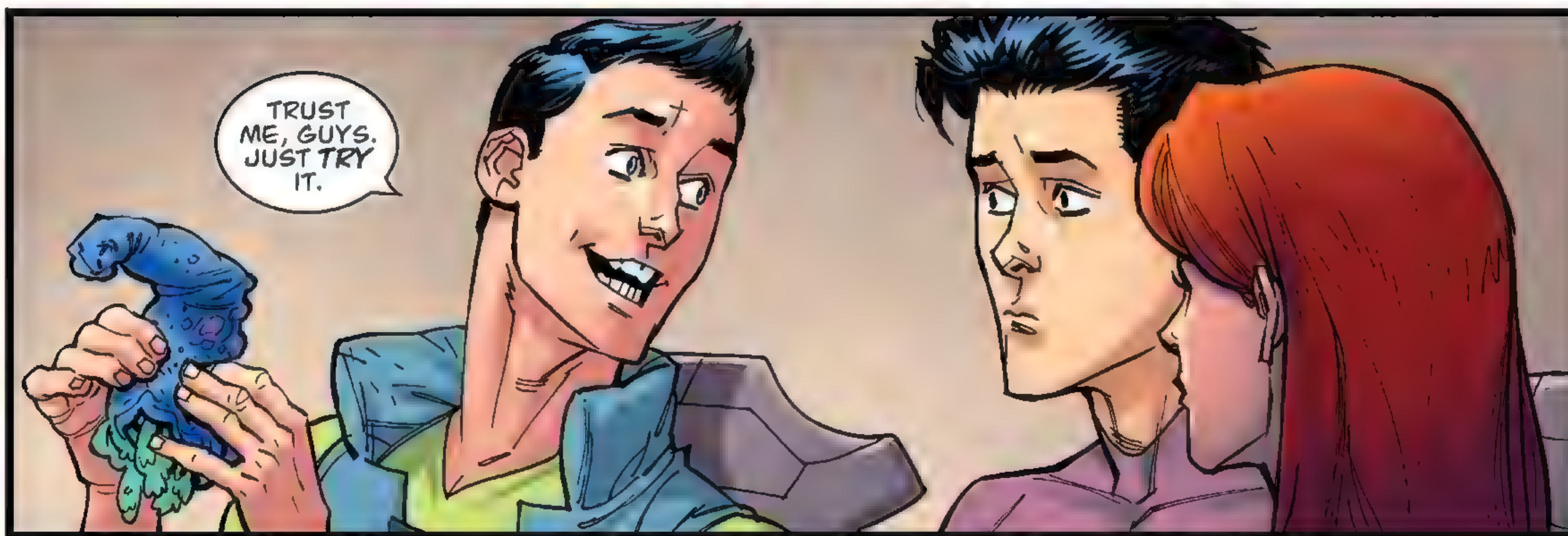


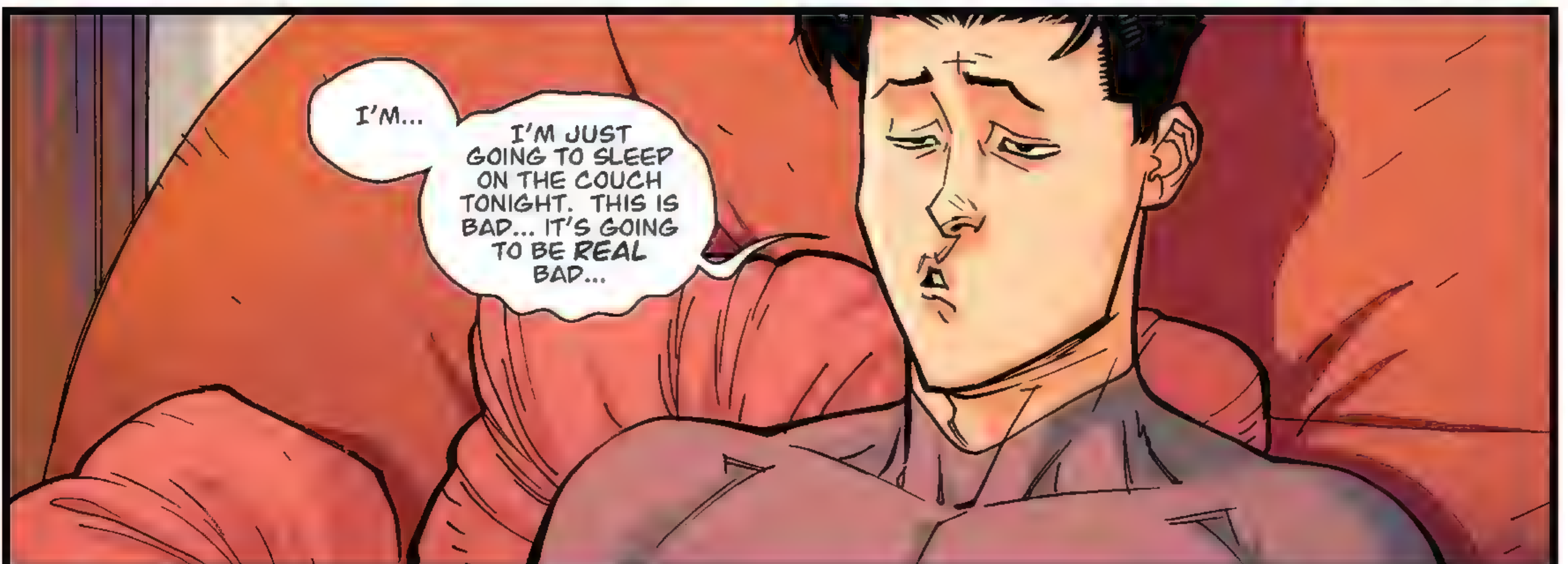
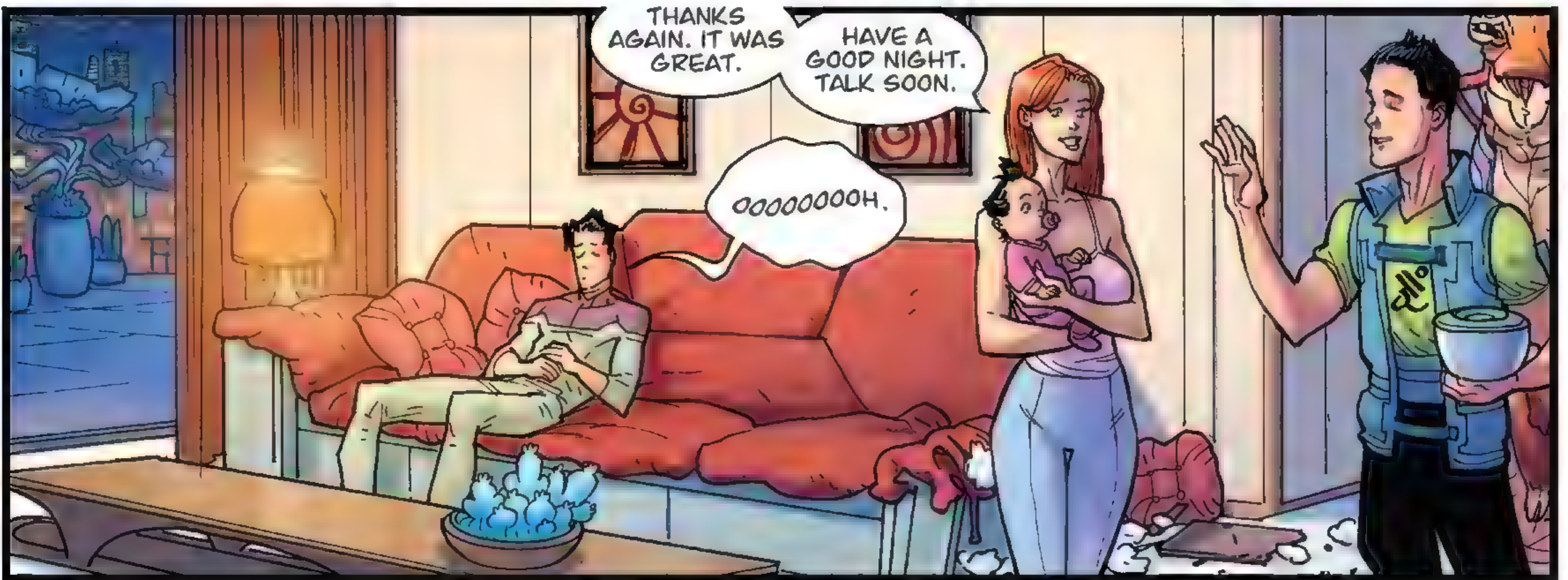
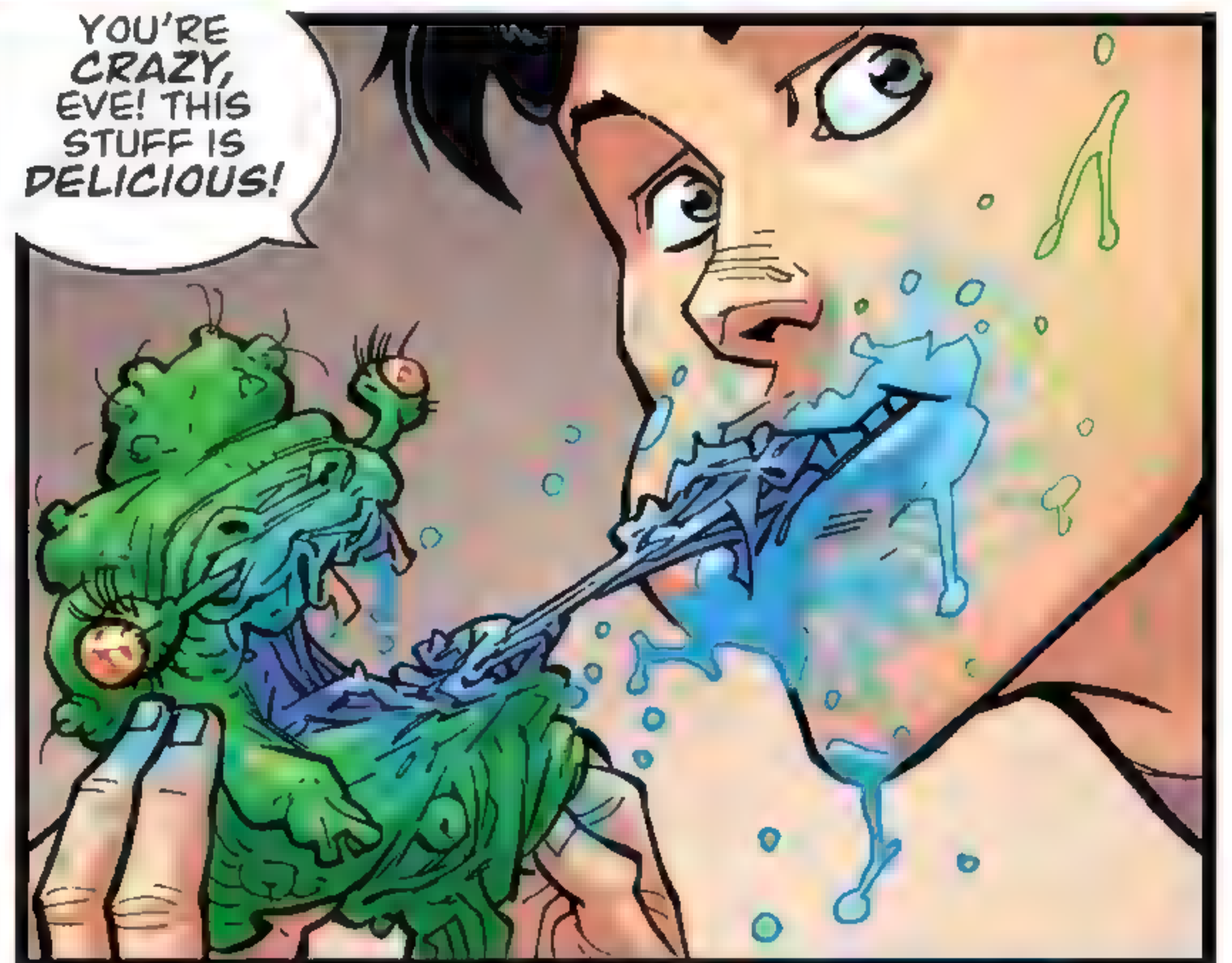
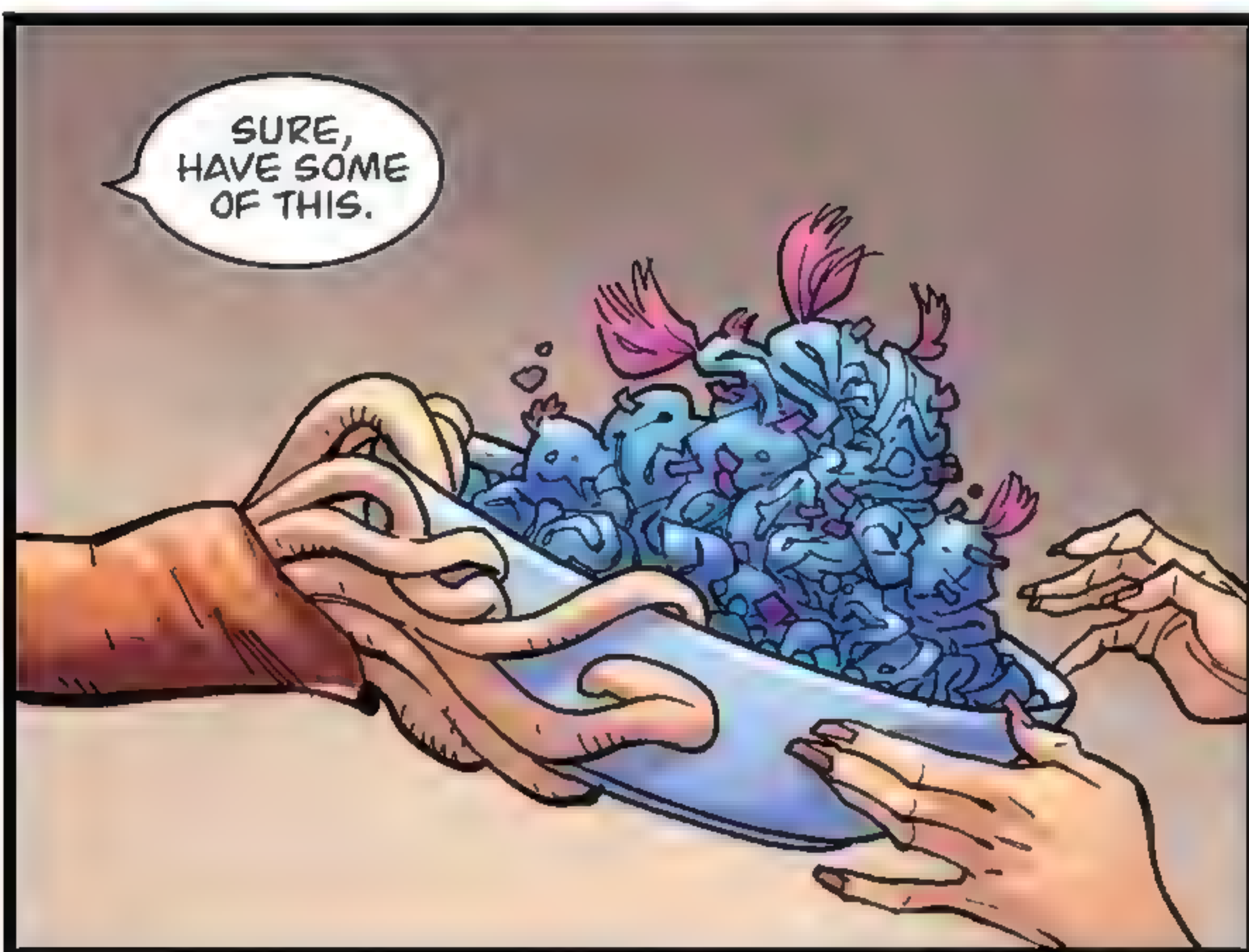
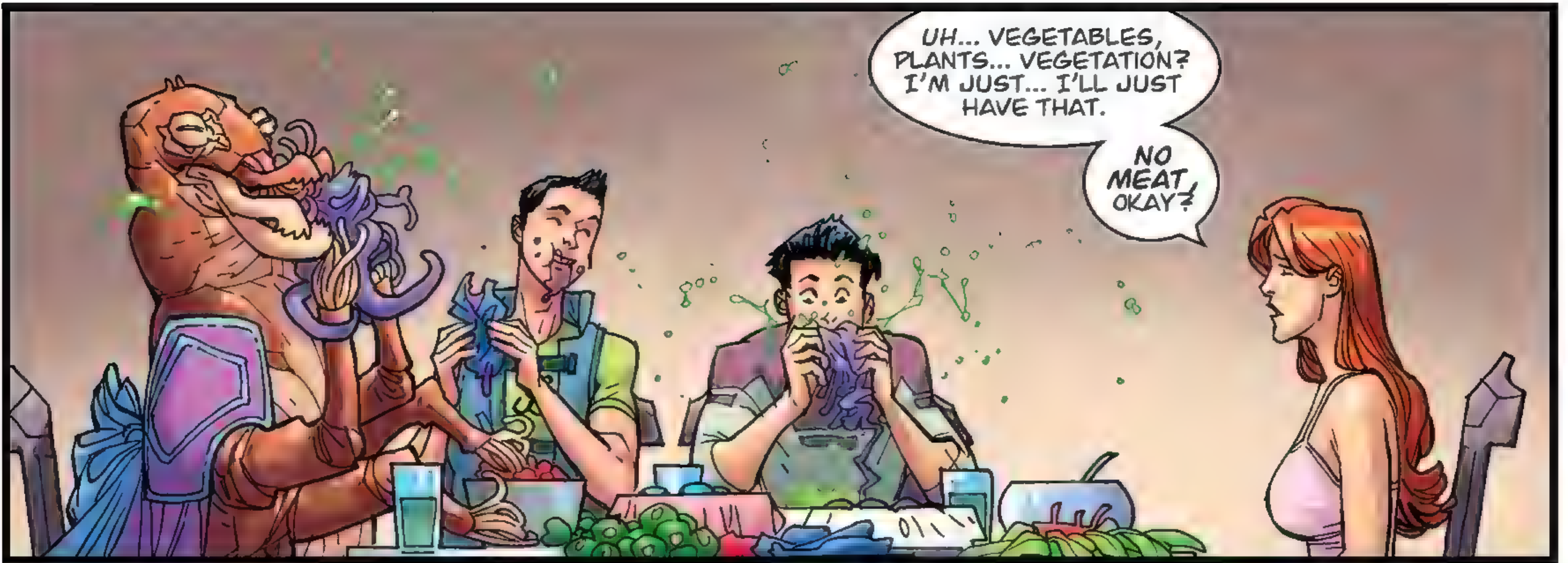


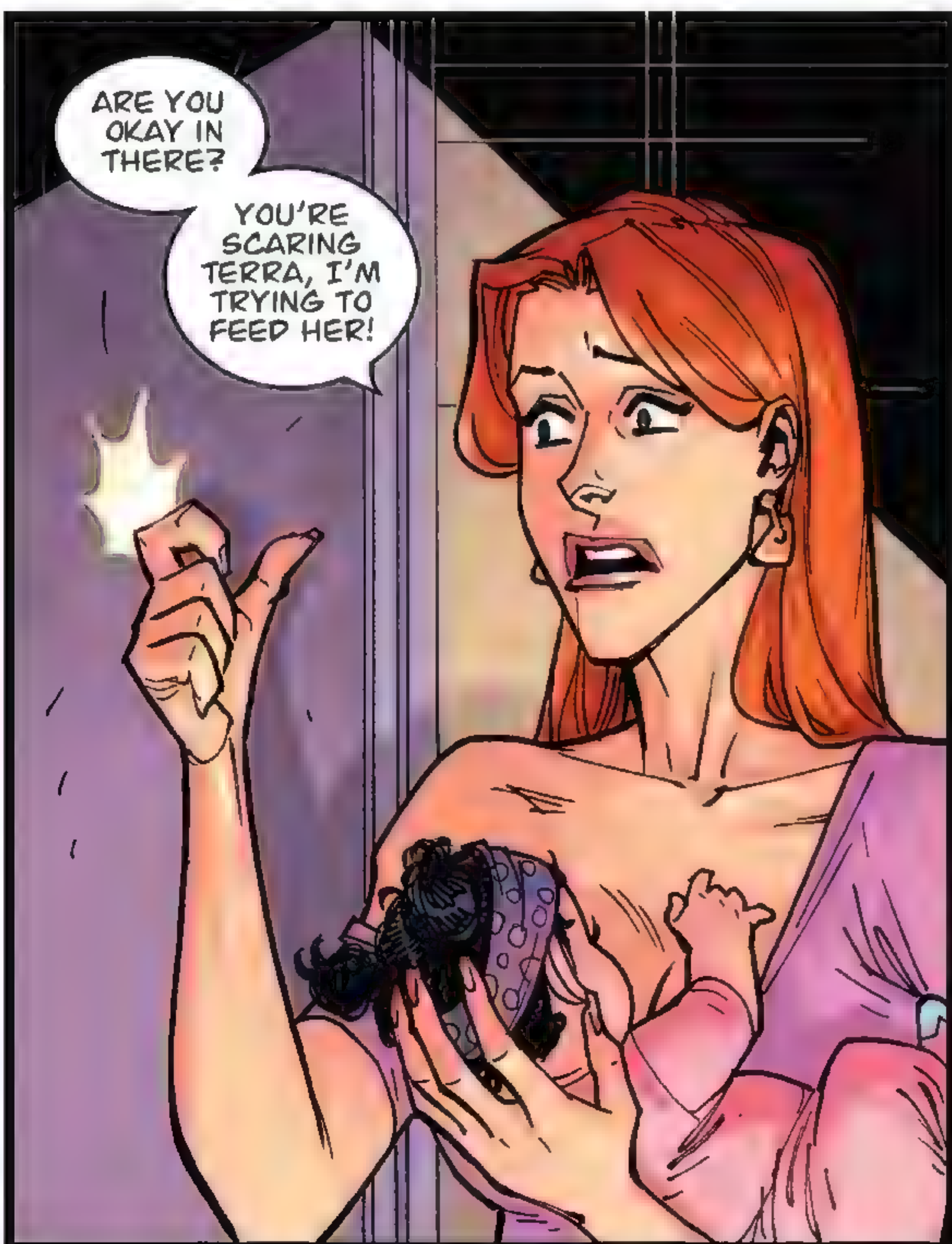


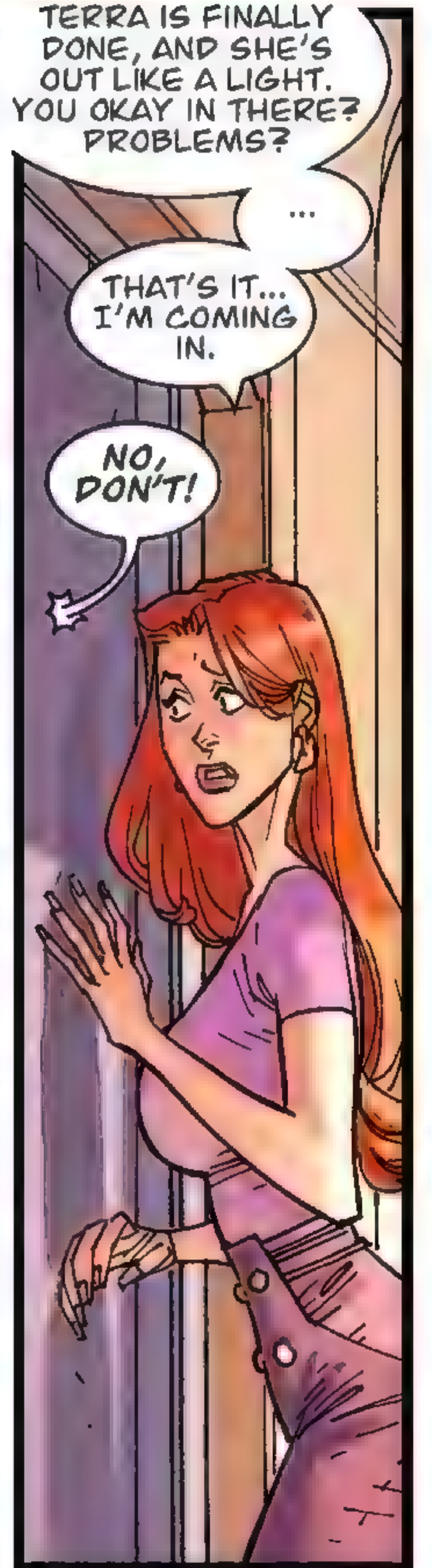
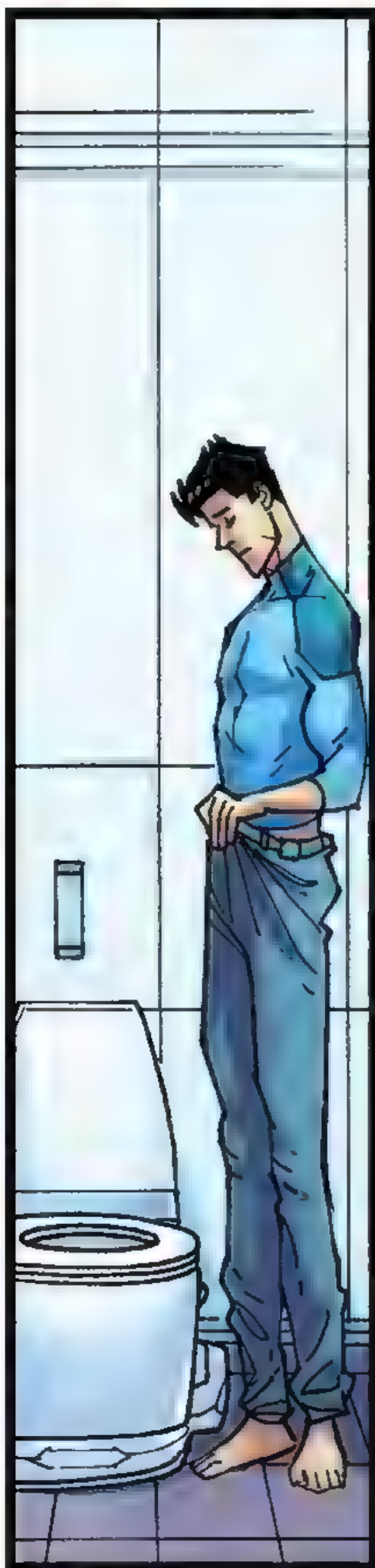
I KNOW SHE DOESN'T SEEM LIKE THE IDEAL MATE TO YOU... BUT I THINK NOW YOU GET A SENSE OF HOW I SAW EVERYONE ON EARTH DURING MY TIME THERE.

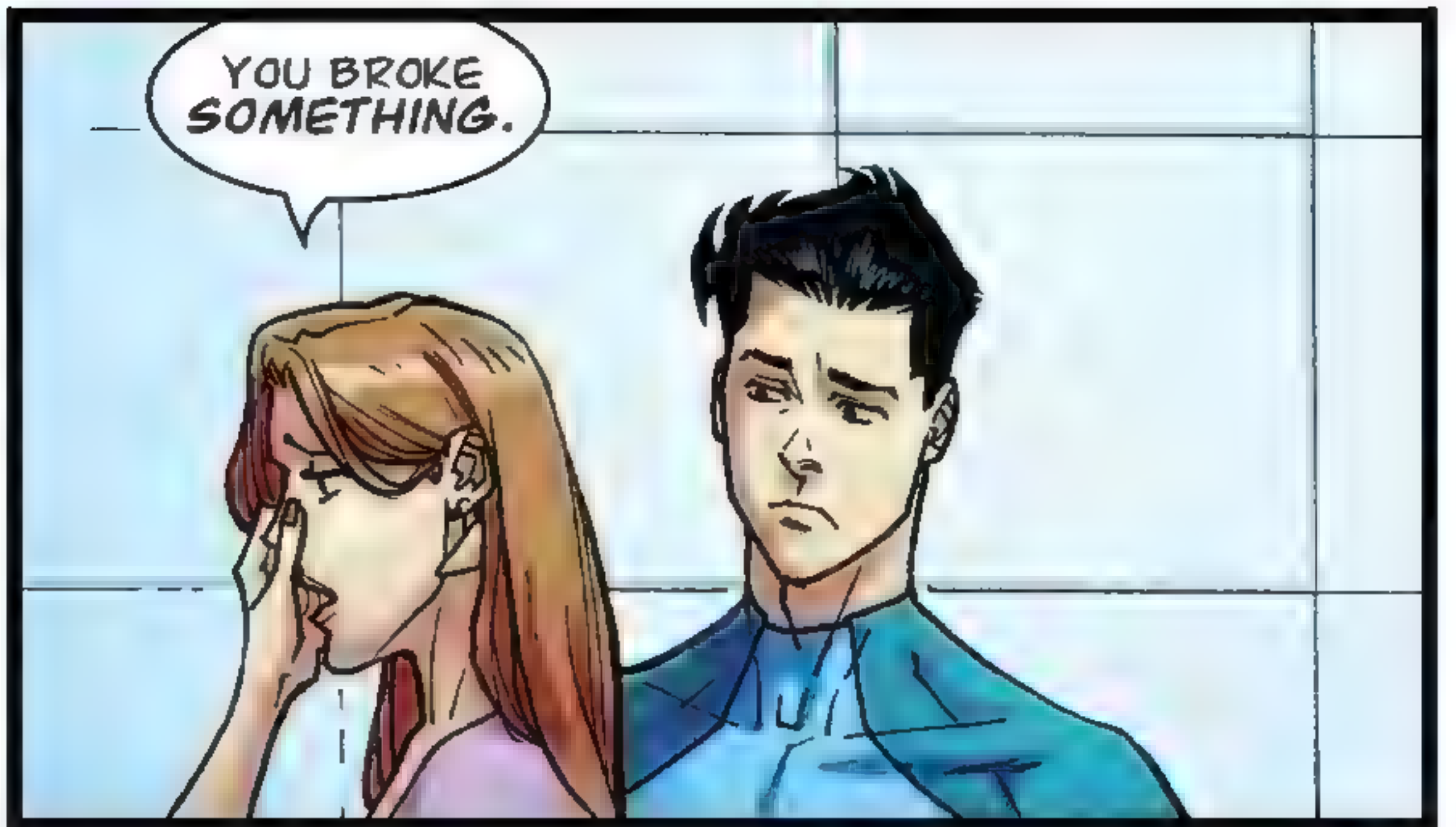


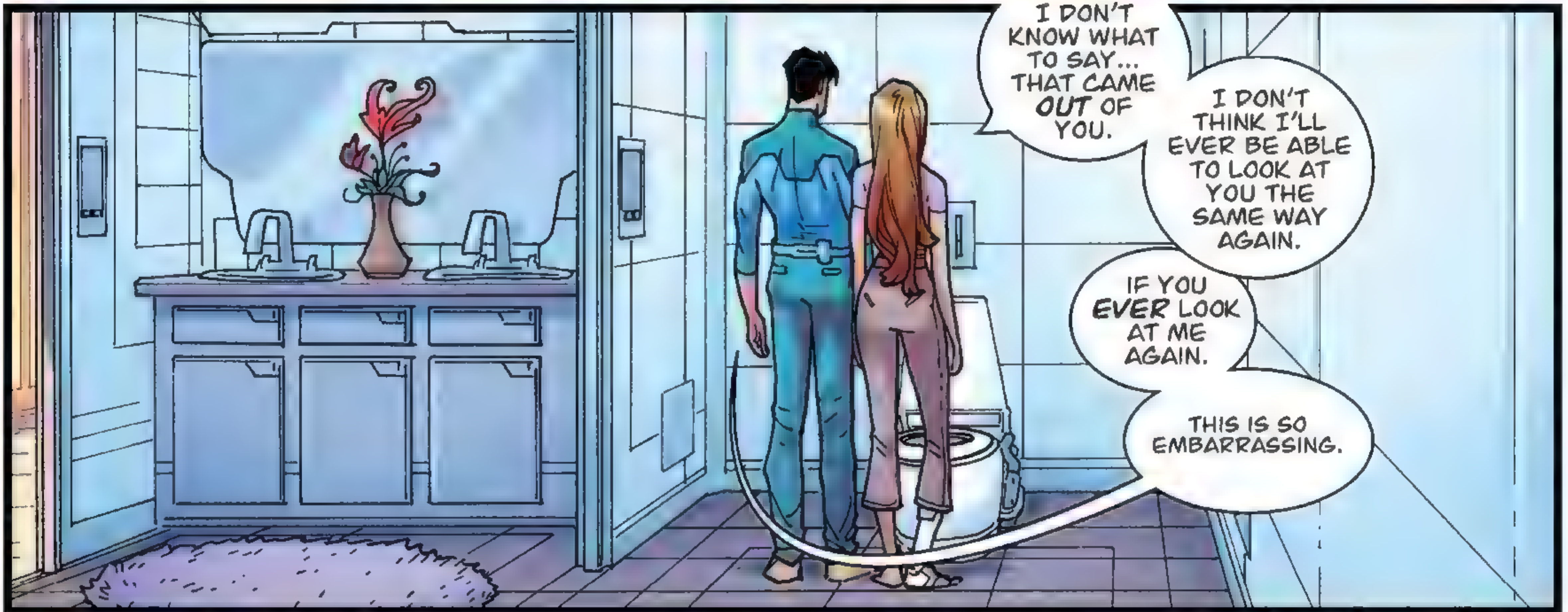
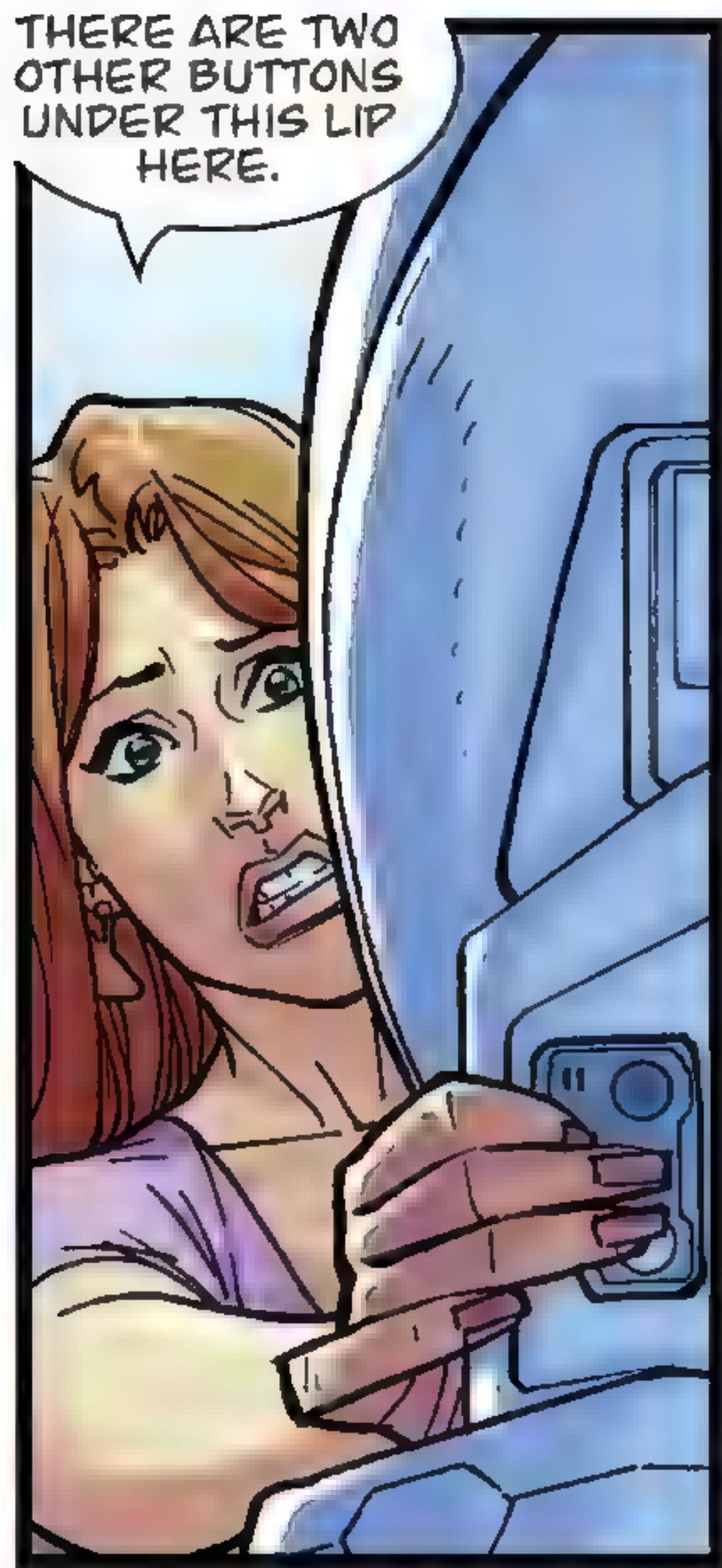


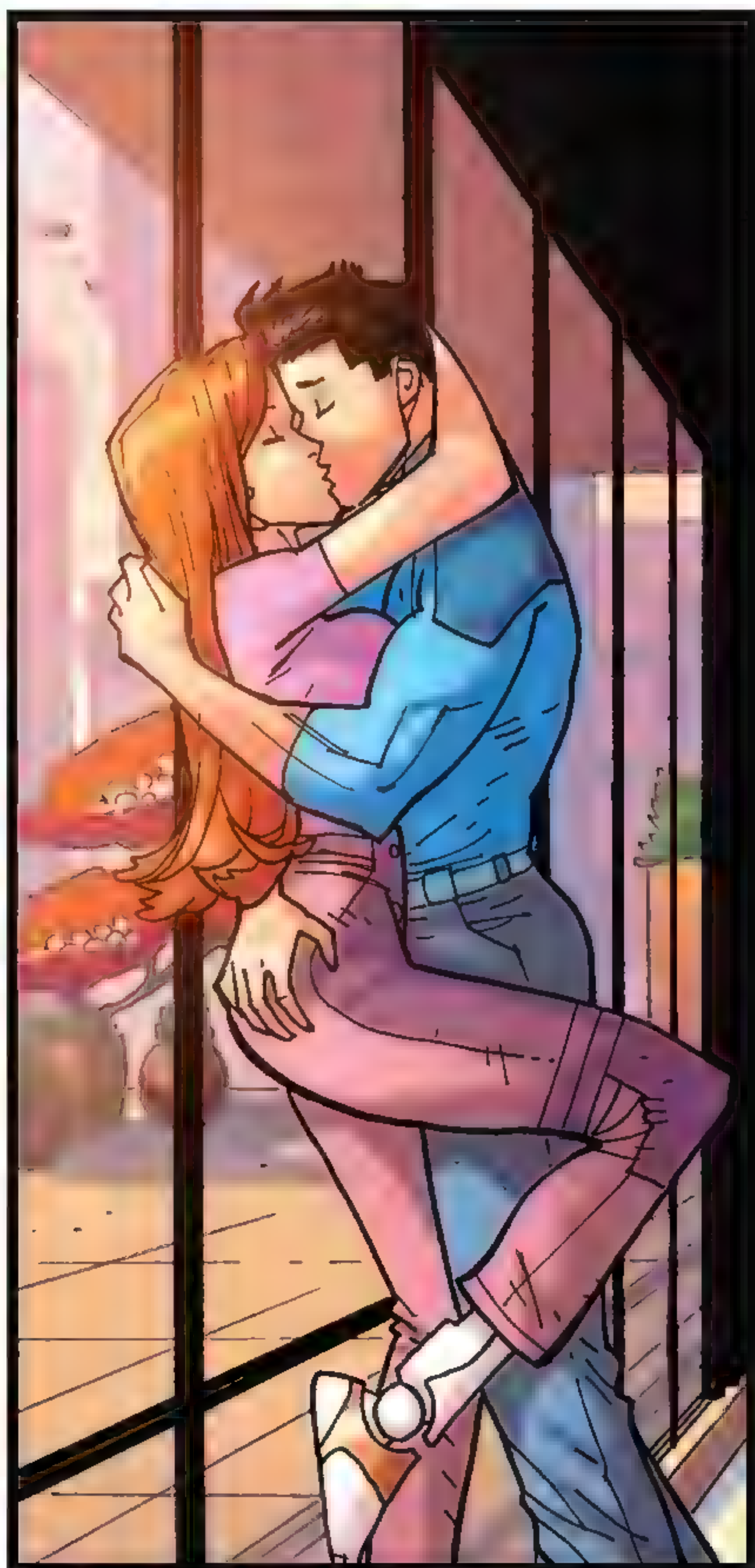
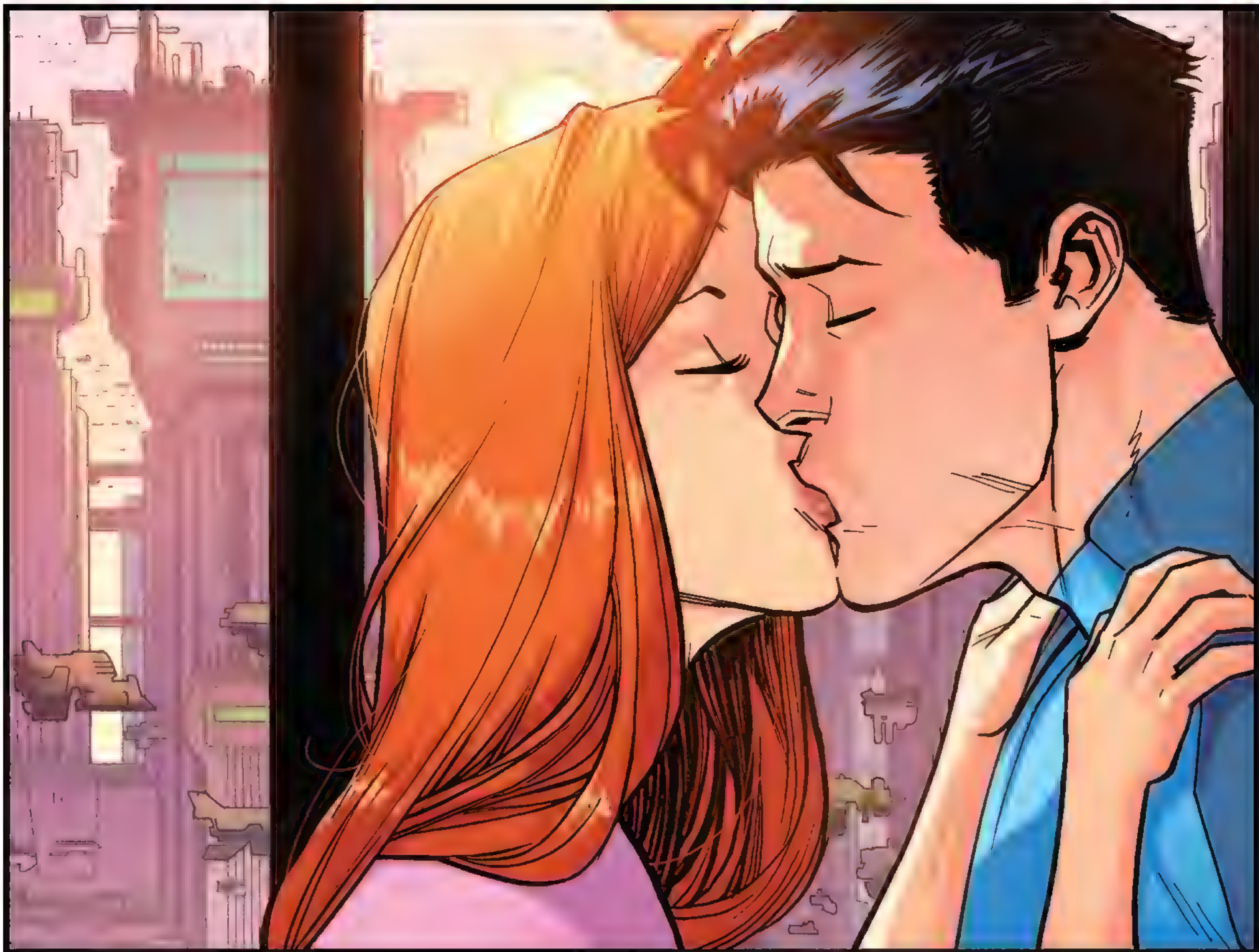


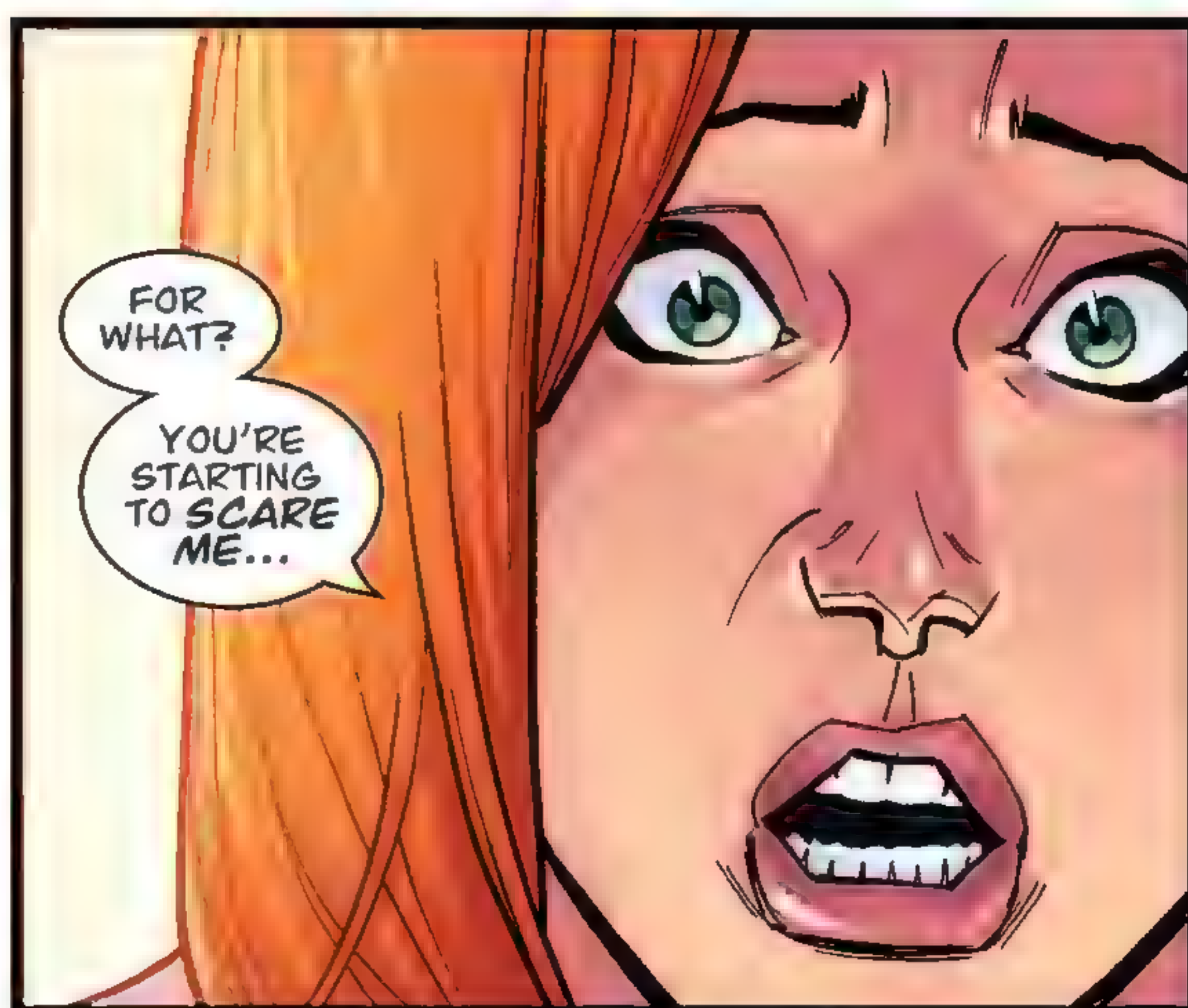
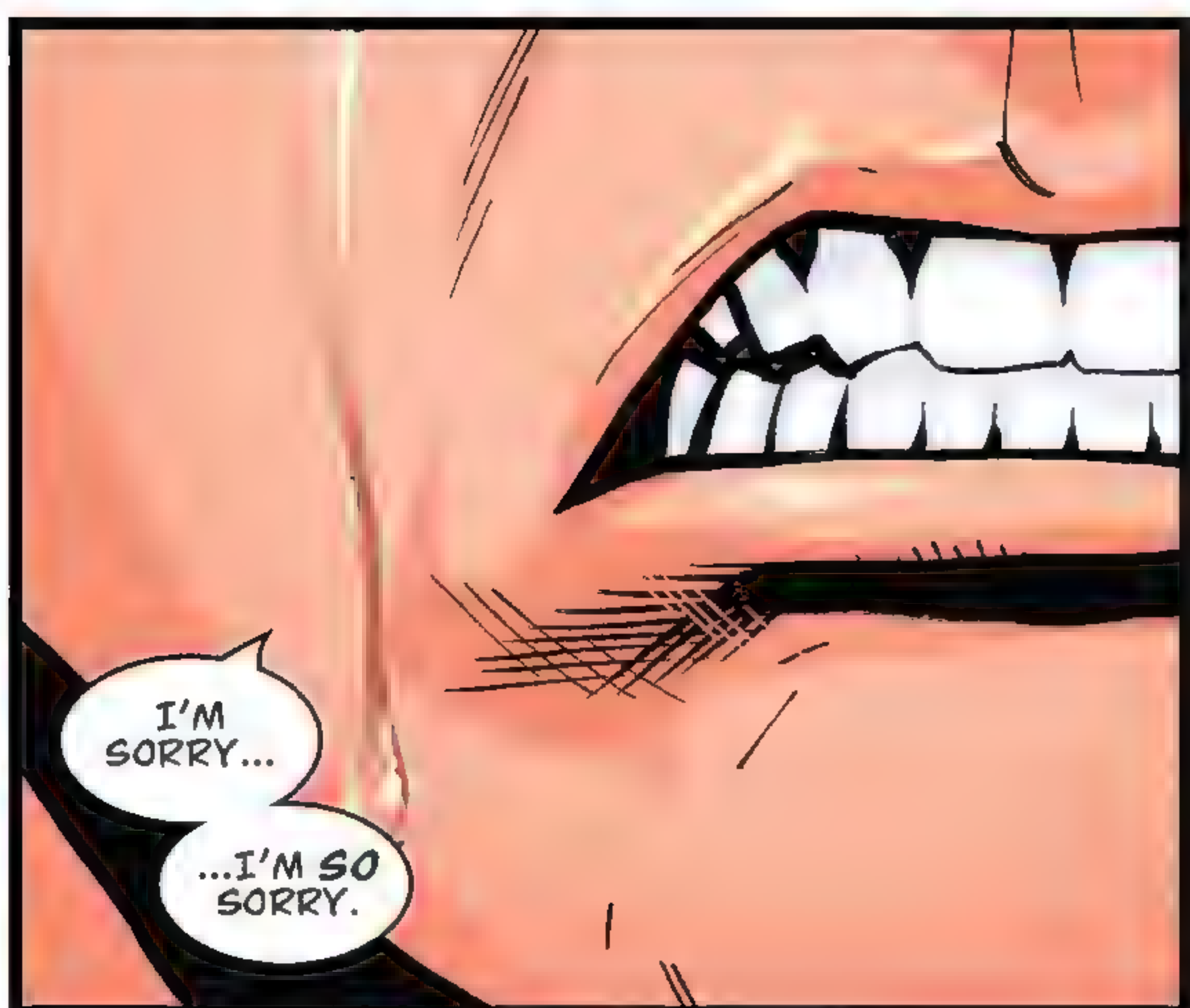
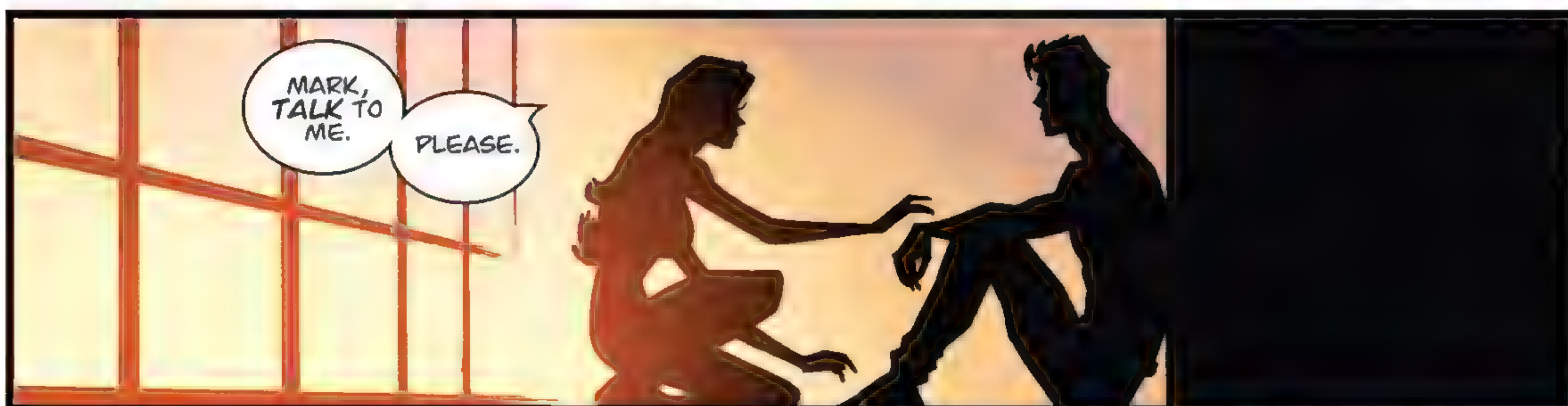
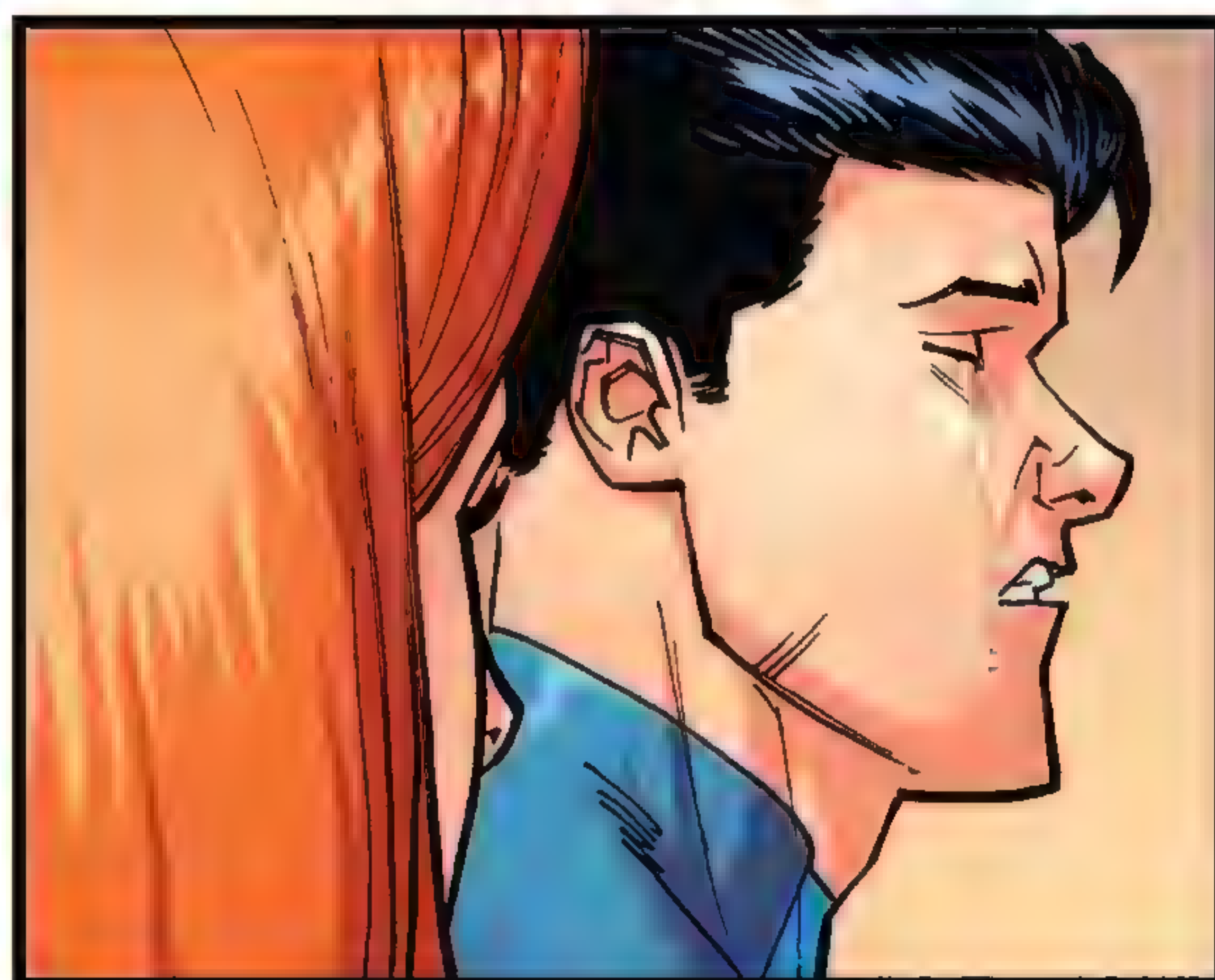
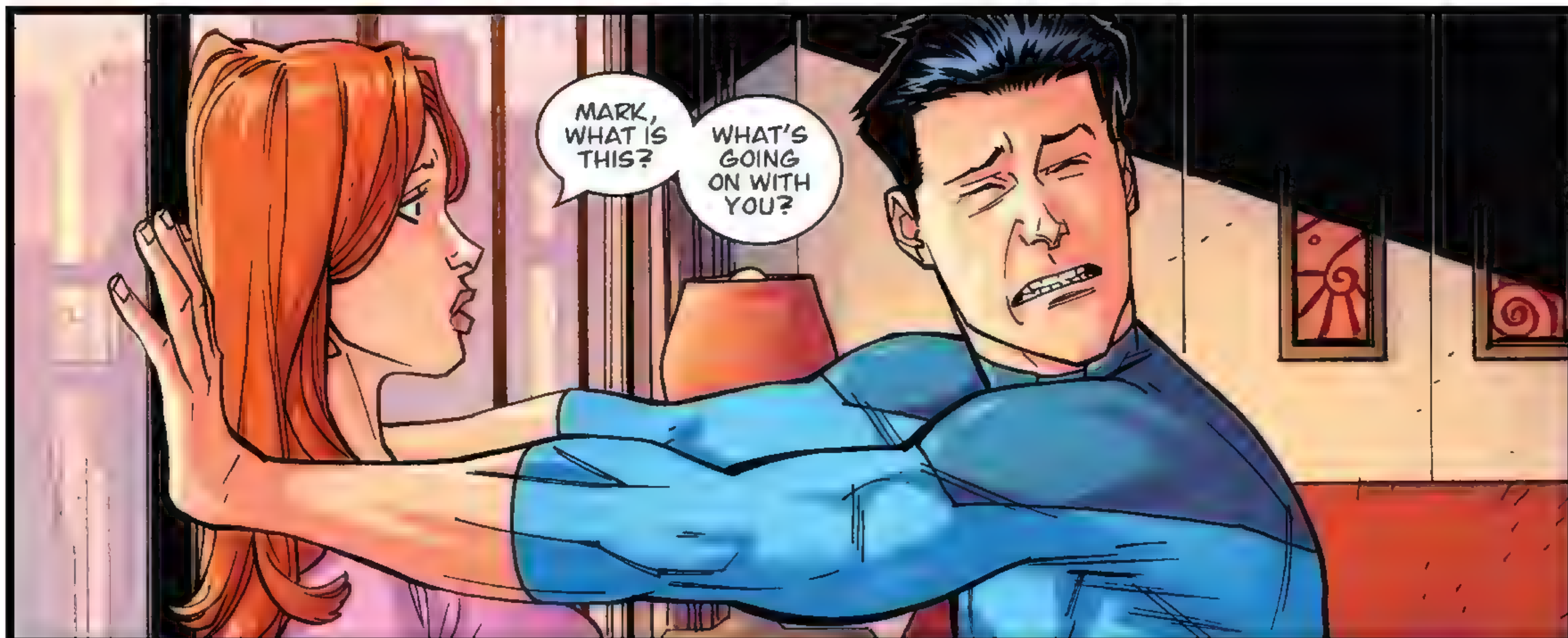


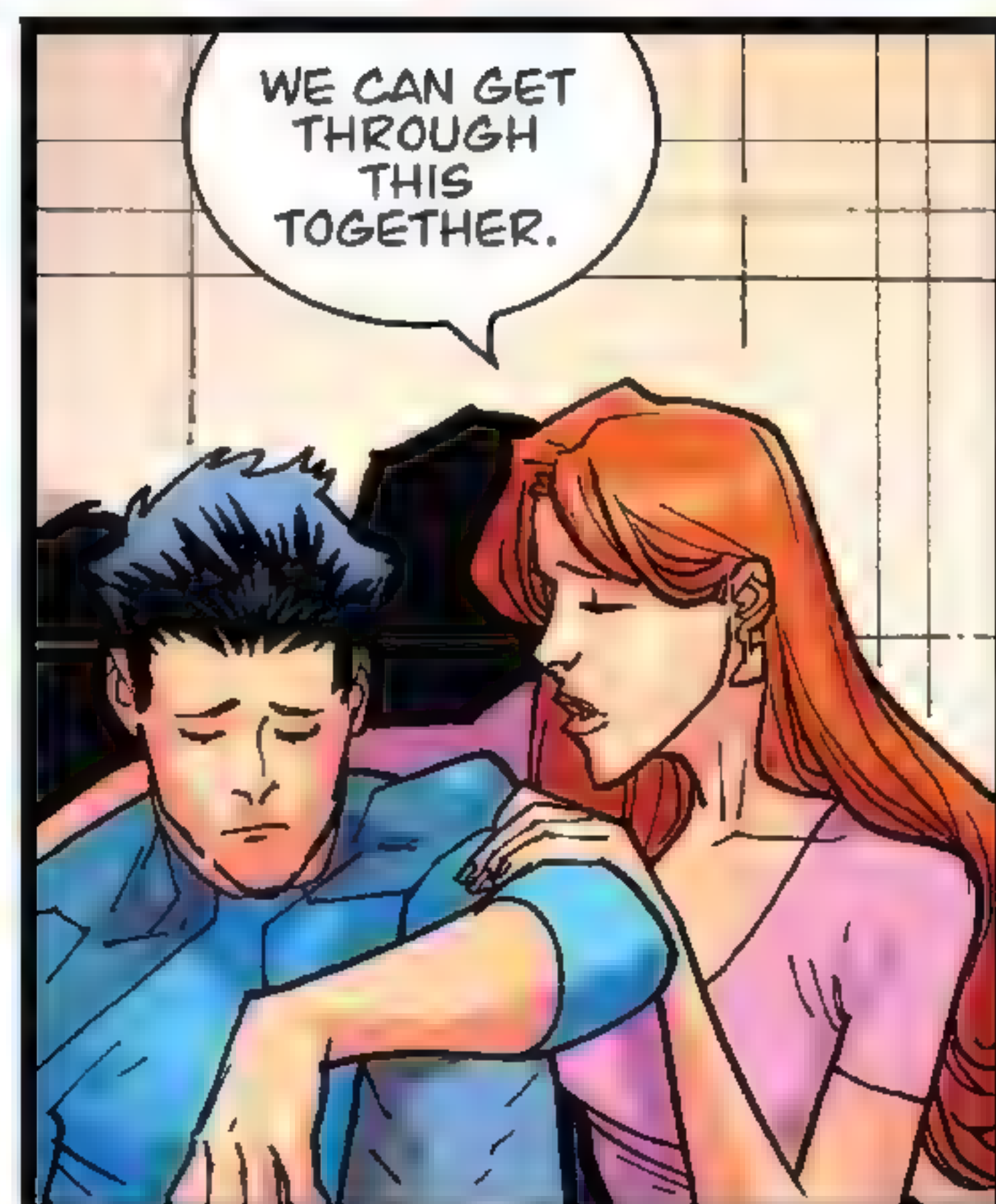
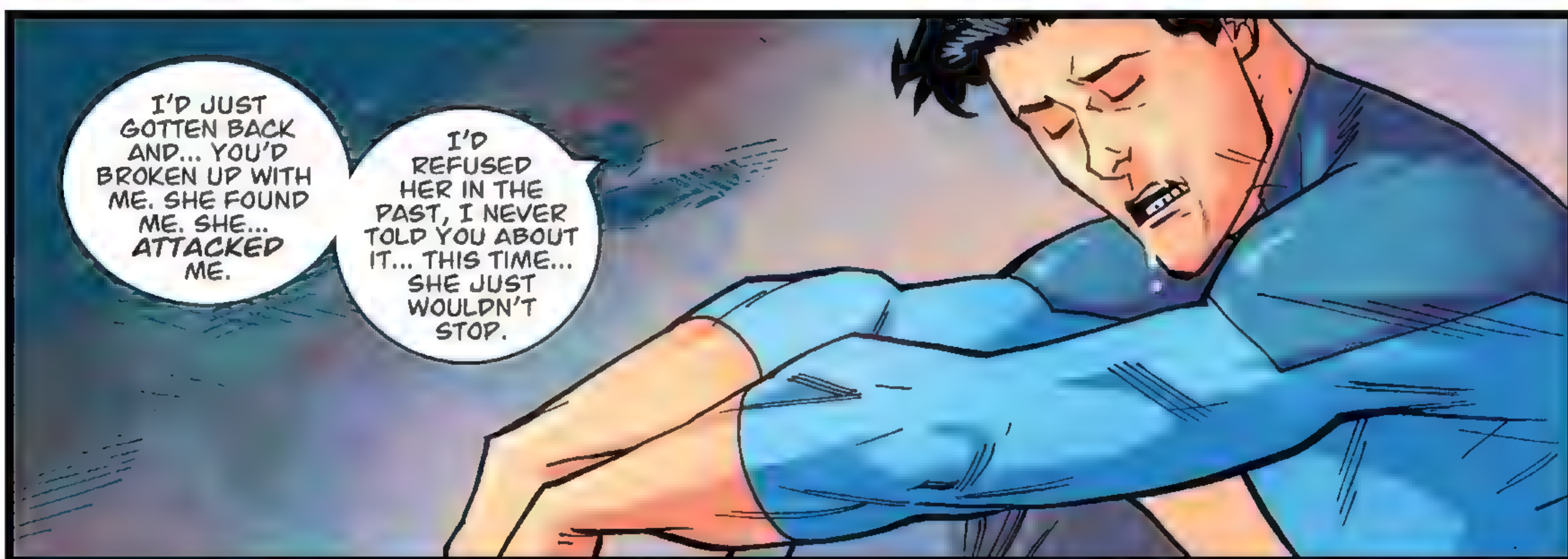
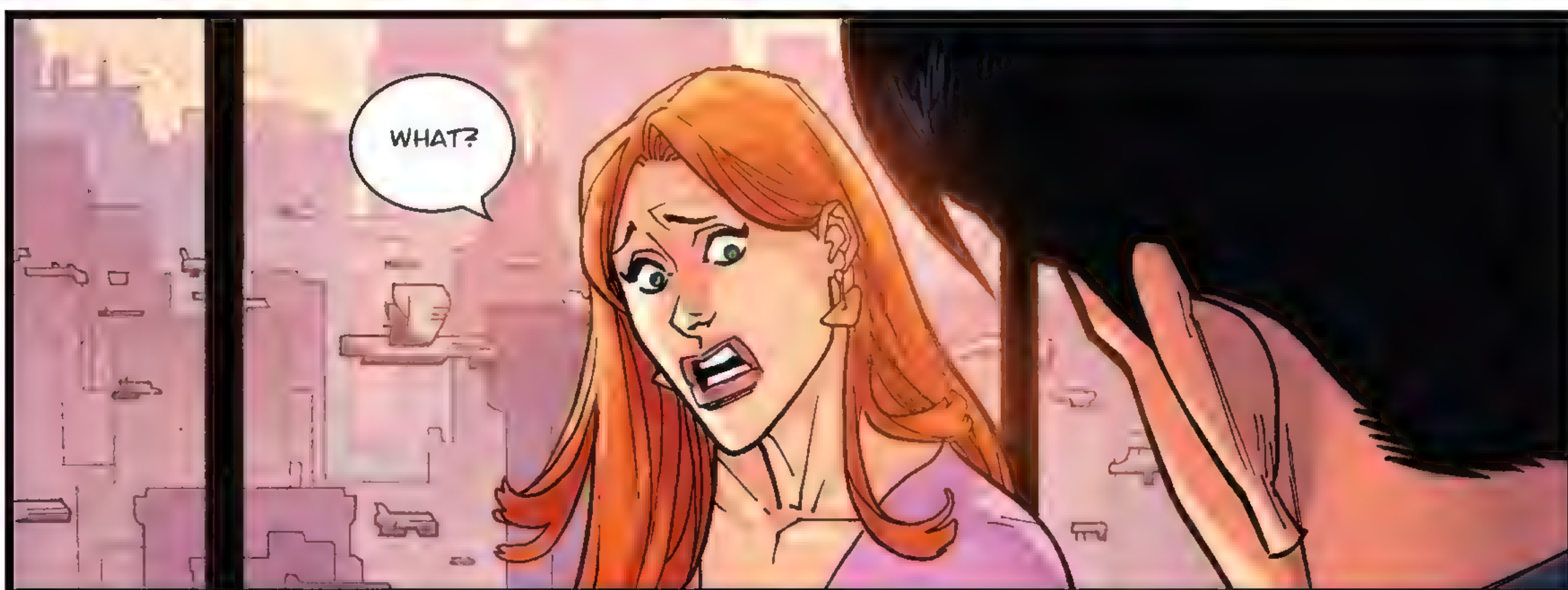


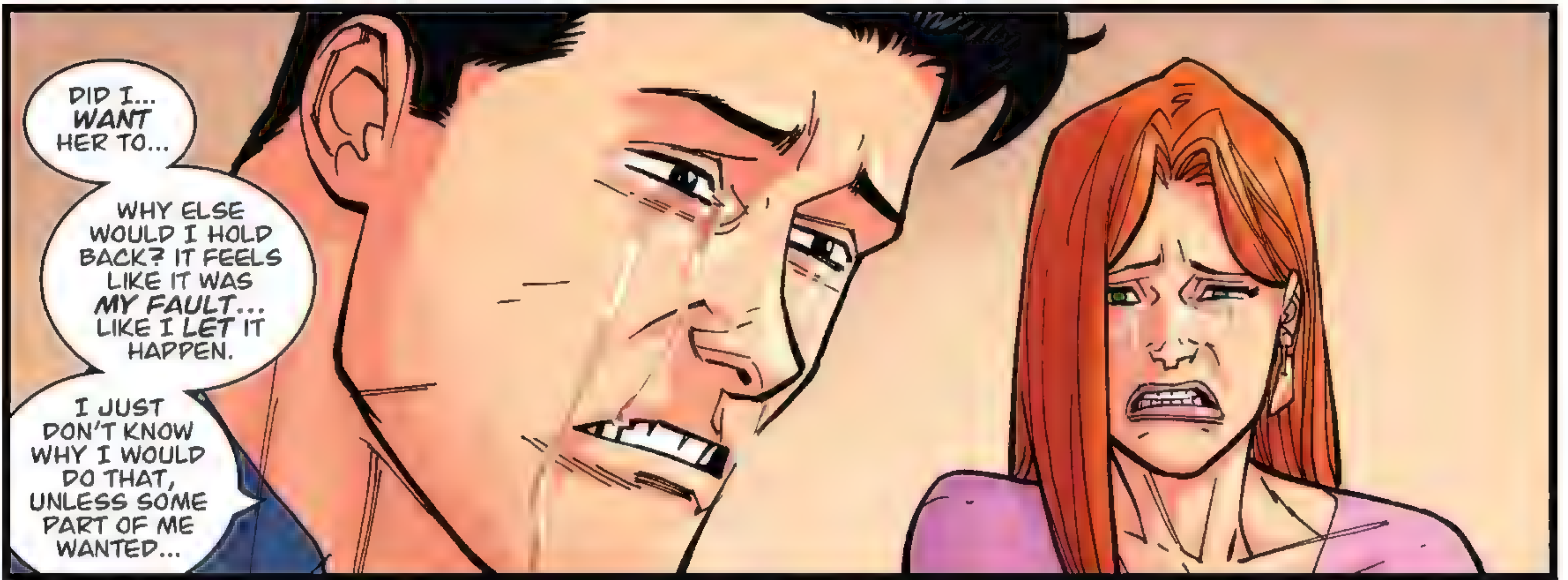










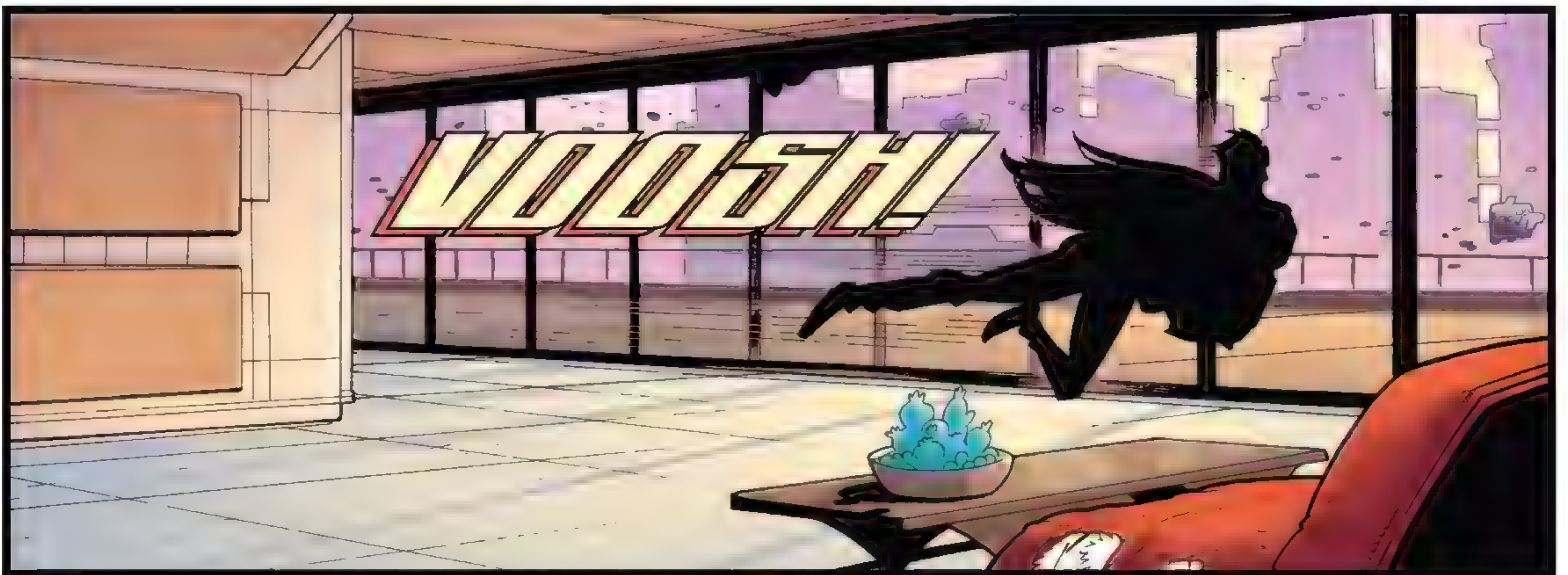
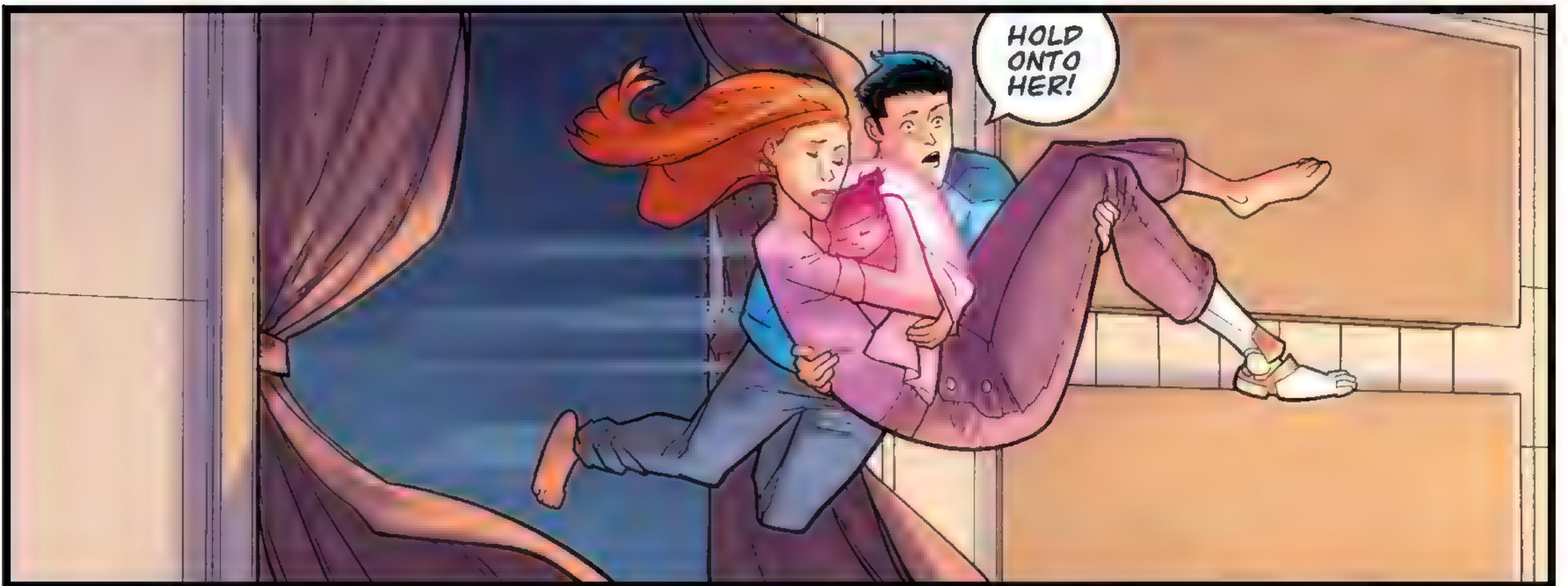
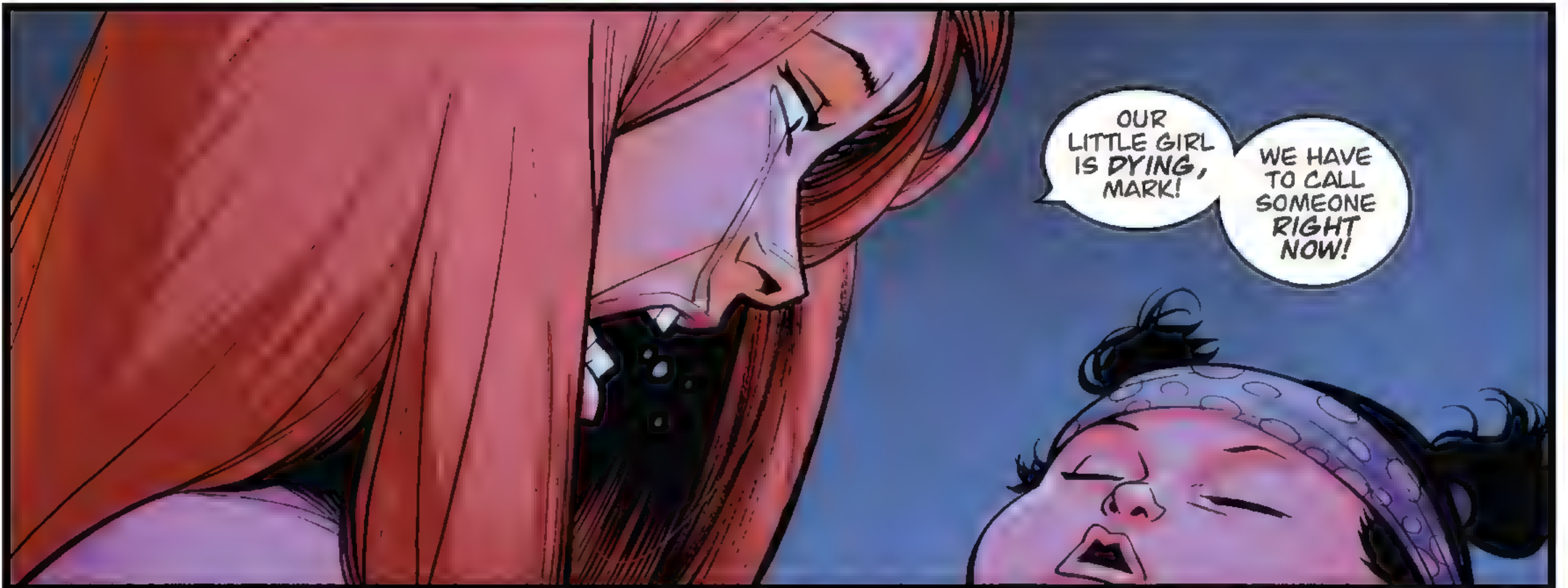






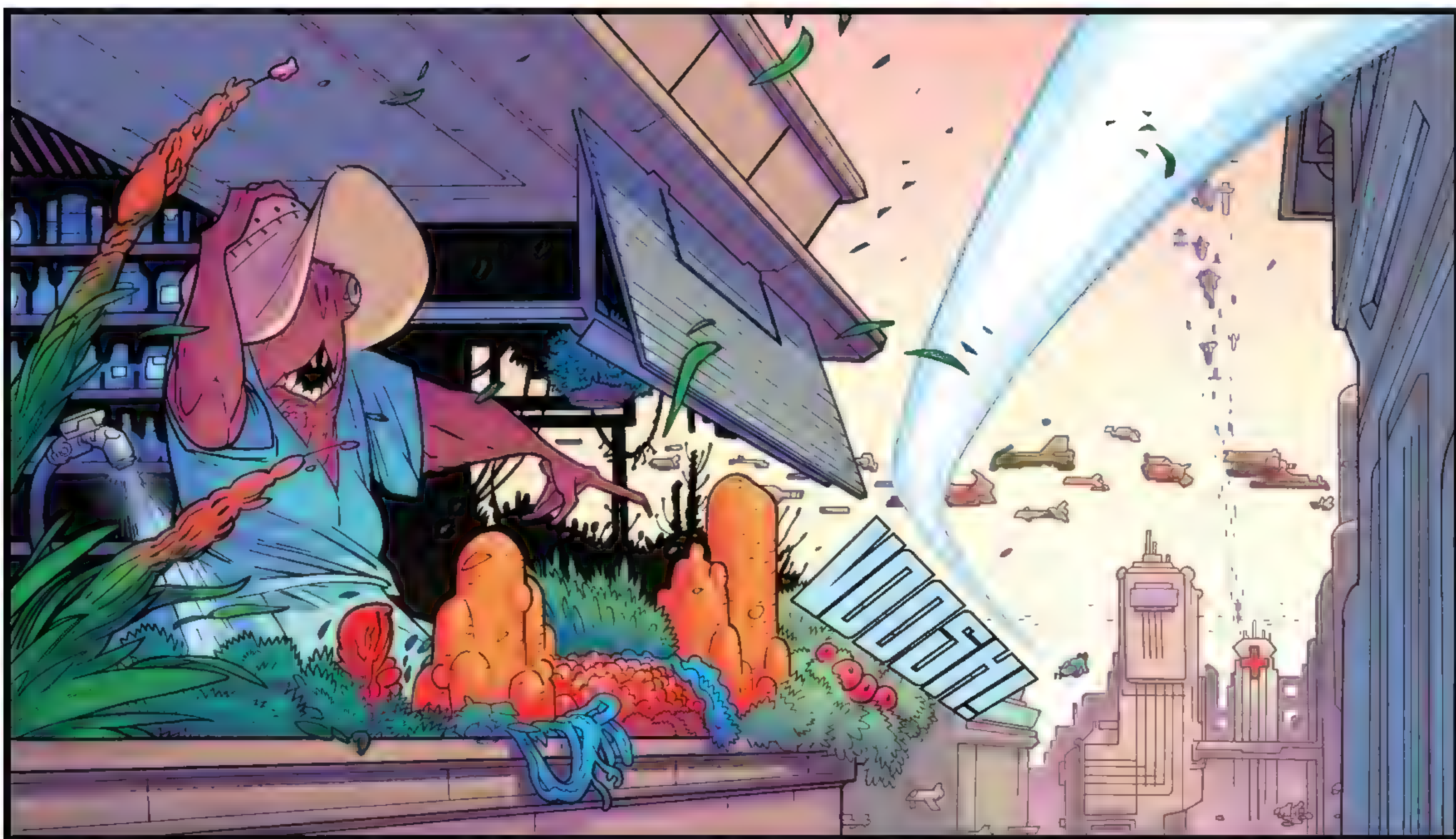
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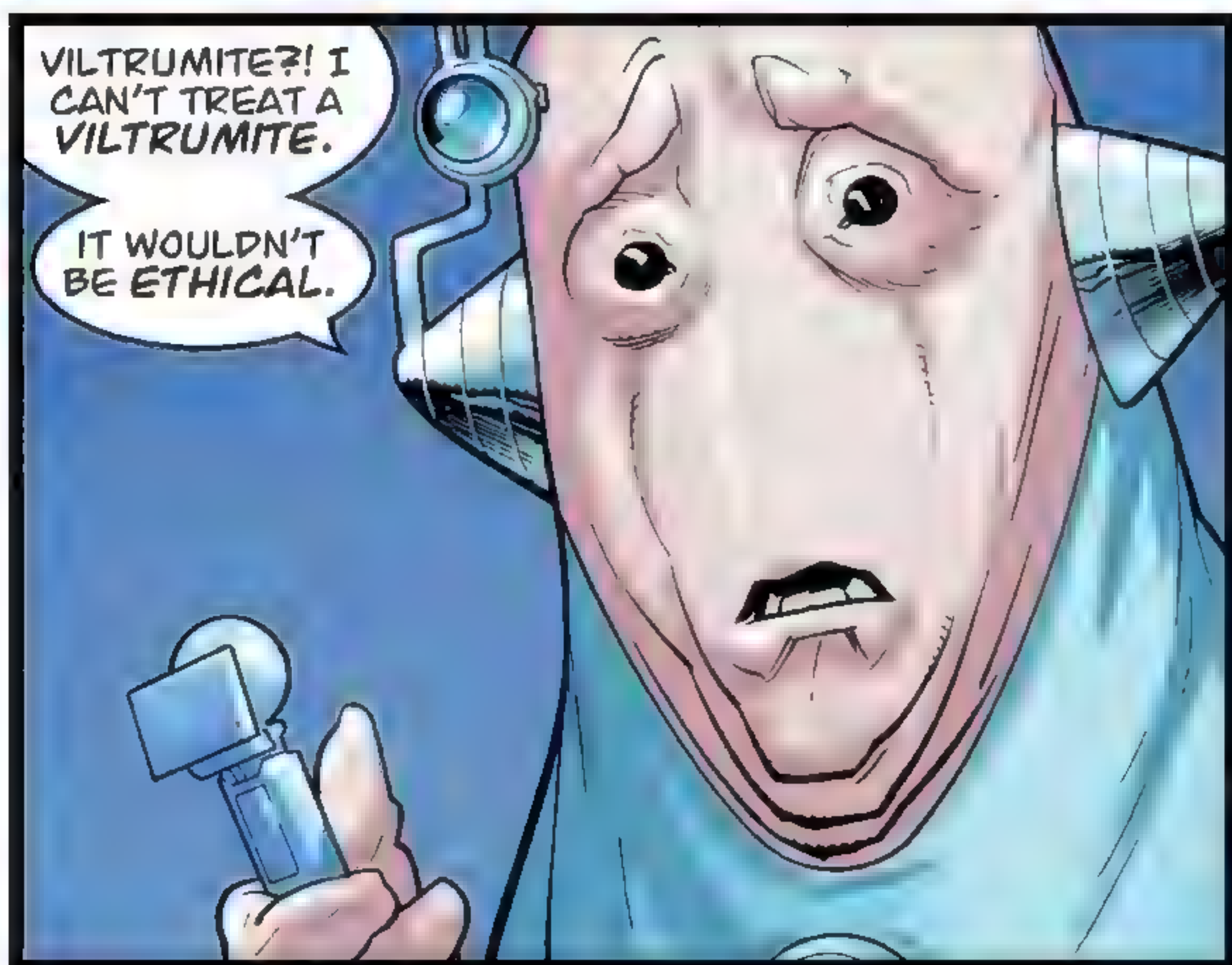
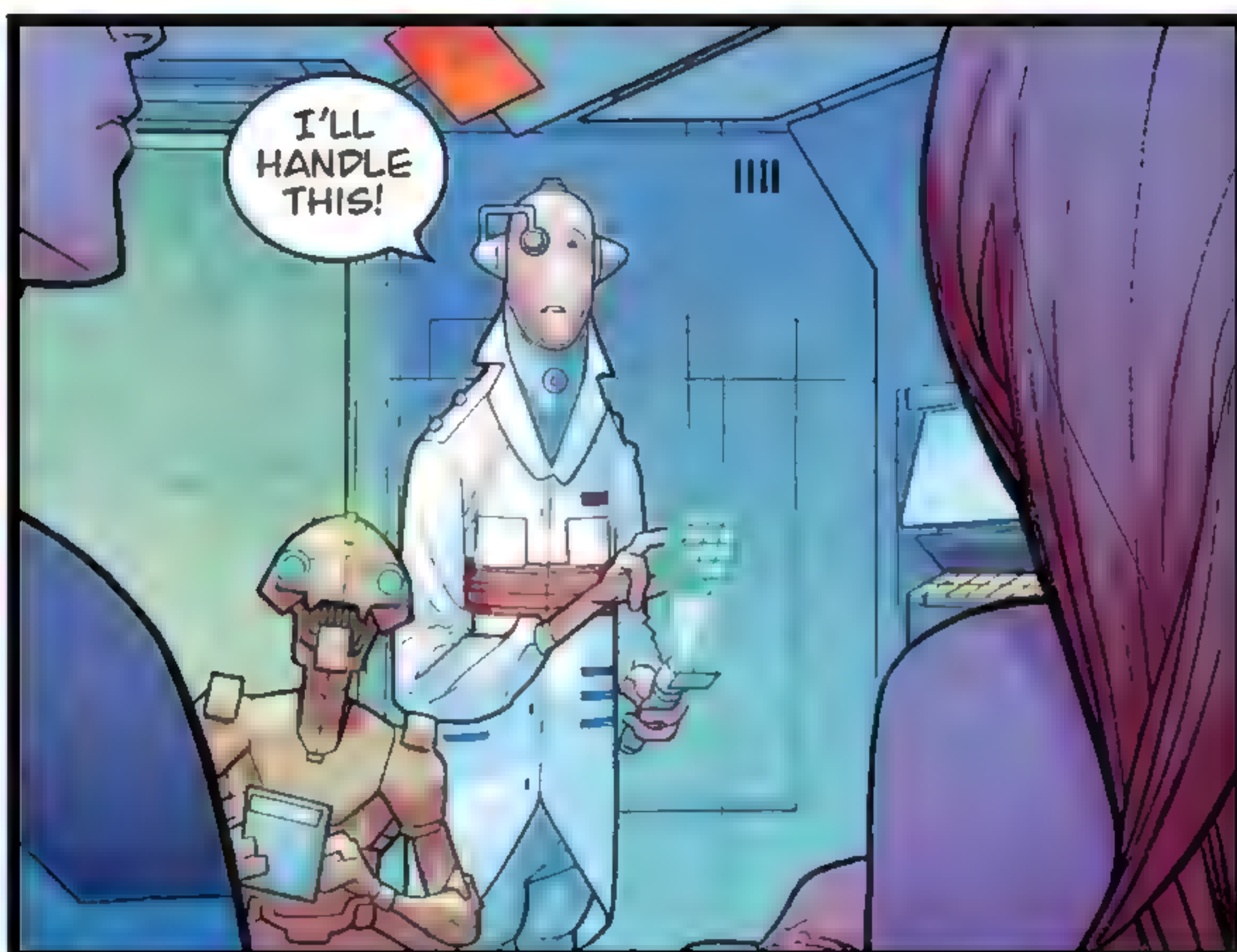
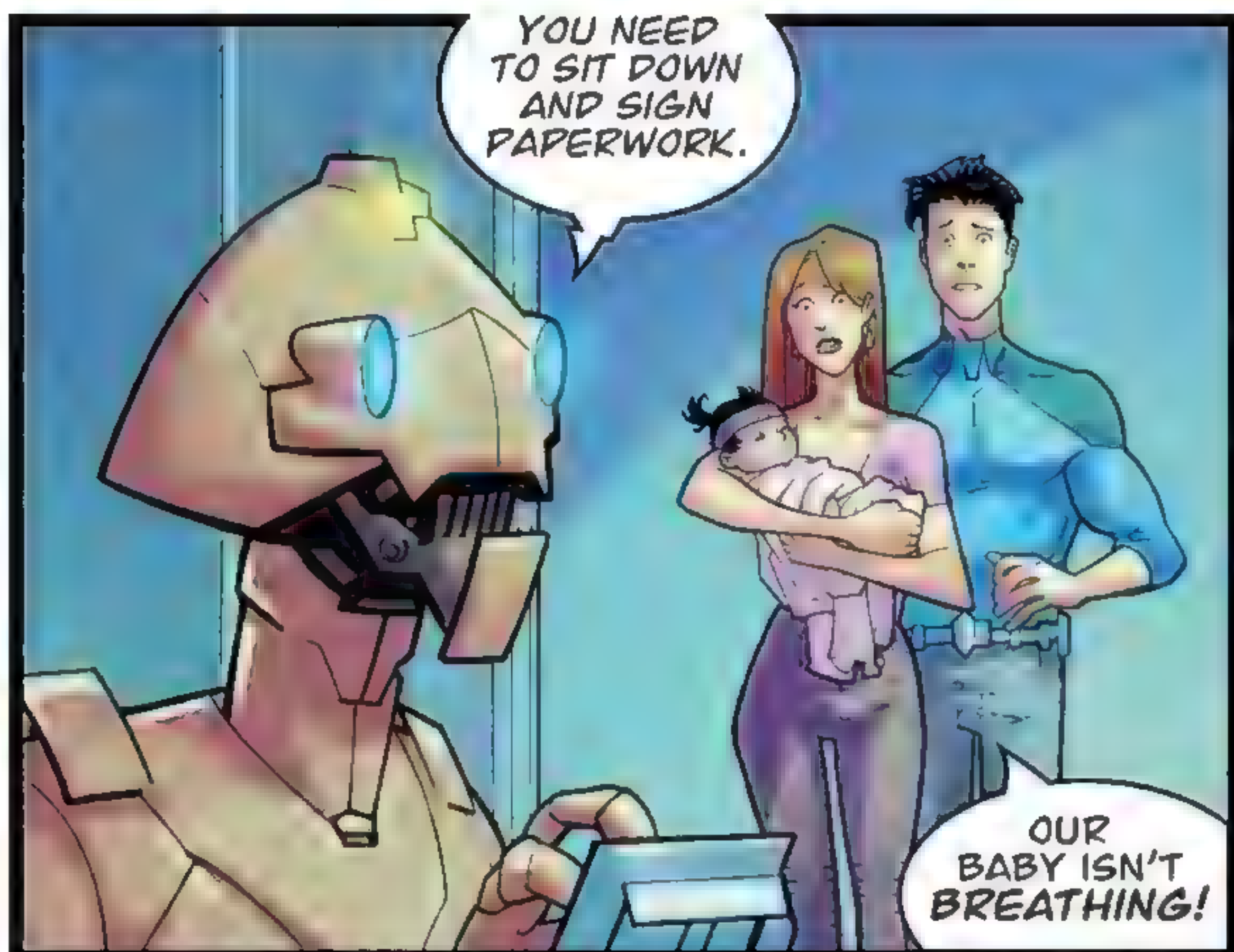


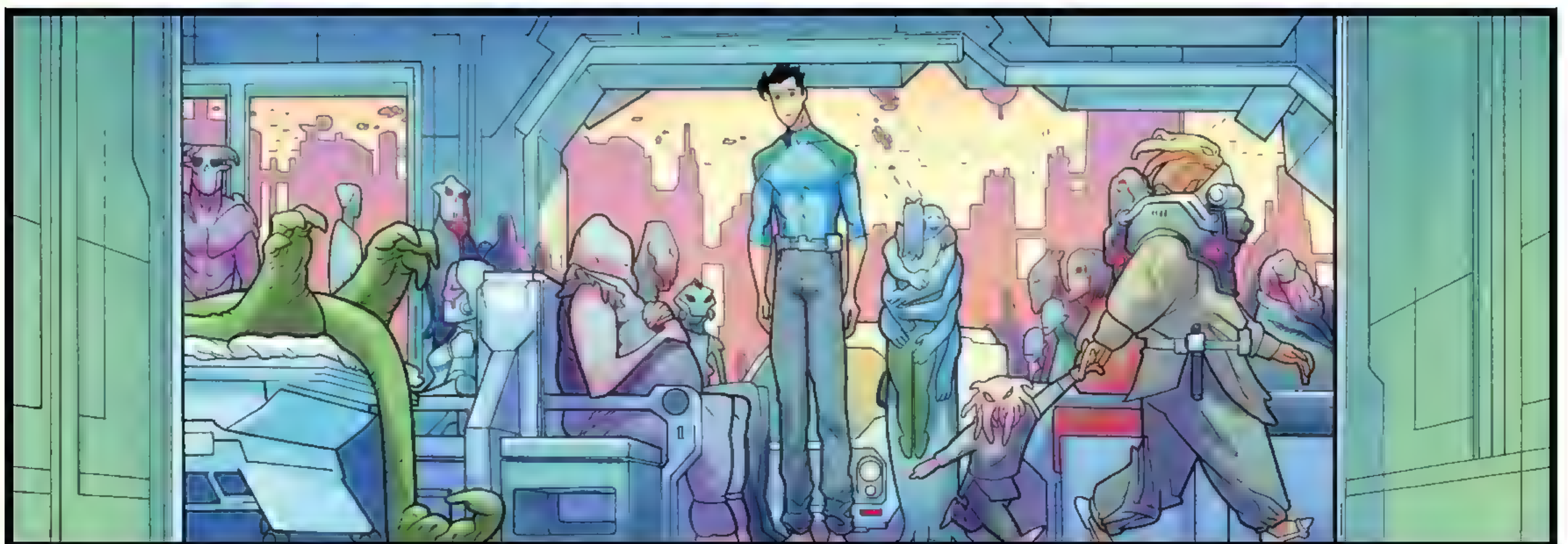


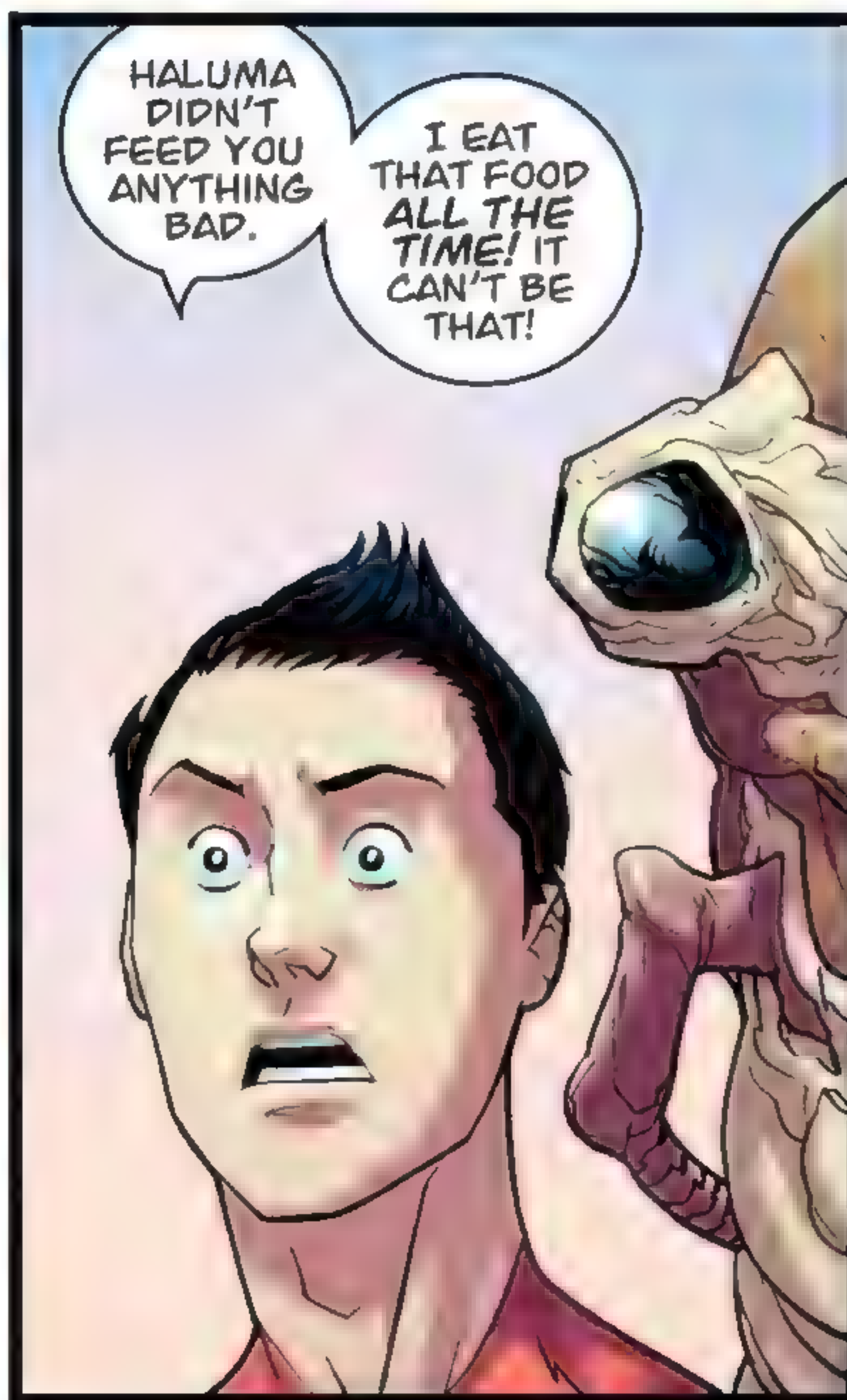


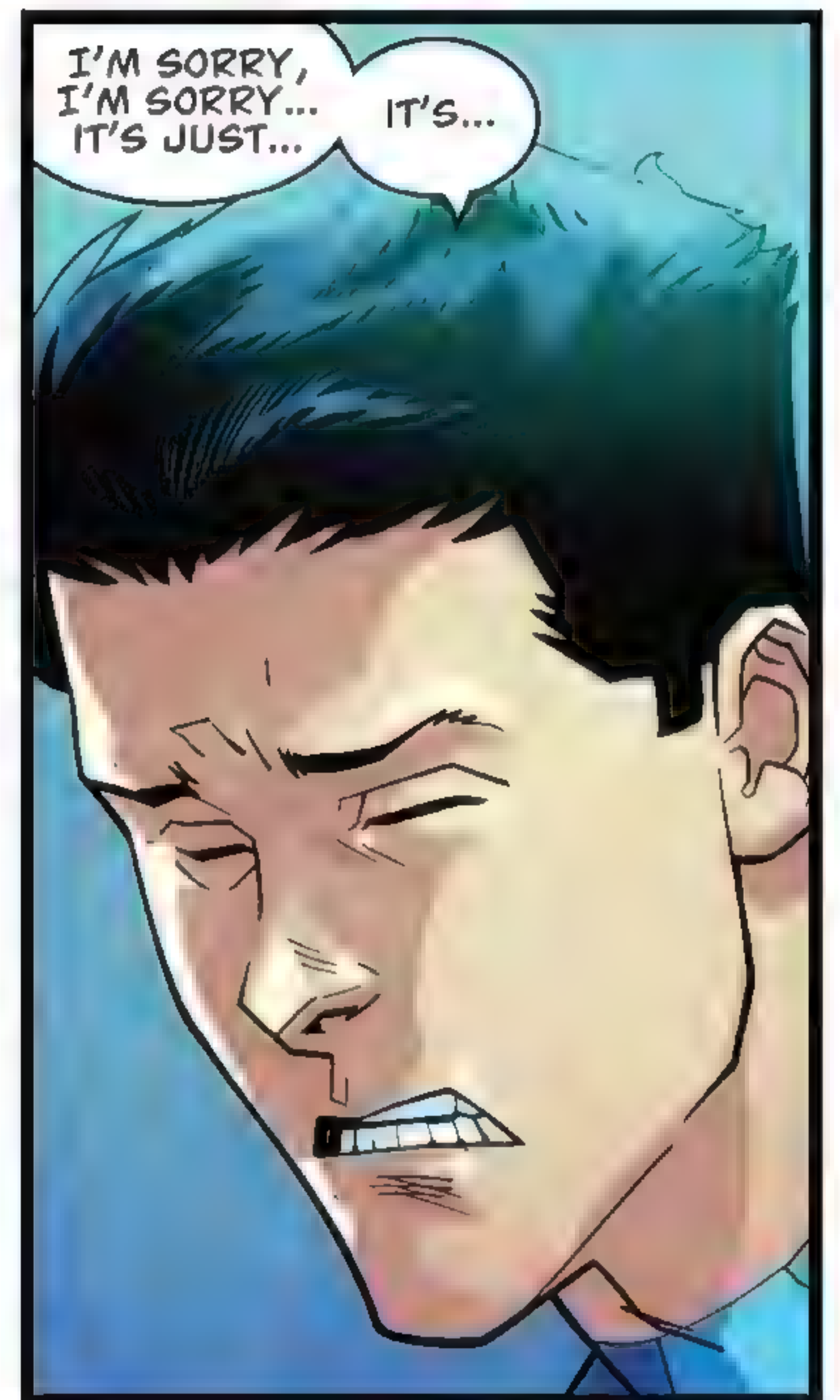
WE NEED
TO FIND A
HOSPITAL!

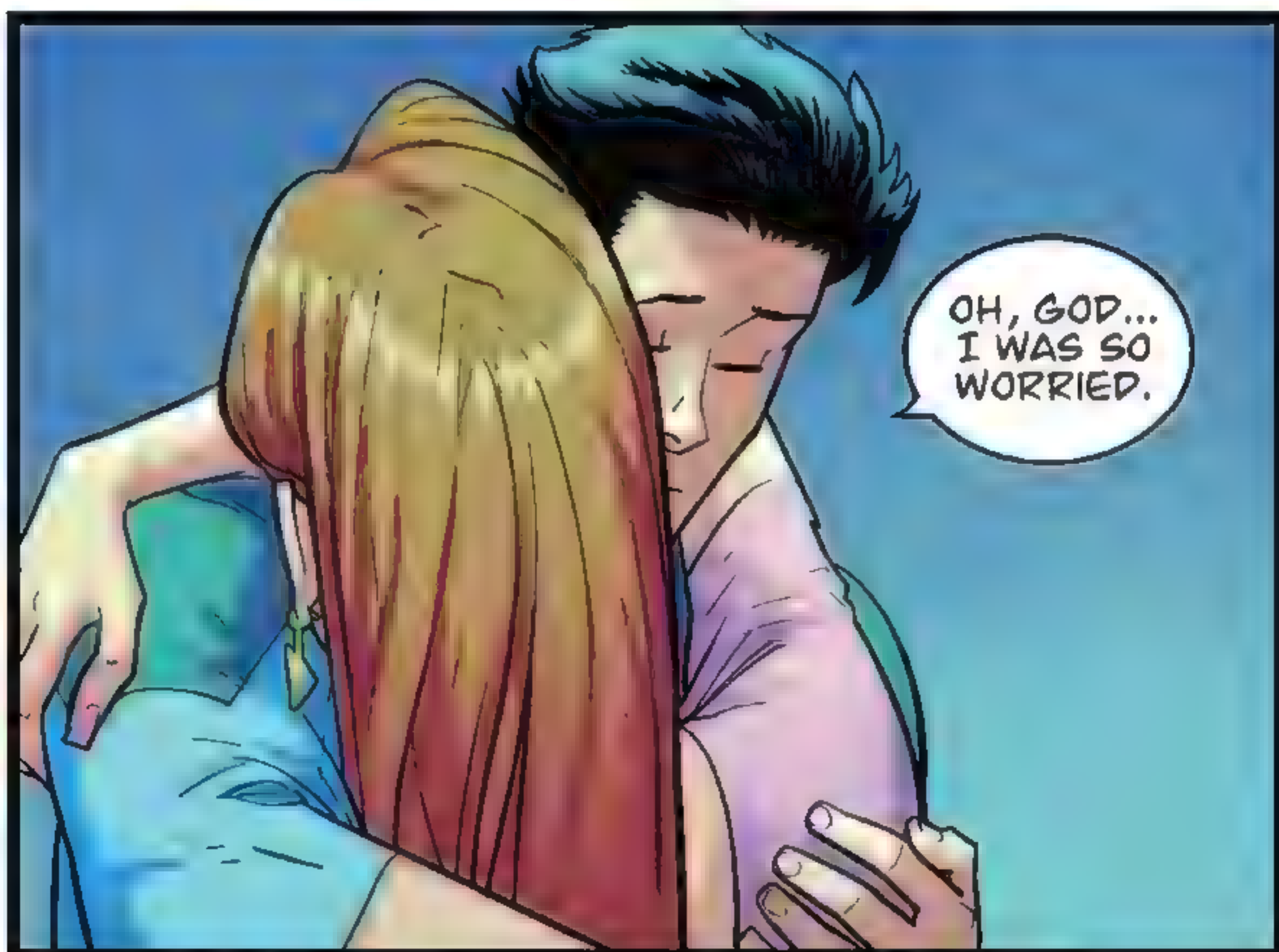
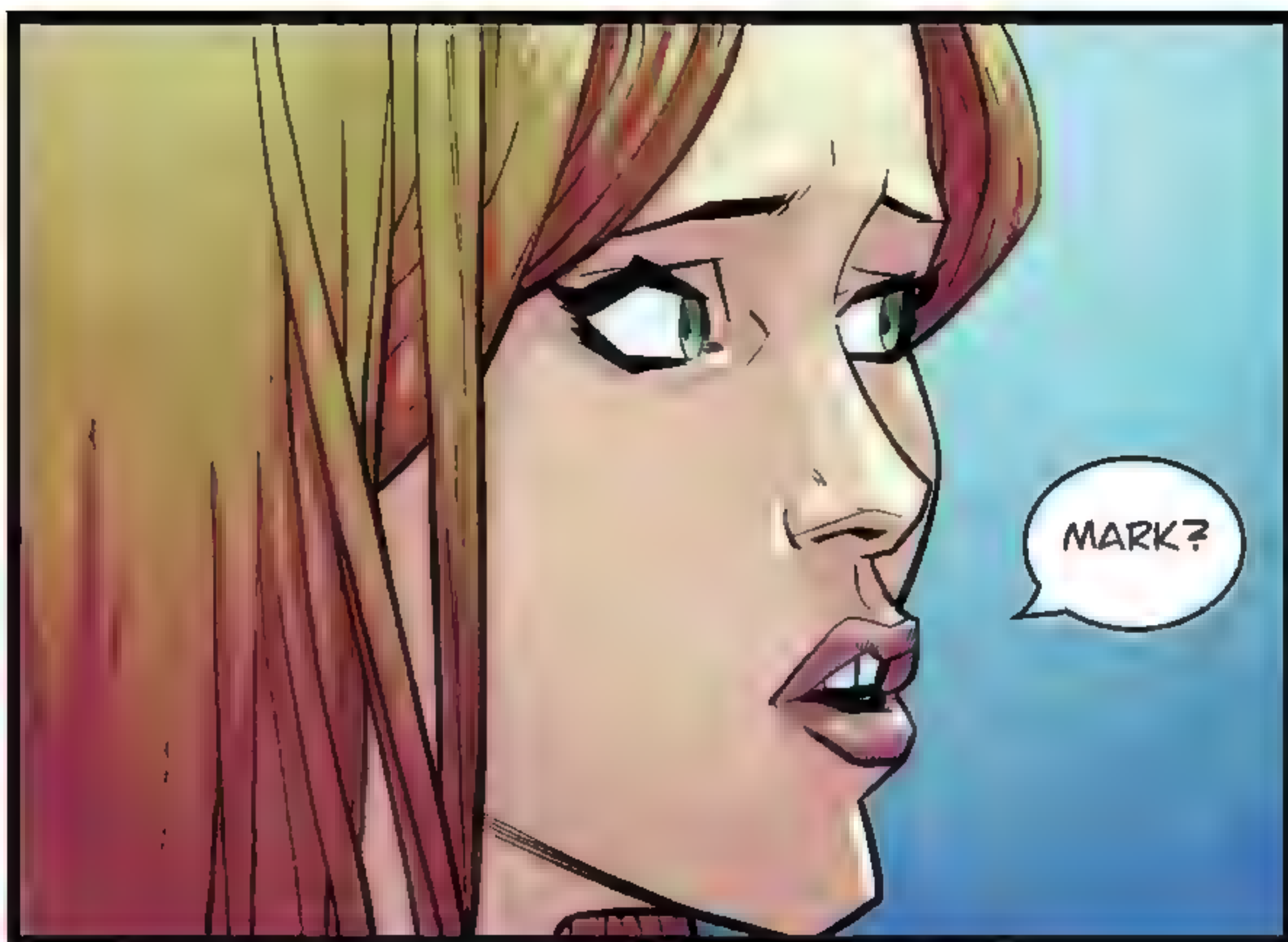
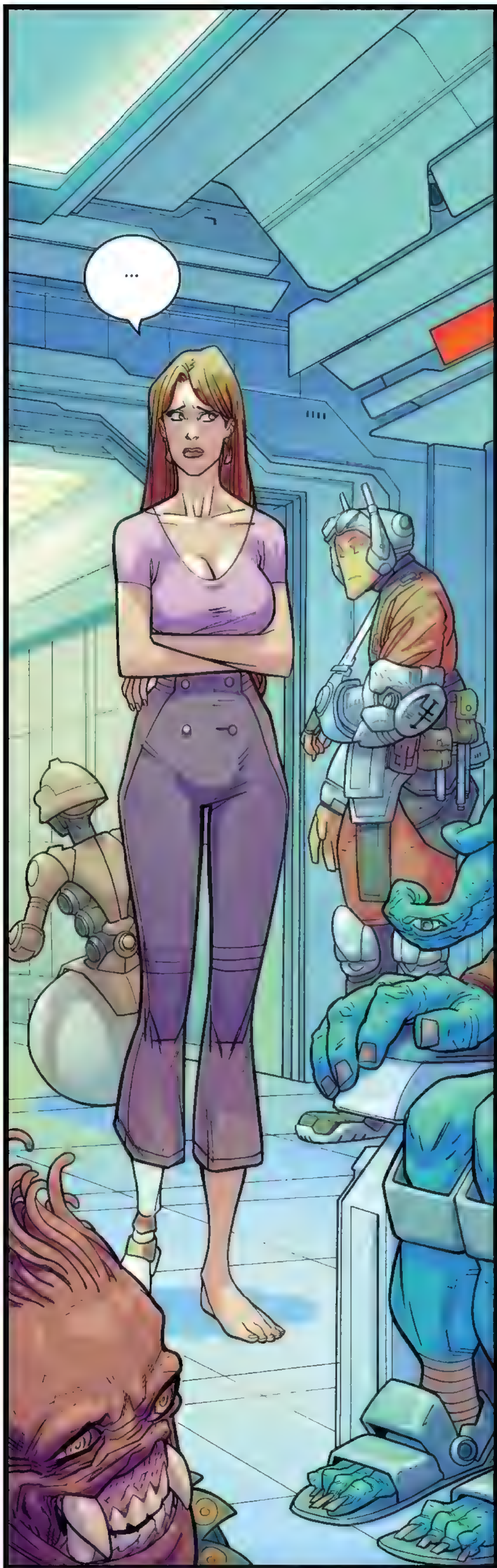














YOU HAVE
A LOVELY
CHILD.

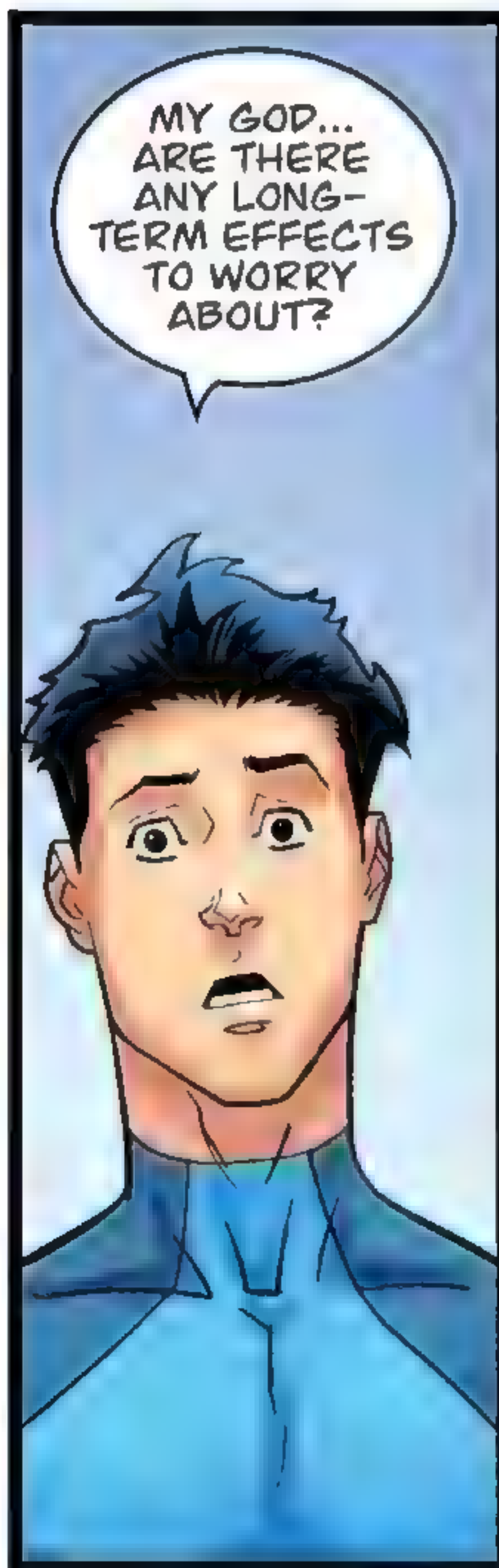
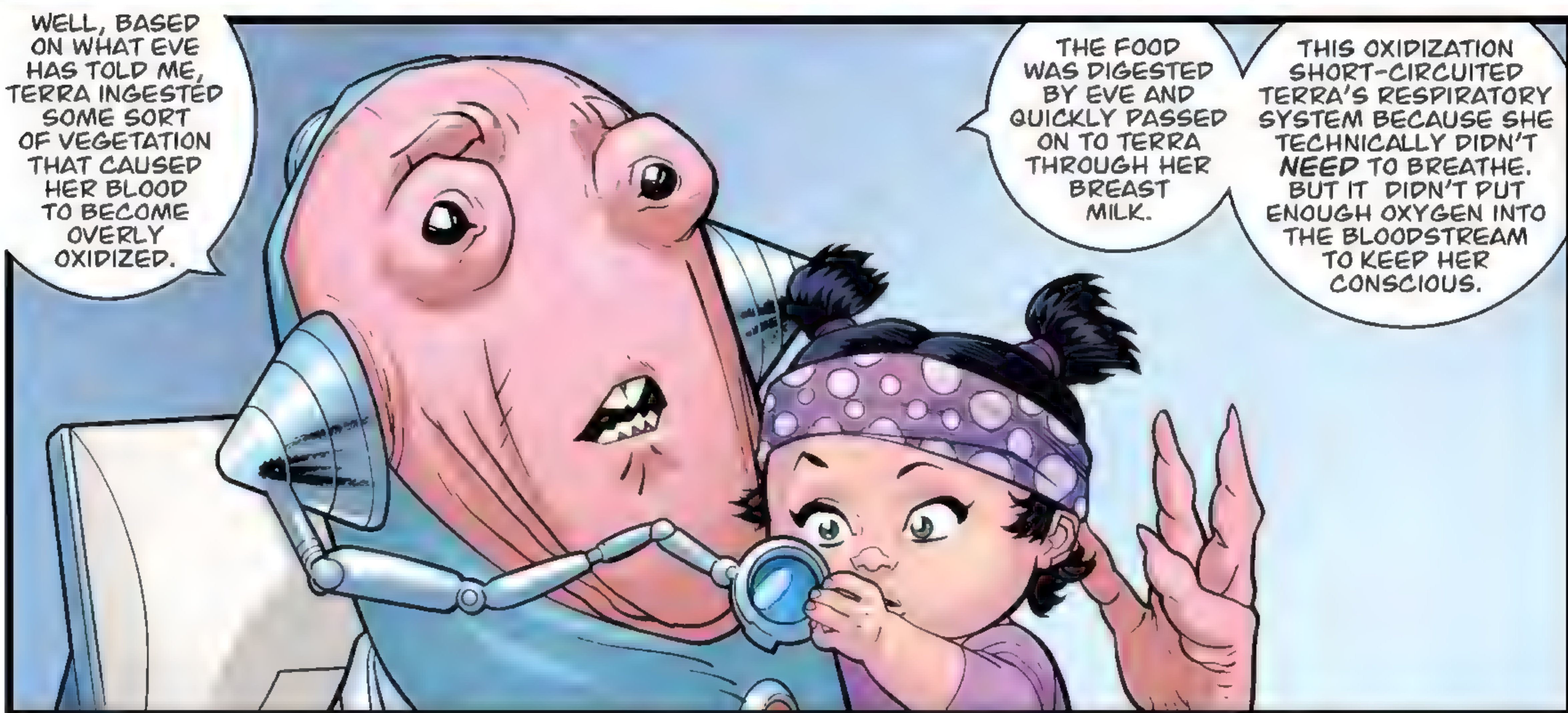
SO SHE'S
TOTALLY
FINE NOW? WHAT
HAPPENED?

THANK
YOU.

WELL, BASED
ON WHAT EVE
HAS TOLD ME,
TERRA INGESTED
SOME SORT
OF VEGETATION
THAT CAUSED
HER BLOOD
TO BECOME
OVERLY
OXIDIZED.

THE FOOD
WAS DIGESTED
BY EVE AND
QUICKLY PASSED
ON TO TERRA
THROUGH HER
BREAST
MILK.

THIS OXIDIZATION
SHORT-CIRCUITED
TERRA'S RESPIRATORY
SYSTEM BECAUSE SHE
TECHNICALLY DIDN'T
NEED TO BREATHE.
BUT IT DIDN'T PUT
ENOUGH OXYGEN INTO
THE BLOODSTREAM
TO KEEP HER
CONSCIOUS.



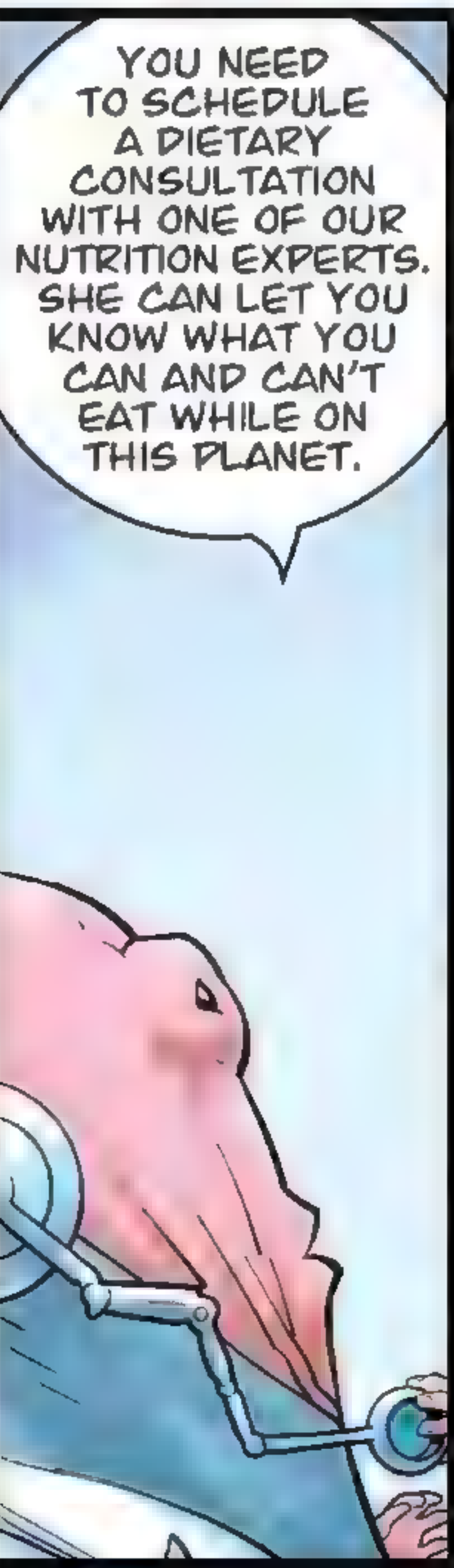
MY GOD...
ARE THERE
ANY LONG-
TERM EFFECTS
TO WORRY
ABOUT?



NO, NOTHING
LIKE THAT. AS
SHE GETS OLDER
AND BEGINS
EATING SOLID
FOOD, THE PLANT
WON'T EVEN
AFFECT HER.



HOW CAN
WE AVOID
THIS KIND OF
THING IN THE
FUTURE?

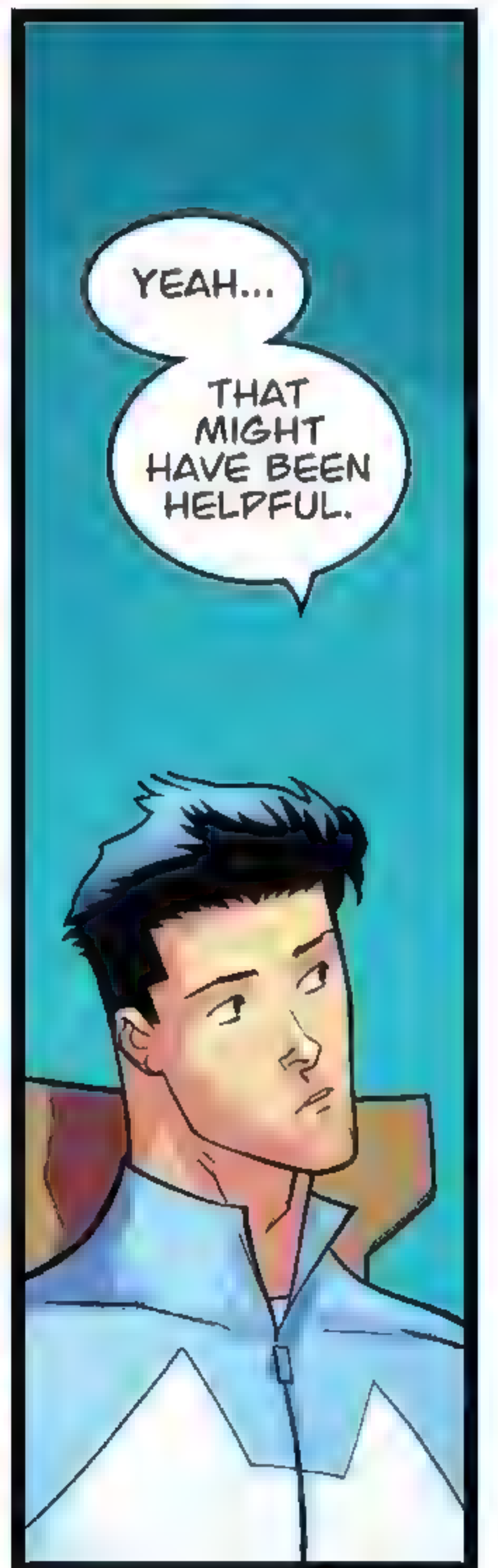
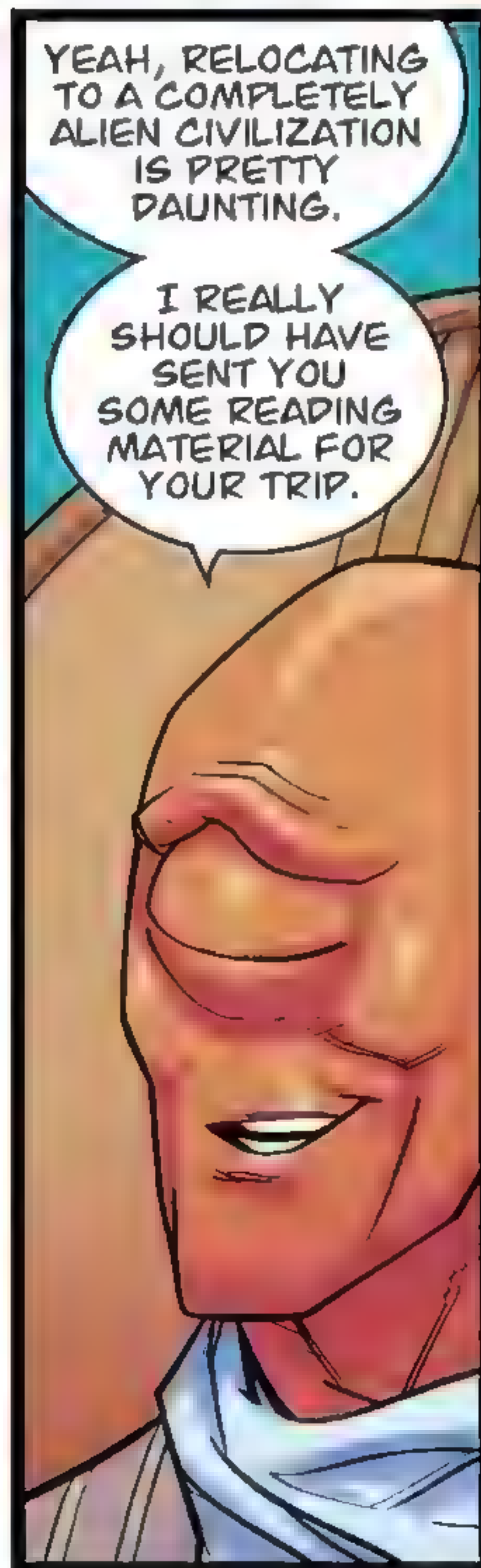
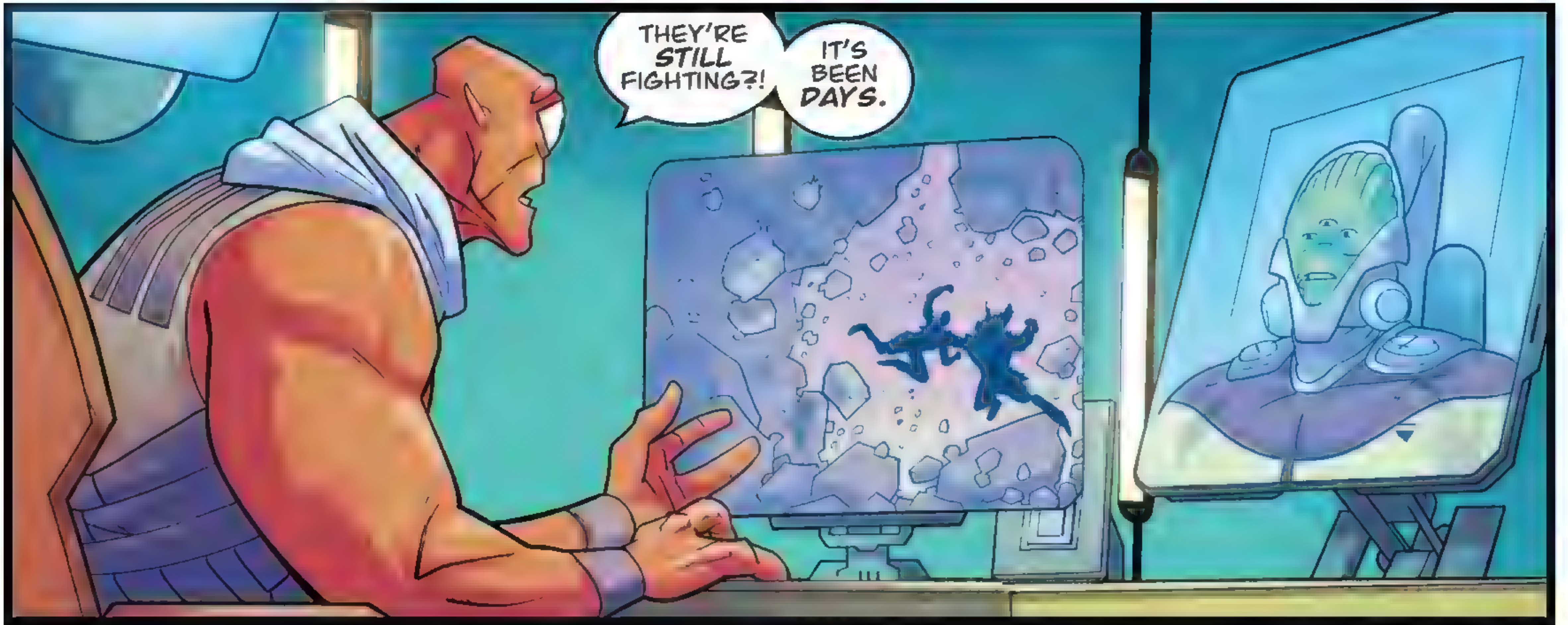


YOU NEED
TO SCHEDULE
A DIETARY
CONSULTATION
WITH ONE OF OUR
NUTRITION EXPERTS.
SHE CAN LET YOU
KNOW WHAT YOU
CAN AND CAN'T
EAT WHILE ON
THIS PLANET.



MAN... THIS IS WAY
MORE COMPLICATED
THAN I COULD HAVE
IMAGINED...







I CALLED YOU IN FOR A REASON, SO LET'S DISCUSS THIS, BECAUSE I HAVE AN AWFUL LOT GOING ON HERE IN THE COALITION...

EXACTLY HOW RETIRED ARE YOU... OFFICIALLY?

COMPLETELY.



I'M NOT EXPECTING YOU TO PAY FOR US TO LIVE HERE. IF I NEED TO GET A JOB OR SOMETHING, I'M COOL WITH THAT.

I REFUSE TO BE RISKING MY LIFE ANYMORE. NOT WITH TERRA AROUND.



RISKING YOUR LIFE, SURE... BUT WHAT IF I HAD MISSIONS THAT WERE MOST LIKELY SAFE?

I COULD CONSIDER THAT.



WERE IT UP TO ME, I'D JUST LET YOU LIVE HERE INDEFINITELY FREE OF CHARGE. YOUR HELP IN THE VILTRUMITE WAR WAS INVALUABLE.

BUT EVENTUALLY SOME BEAN COUNTER WOULD CRY FOUL. BUREAUCRATS...



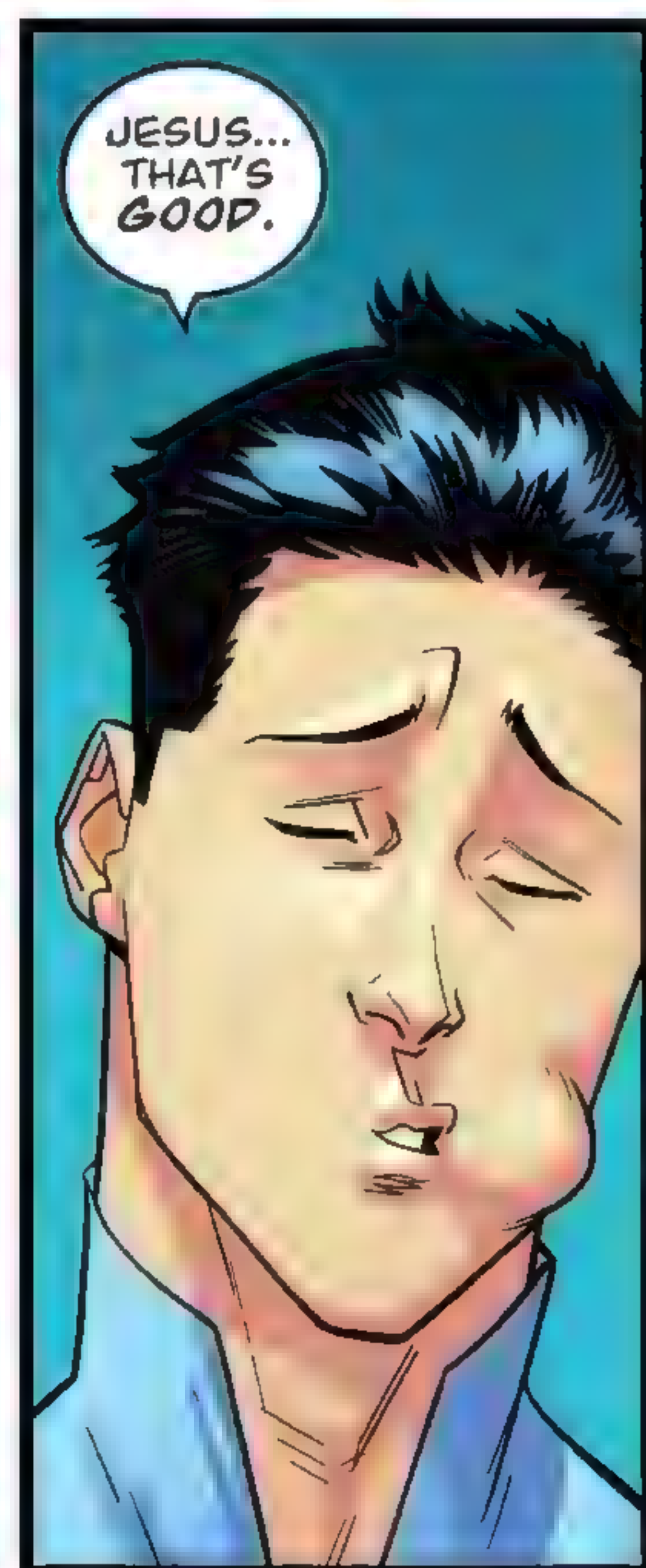
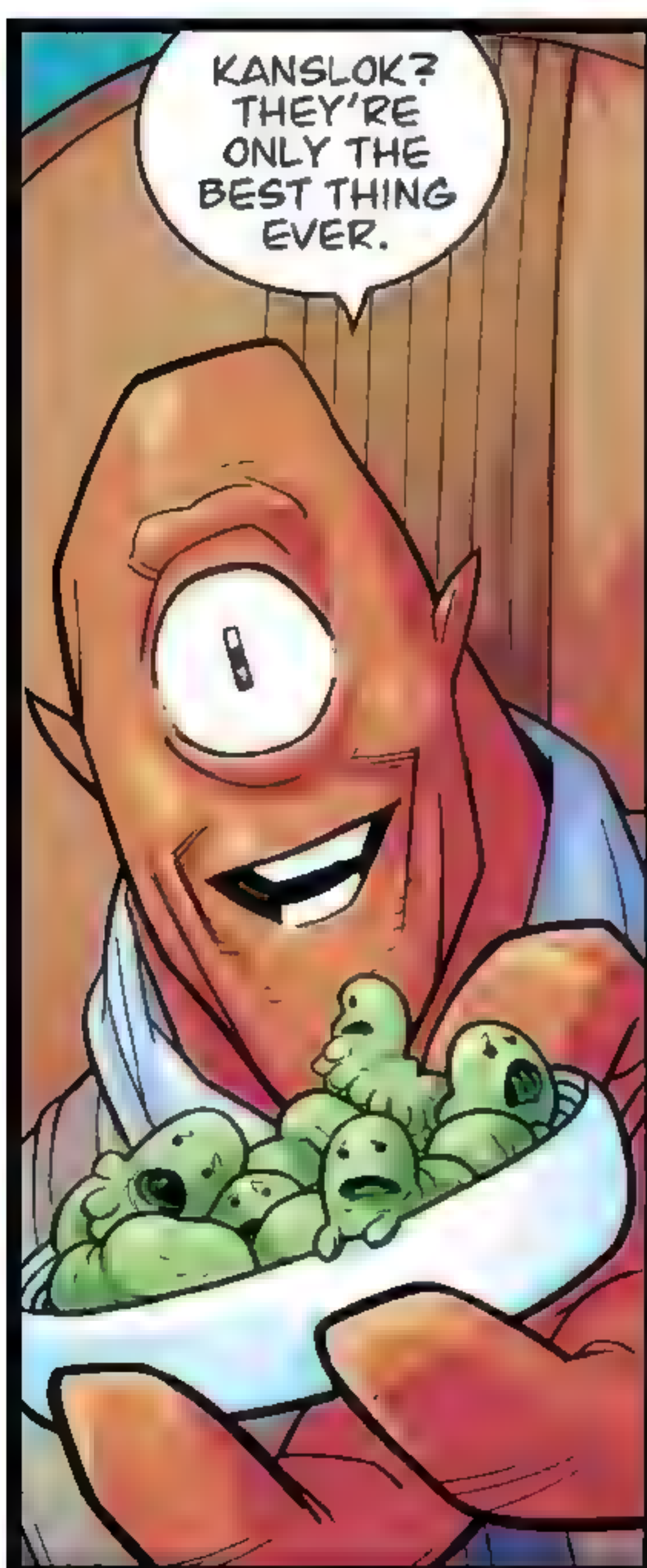
HOW PHYSICAL... THIS JOB YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT?

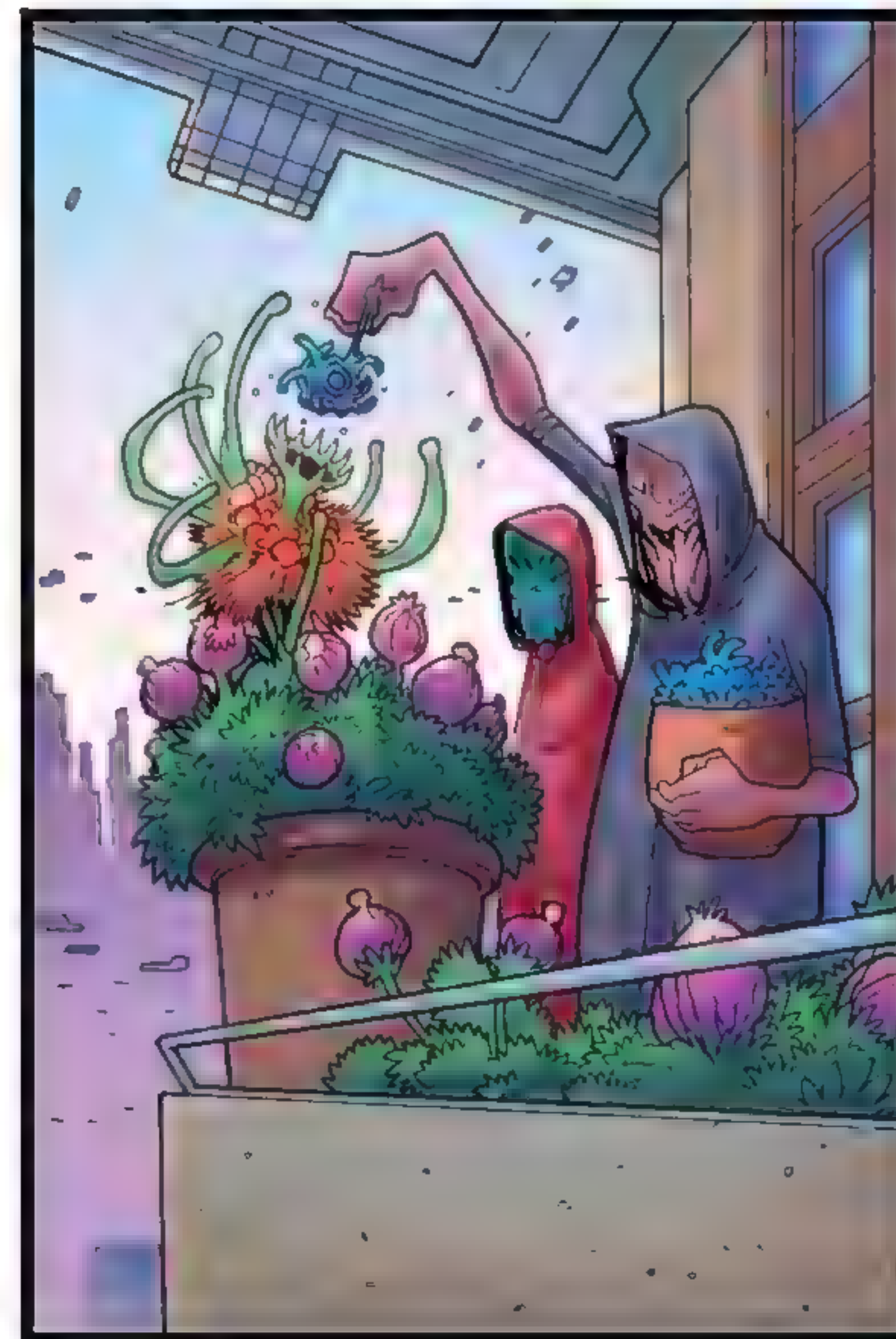
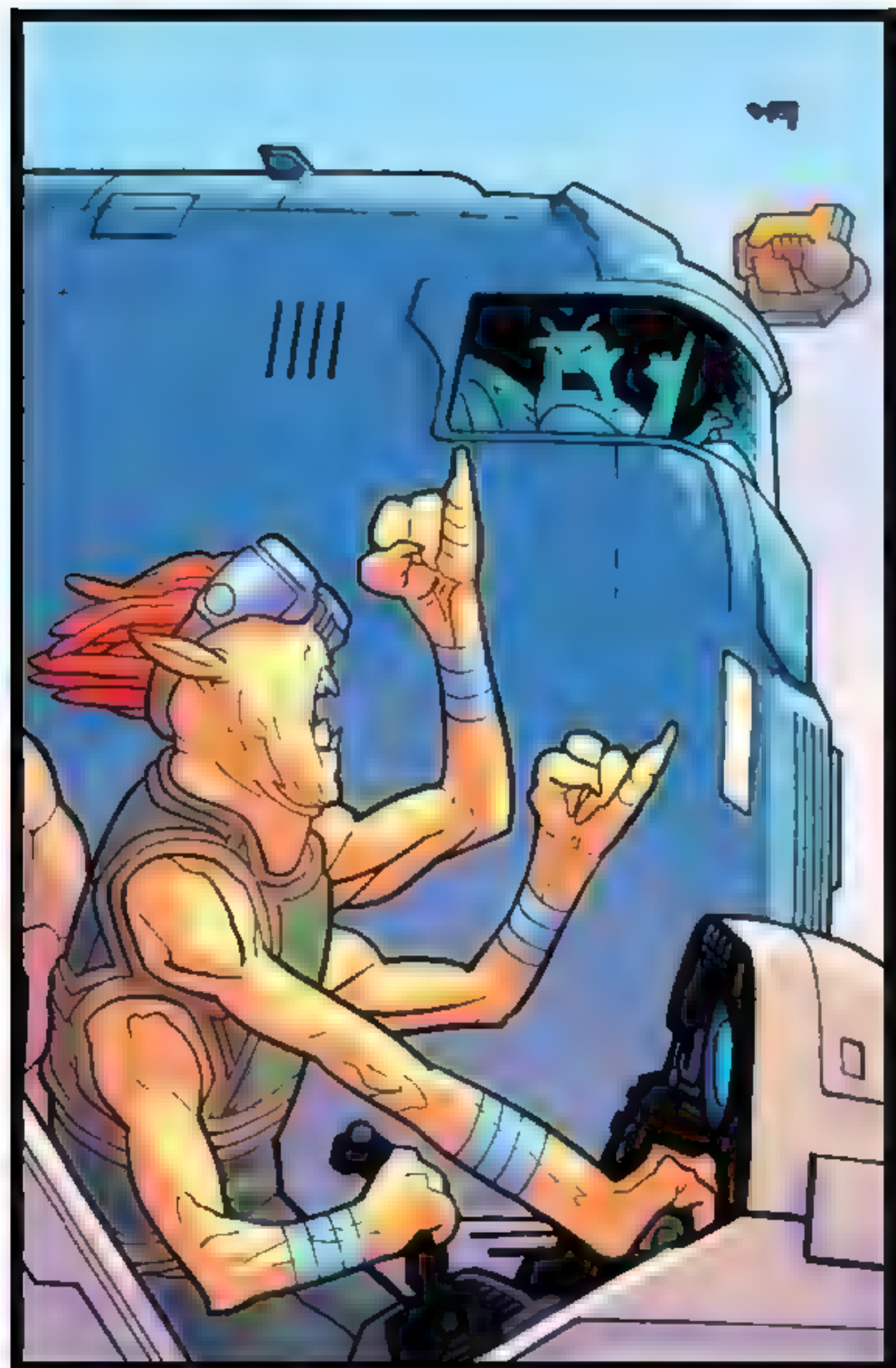
WOULD IT BE ME FIGHTING PEOPLE FOR YOU? KEEPING THE PEACE IN SOME WAY? I DON'T THINK THAT'S WHAT I'M AFTER.



UNDERSTOOD. NO, I'M THINKING... SOMETHING ALONG THE LINES OF AN INVESTIGATOR. YOU'RE SUPER STRONG, AND INVULNERABLE... BUT YOU'RE ALSO VERY FAST... AND REALLY SMART.

YOU CAN GO PLACES THAT WOULD BE HARD TO GET TO... YOU CAN... REPORT ON THINGS... BRING BACK INFORMATION.







HOW WAS THE MEETING WITH ALLEN?

GOOD. REALLY GOOD. I THINK HE MIGHT HAVE A JOB FOR ME.

NOTHING DANGEROUS... I PROMISE.



FIGURE OUT THE FOOD STUFF?

YES. BASED ON HUMAN BODY CHEMISTRY THEY WERE ABLE TO FIND A PLANET THAT PRODUCES FOOD MOST LIKE OURS.

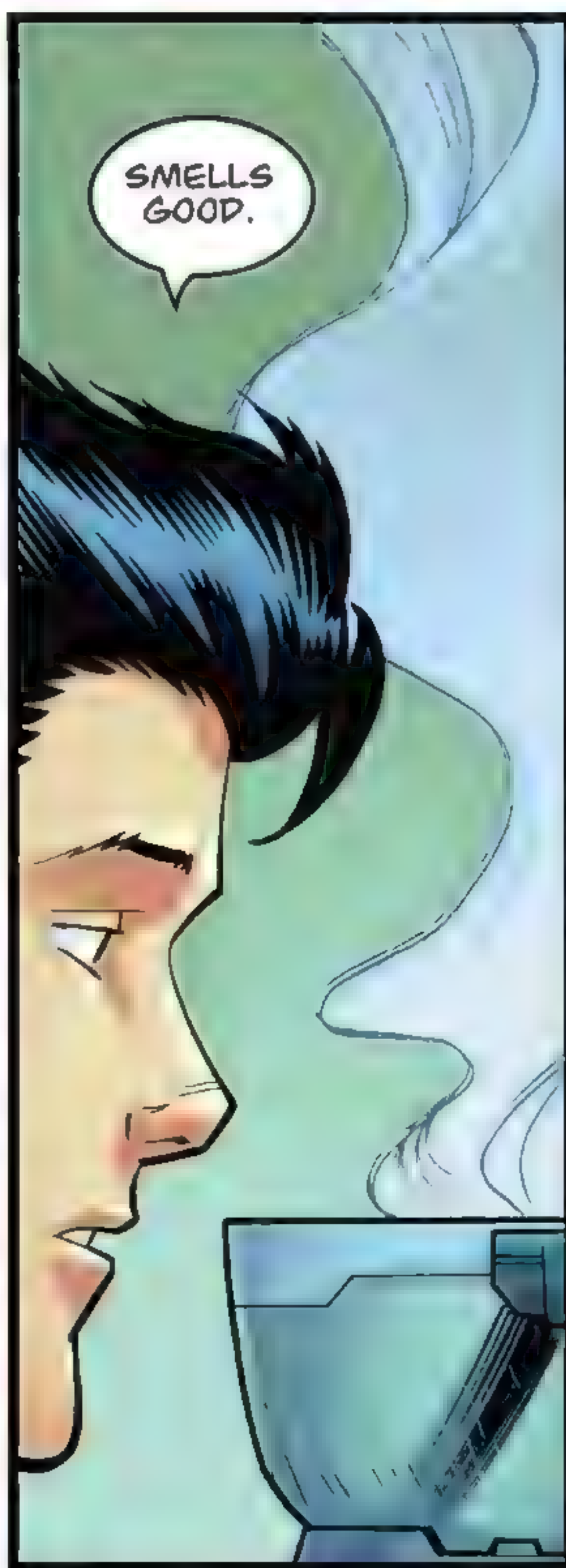
IT LOOKS DIFFERENT... BUT WHAT YOU'RE WANTING IS **GELDARIAN** FOOD.



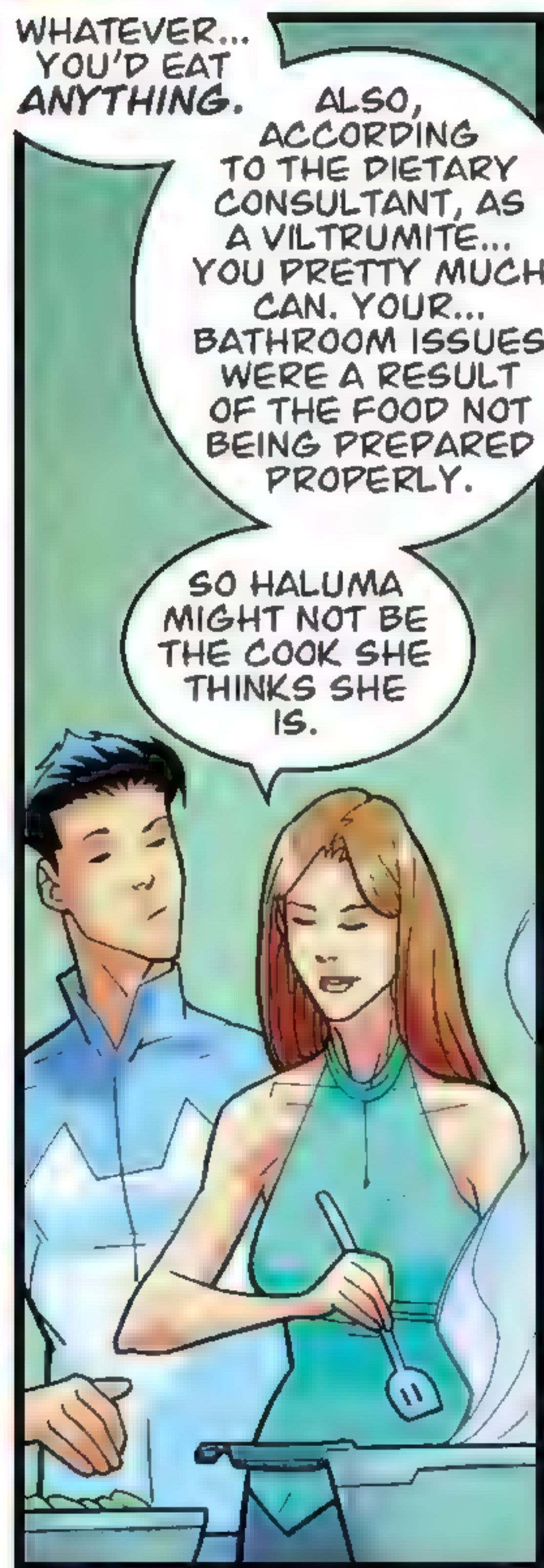
GELDARIAN? THAT SOUNDS FAMILIAR...



WELL, THAT'S WHAT THIS STUFF IS. KIND OF LOOKS LIKE POTATOES AND CORN... TASTES SIMILAR, TOO.



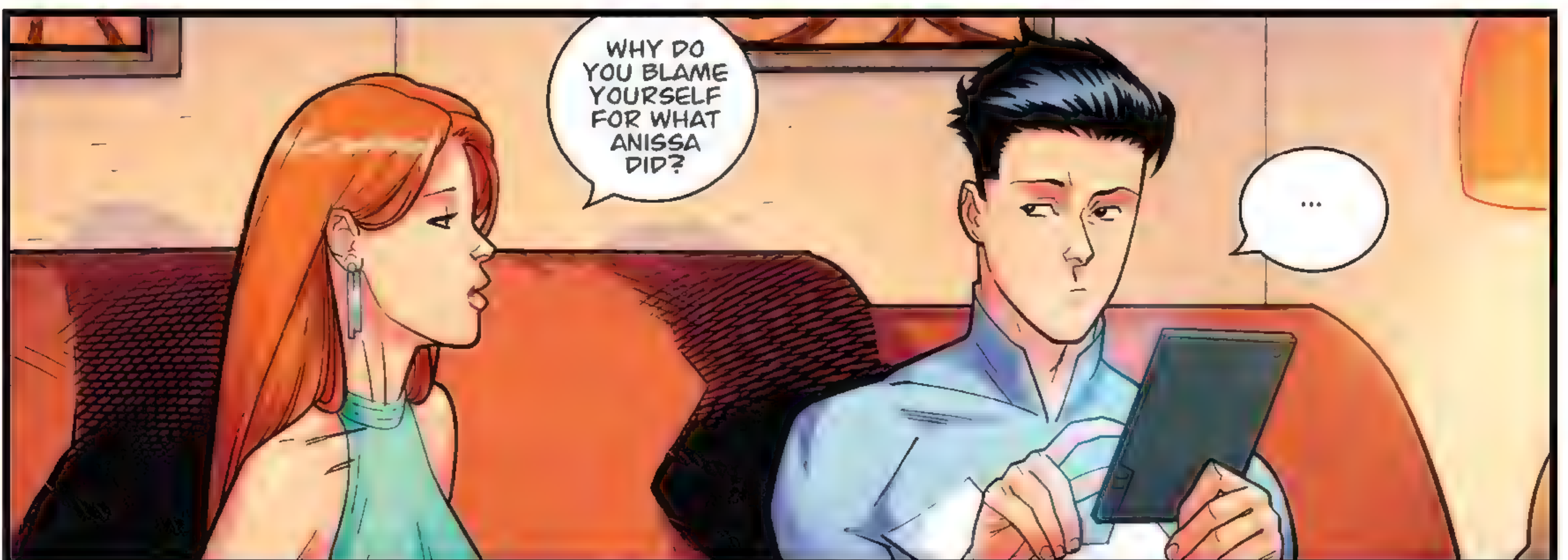
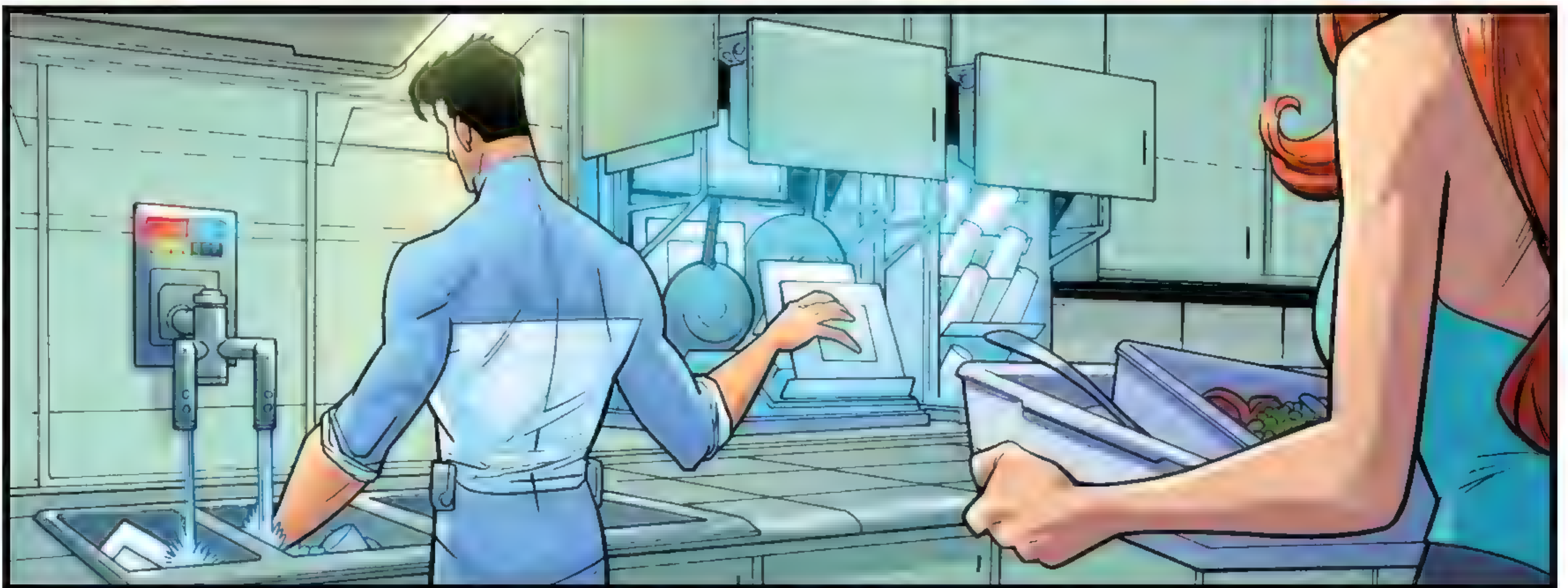
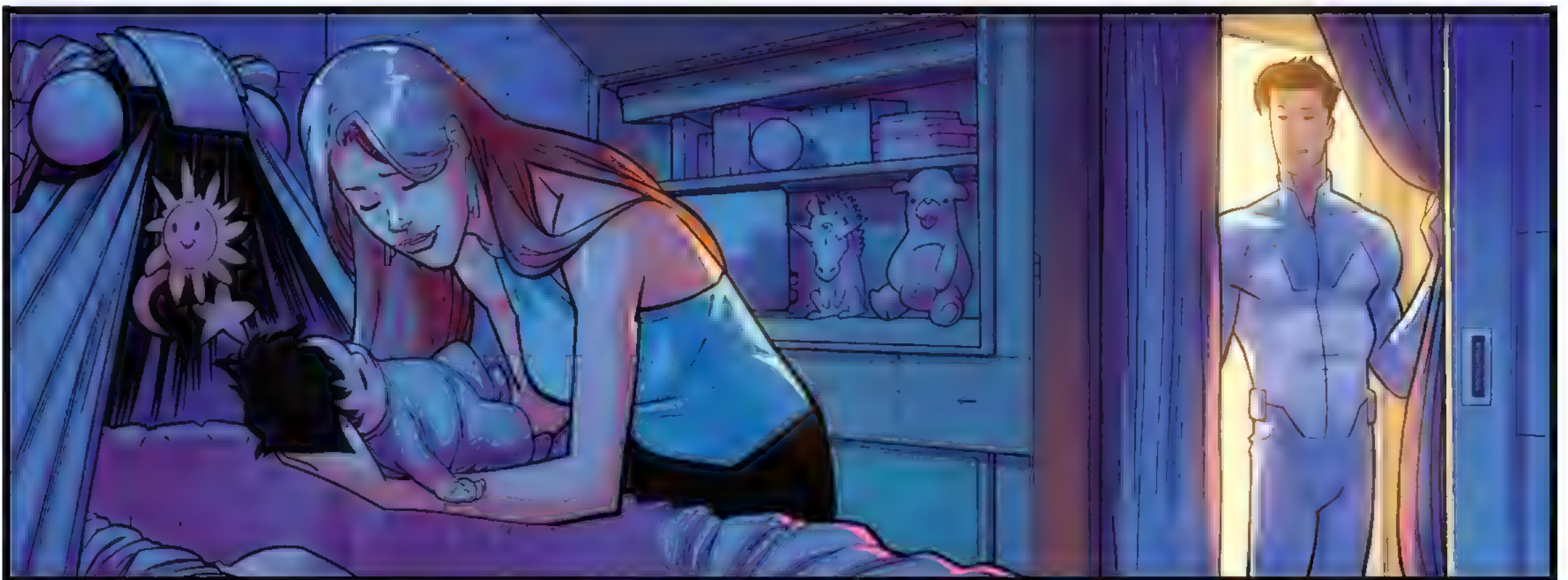
SMELLS GOOD.

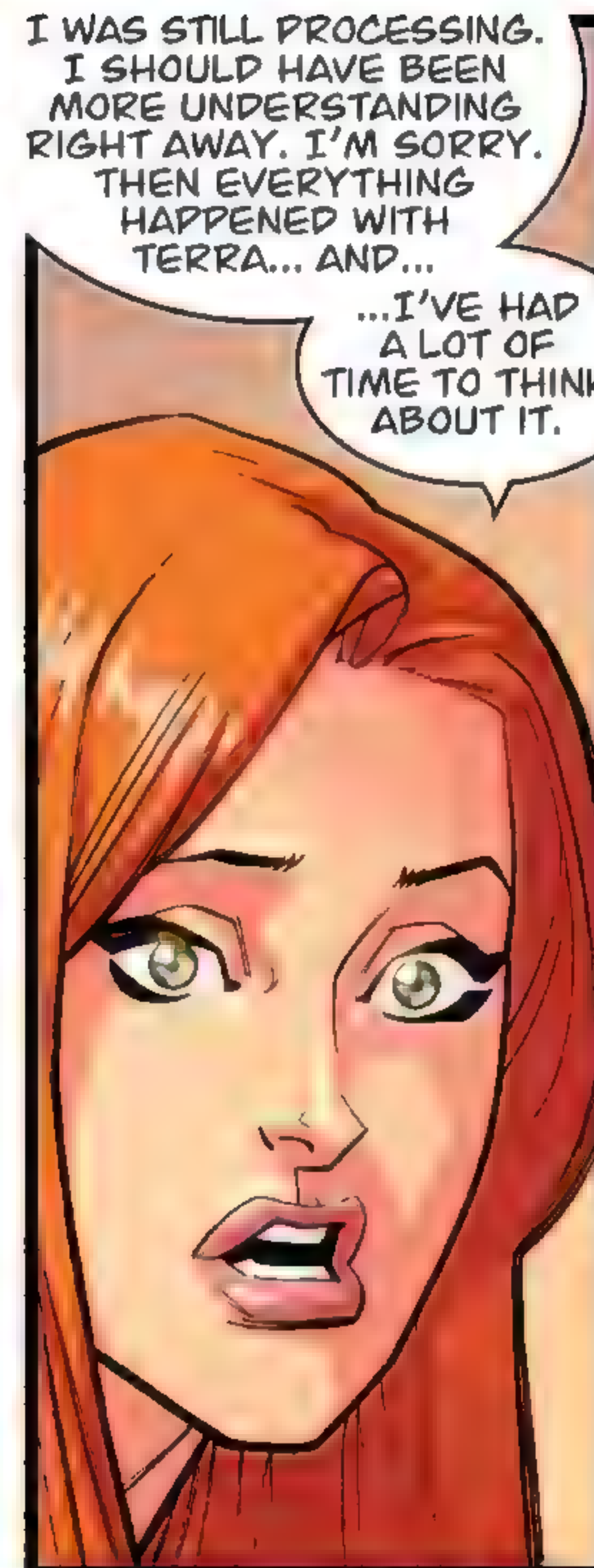
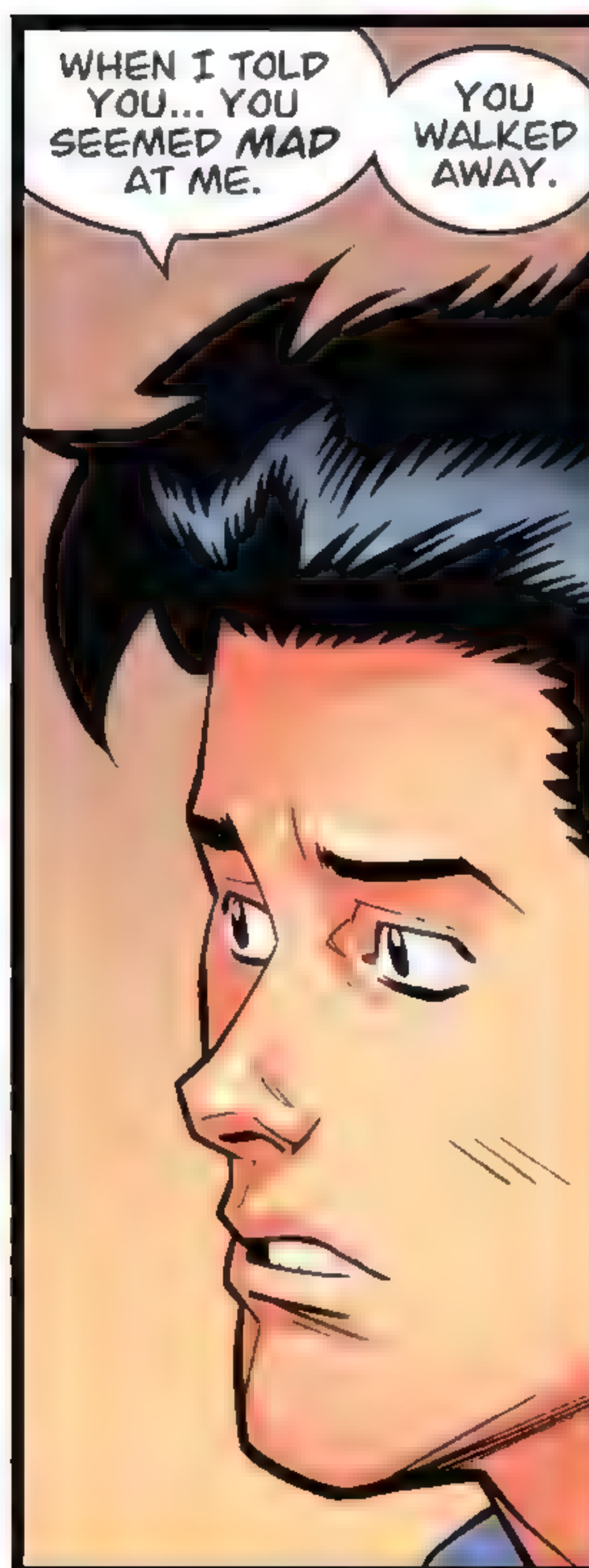
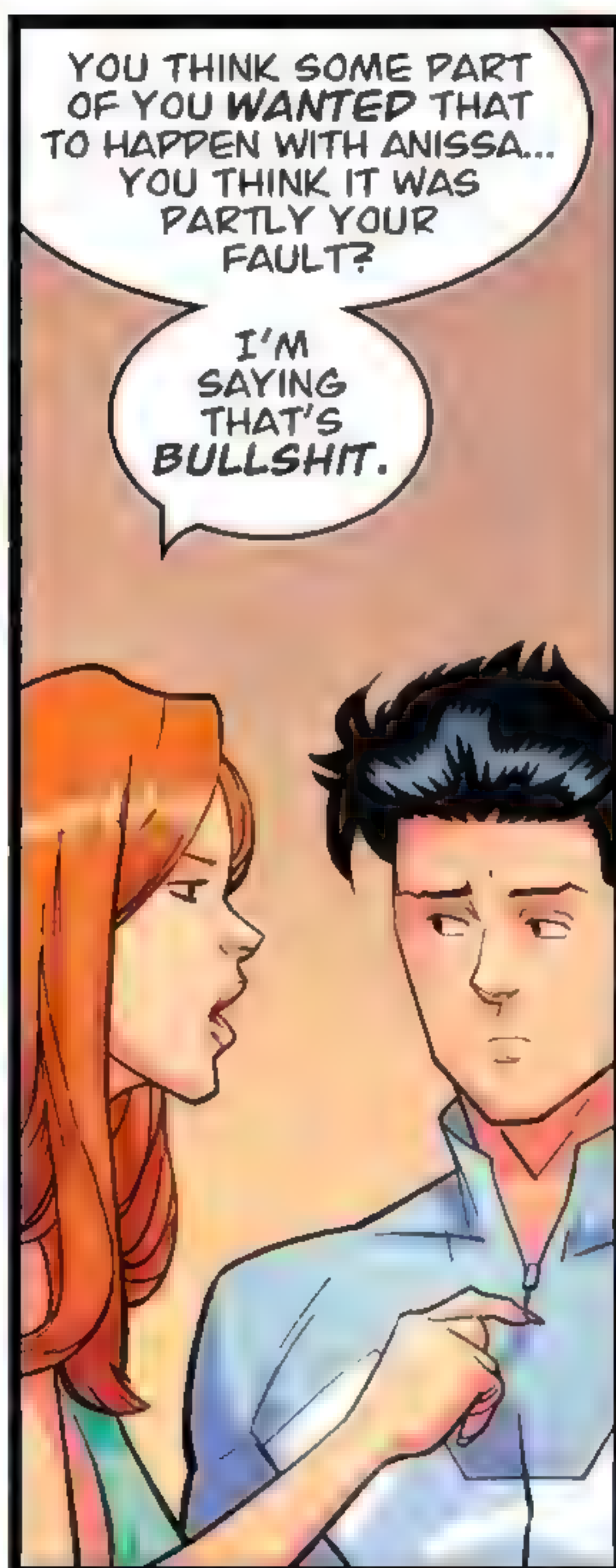
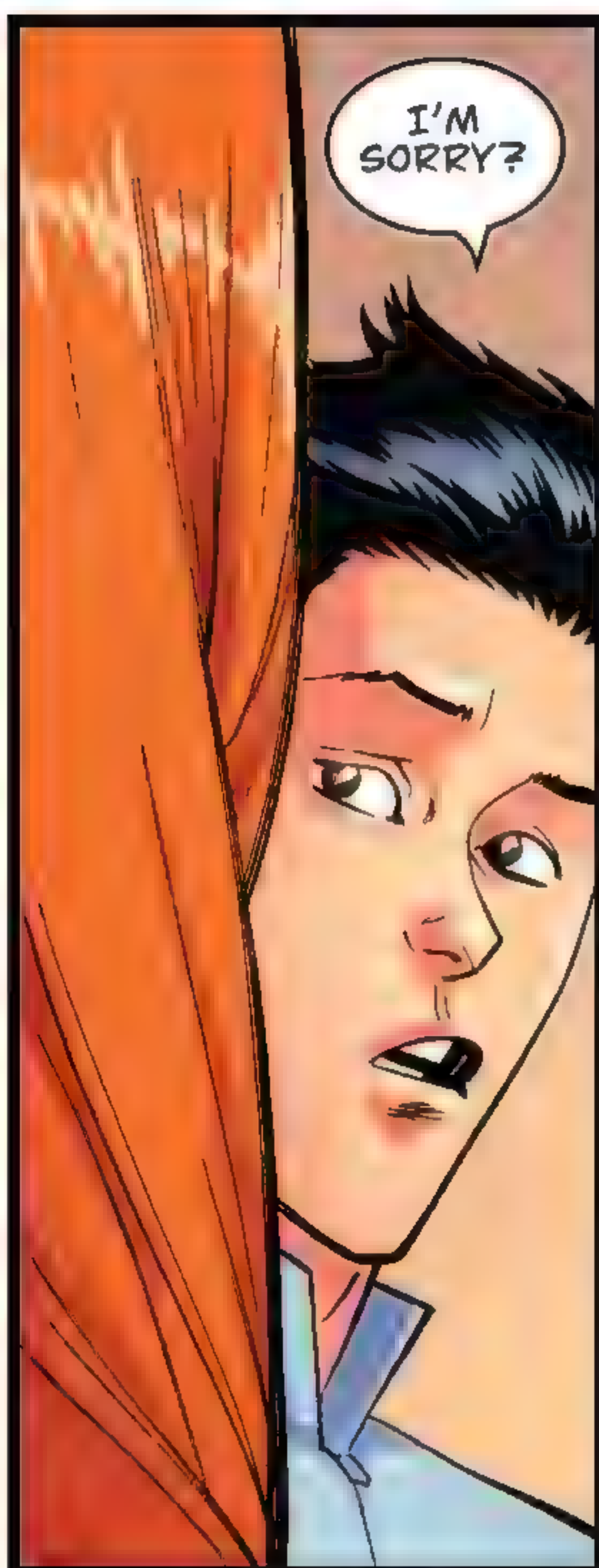


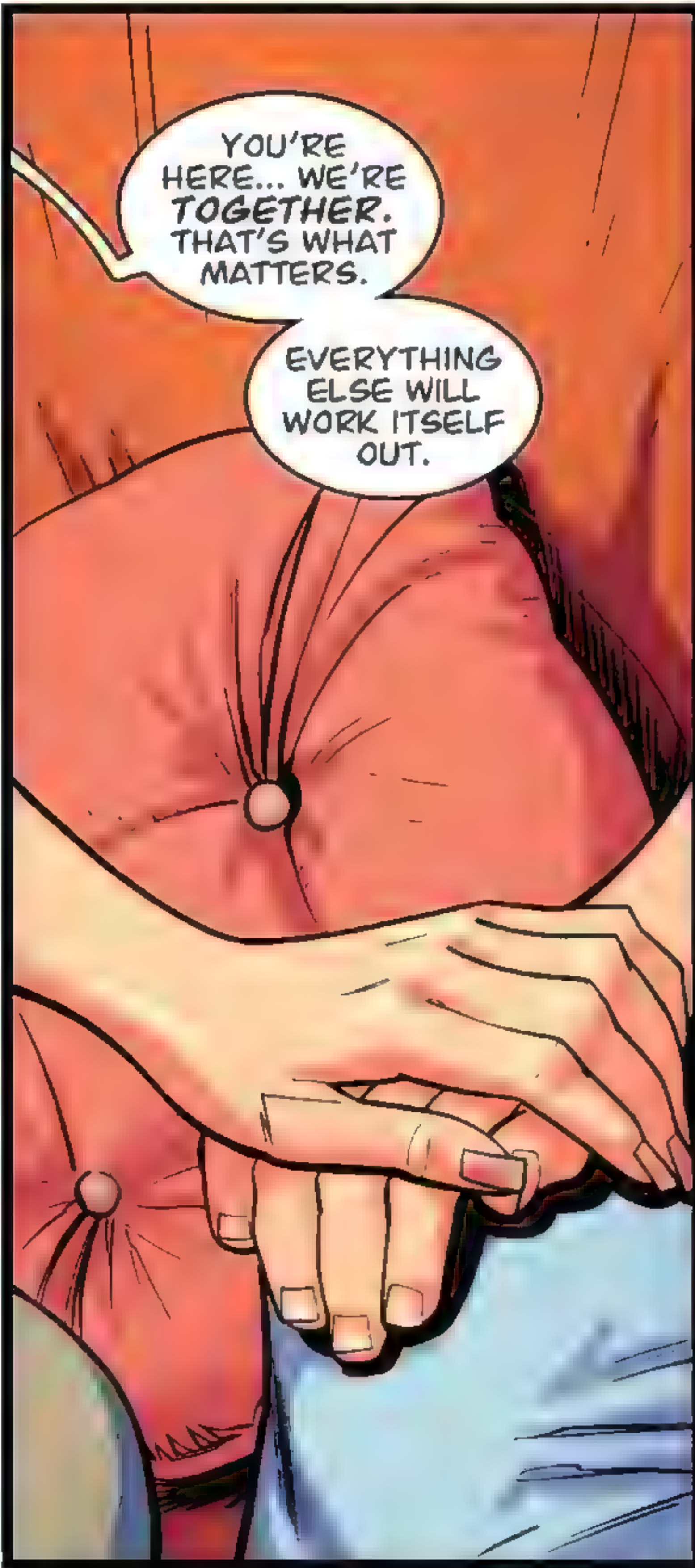
WHATEVER... YOU'D EAT ANYTHING.

ALSO, ACCORDING TO THE DIETARY CONSULTANT, AS A VILTRUMITE... YOU PRETTY MUCH CAN. YOUR... BATHROOM ISSUES WERE A RESULT OF THE FOOD NOT BEING PREPARED PROPERLY.

SO HALUMA MIGHT NOT BE THE COOK SHE THINKS SHE IS.











CHAPTER 120



R.OTTLEY15



TH--

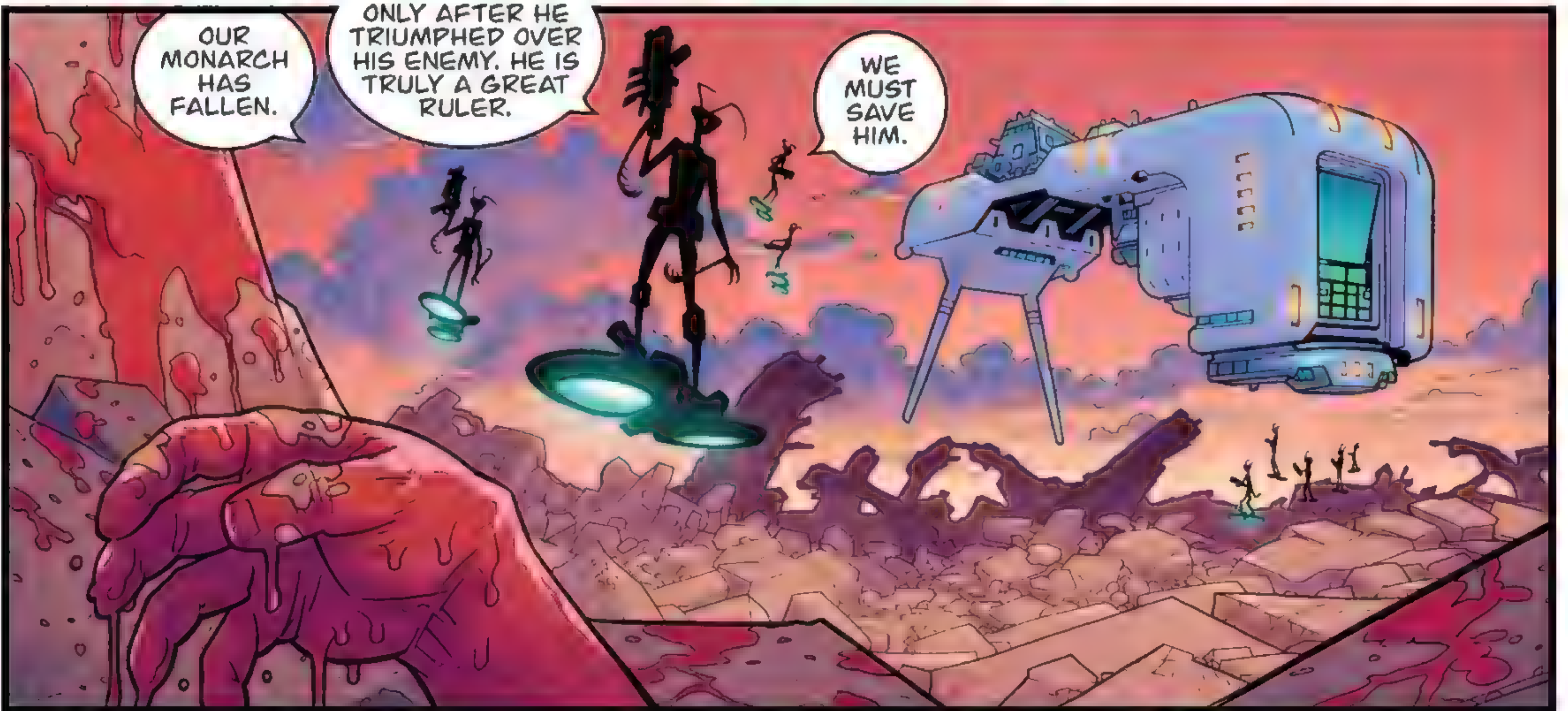
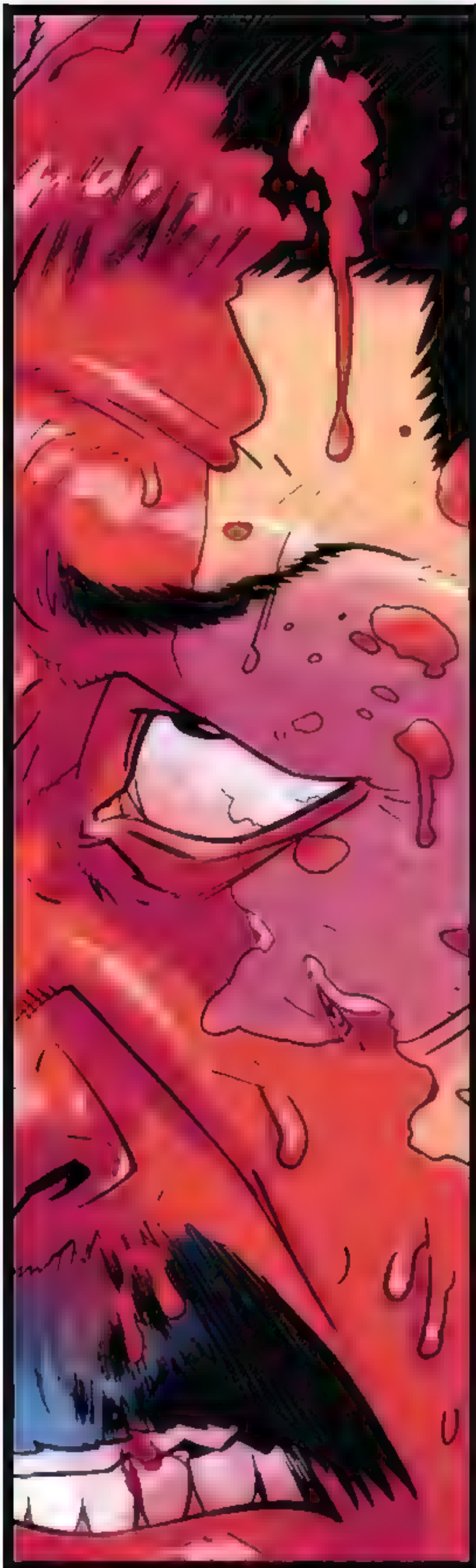
THANK...

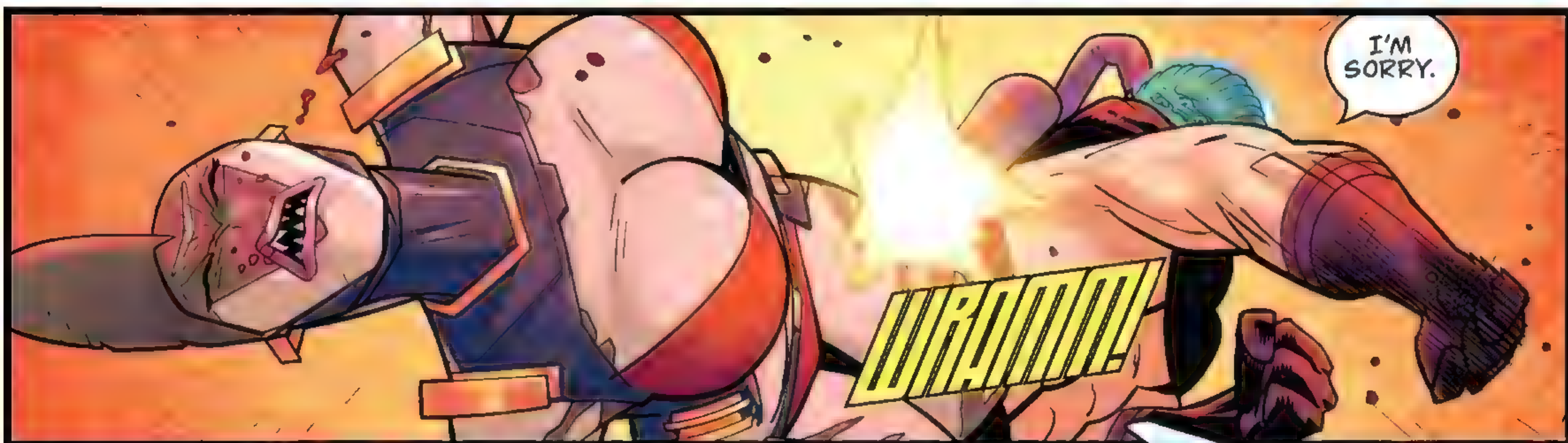
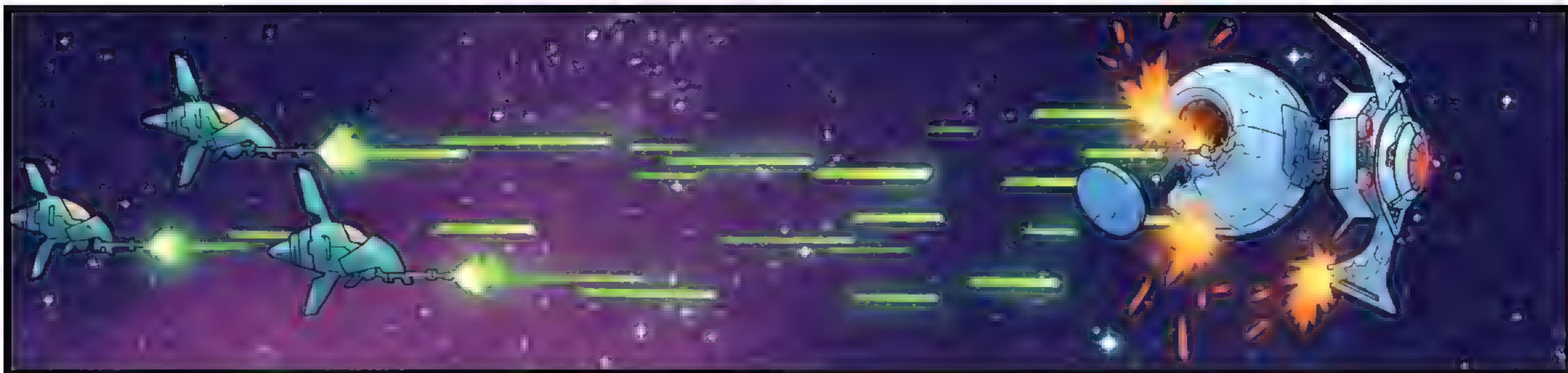
...YOU.



IT'S...
DONE.

SKY!







WELL...
THERE
DEFINITELY
WAS A HUGE
BATTLE HERE...
BUT THAT
WAS A WHILE
AGO.

THE FEED
STOPPED
ABRUPTLY FOUR
DAYS AGO...
CLEARLY THE
FIGHT MUST HAVE
STOPPED AT
SOME POINT
AFTER THAT.



YEAH...
BUT WHO
WON?



I'M GOING TO
TAKE THE FACT
THAT THRAGG
HASN'T ATTACKED
US YET AS A
GOOD SIGN.

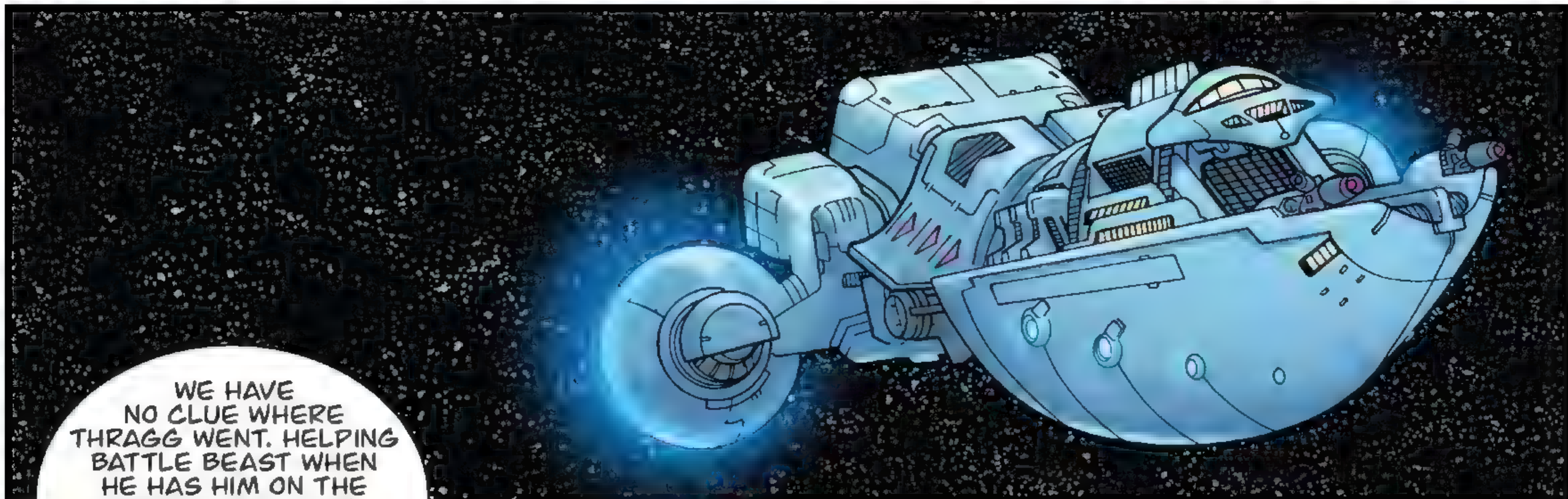
IS THIS
WEIRD
FOR
YOU?



A LITTLE. BUT IT'S BEEN **GENERATIONS**
SINCE I WAS BORN. THINGS MOVE SO FAST
HERE... I BARELY RECOGNIZE THE PLACE,
AND EVERYONE WHO WOULD REMEMBER
ME IS LONG DEAD.

INCLUDING MY
MOTHER.





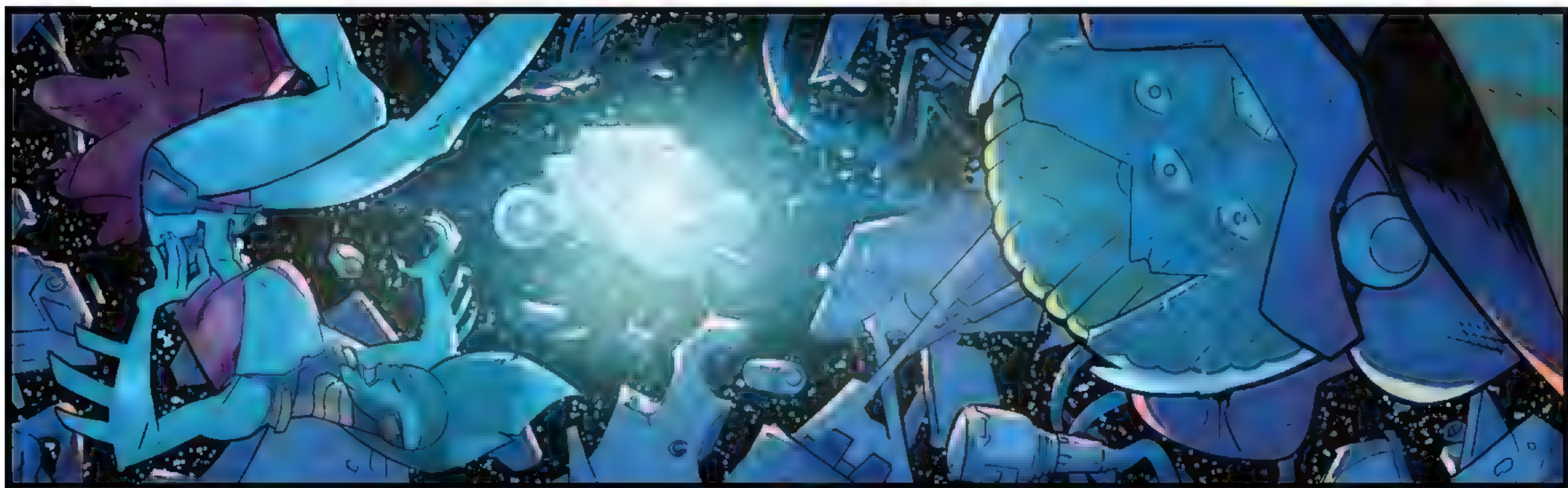
WE HAVE NO CLUE WHERE THRAGG WENT. HELPING BATTLE BEAST WHEN HE HAS HIM ON THE ROPES IS ONE THING... BUT IF WE WERE TO SOMEHOW FIND HIM... I DON'T KNOW WHAT WE'D DO.



I'M WORRIED THAT THERE'S NO SIGN OF SPACE RACER AND THRESHA'S SHIP...

WE'RE DETECTING A DEBRIS FIELD AHEAD.

FULL STOP.



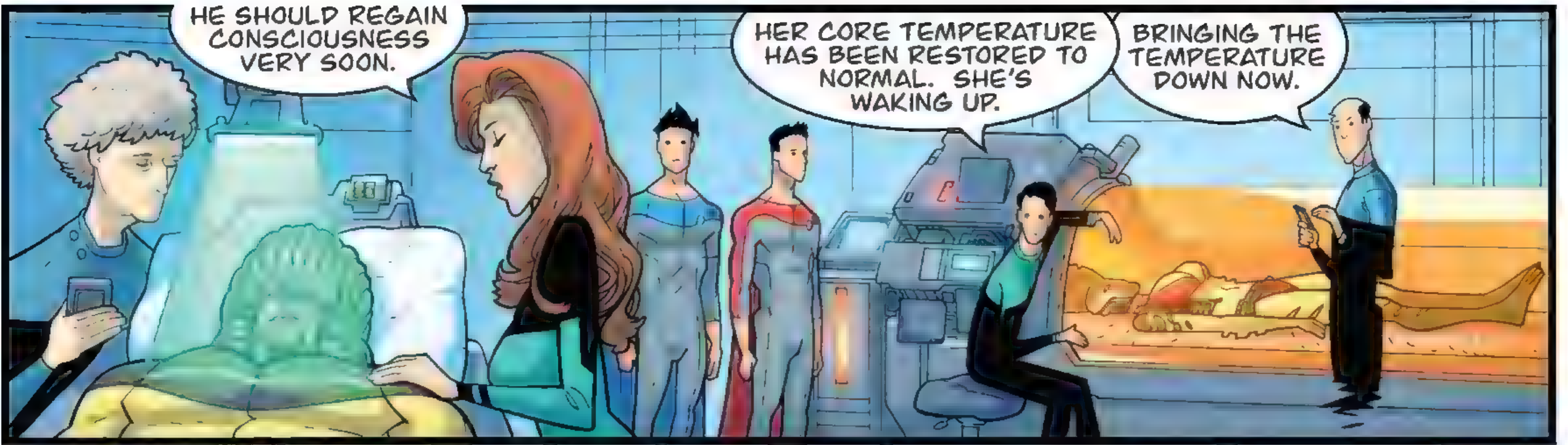
THERE ARE FAINT LIFE SIGNS COMING FROM BOTH HUMANOID'S ADRIPT. IT WOULD APPEAR THEY ARE... ALIVE.

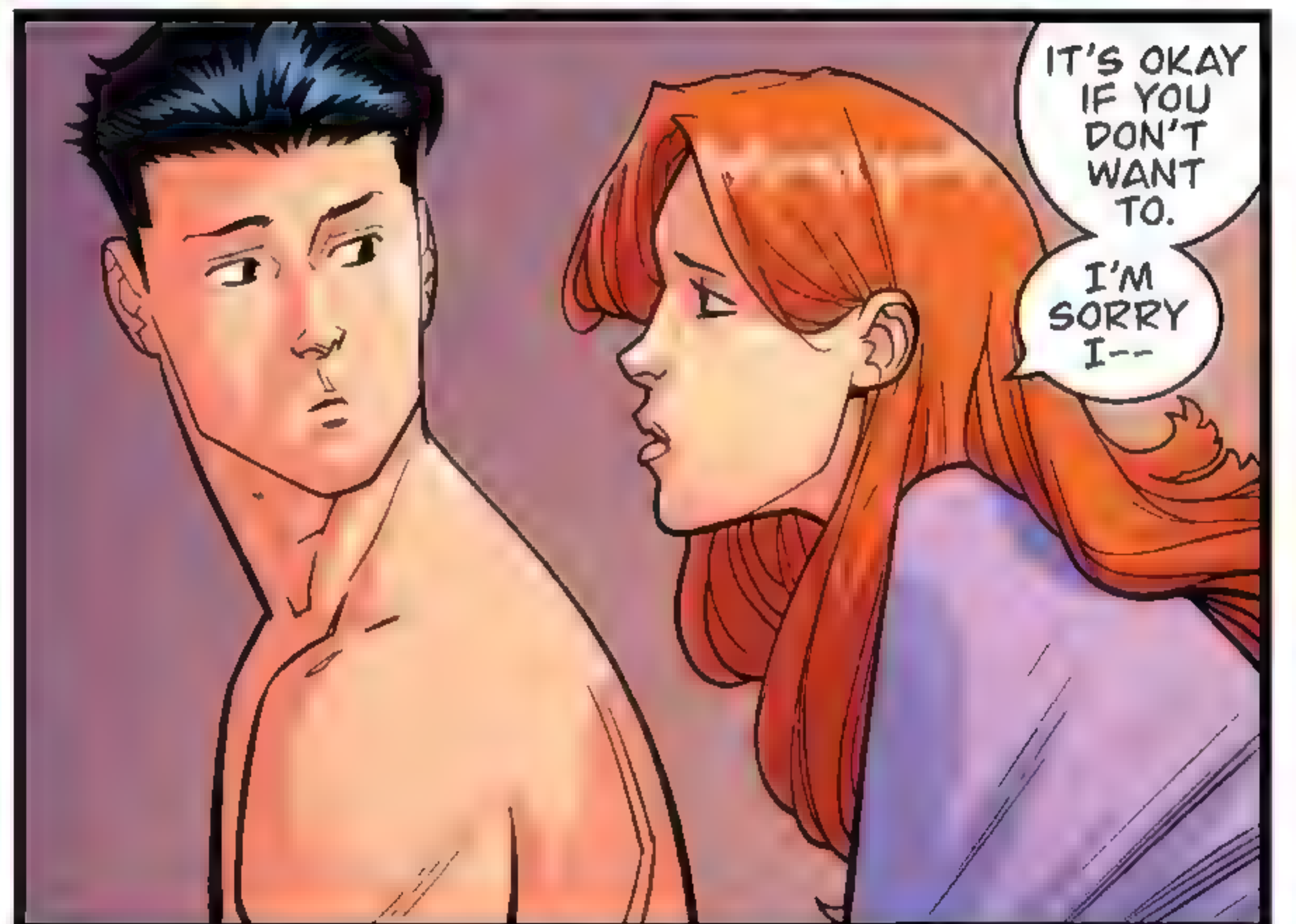
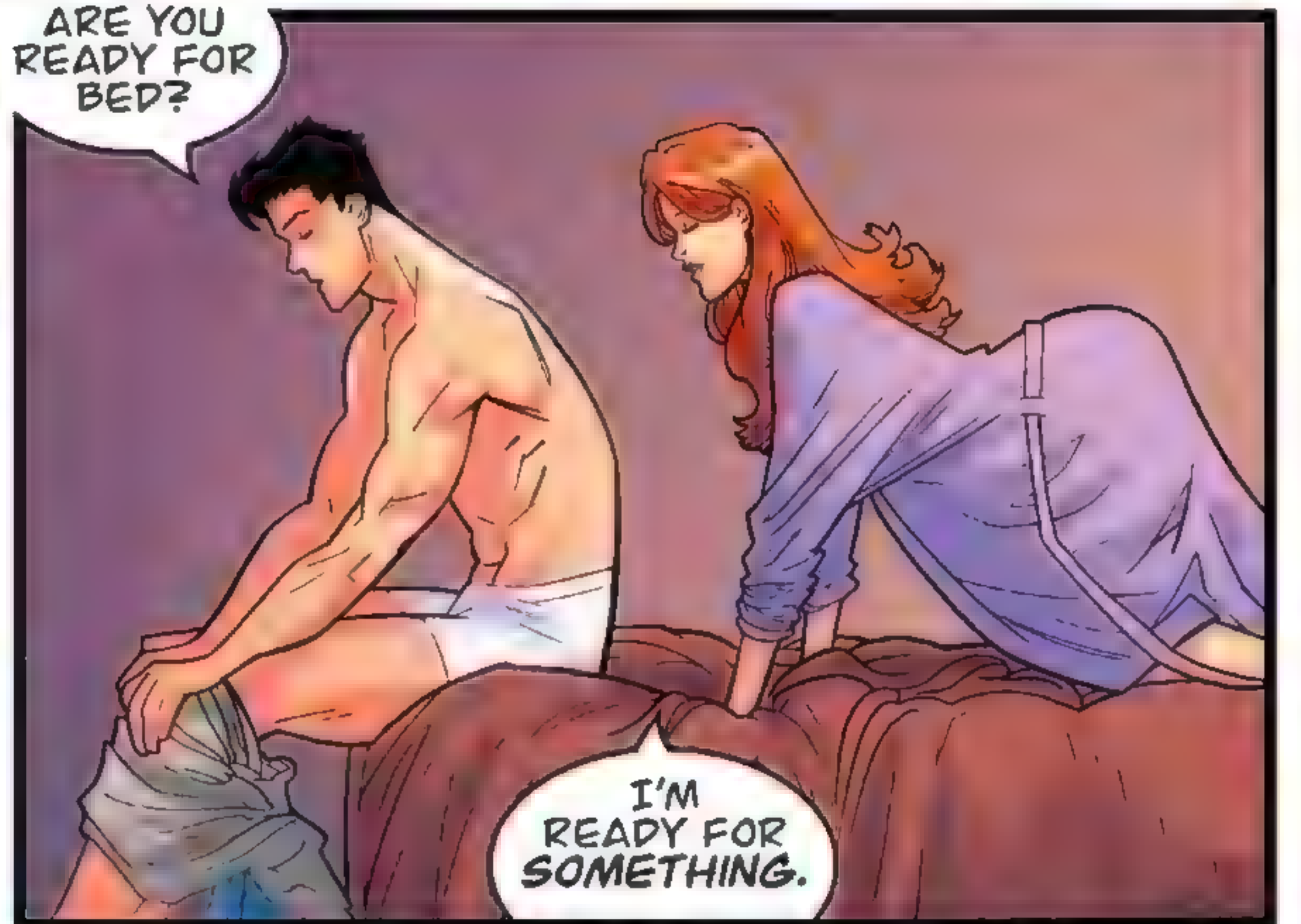
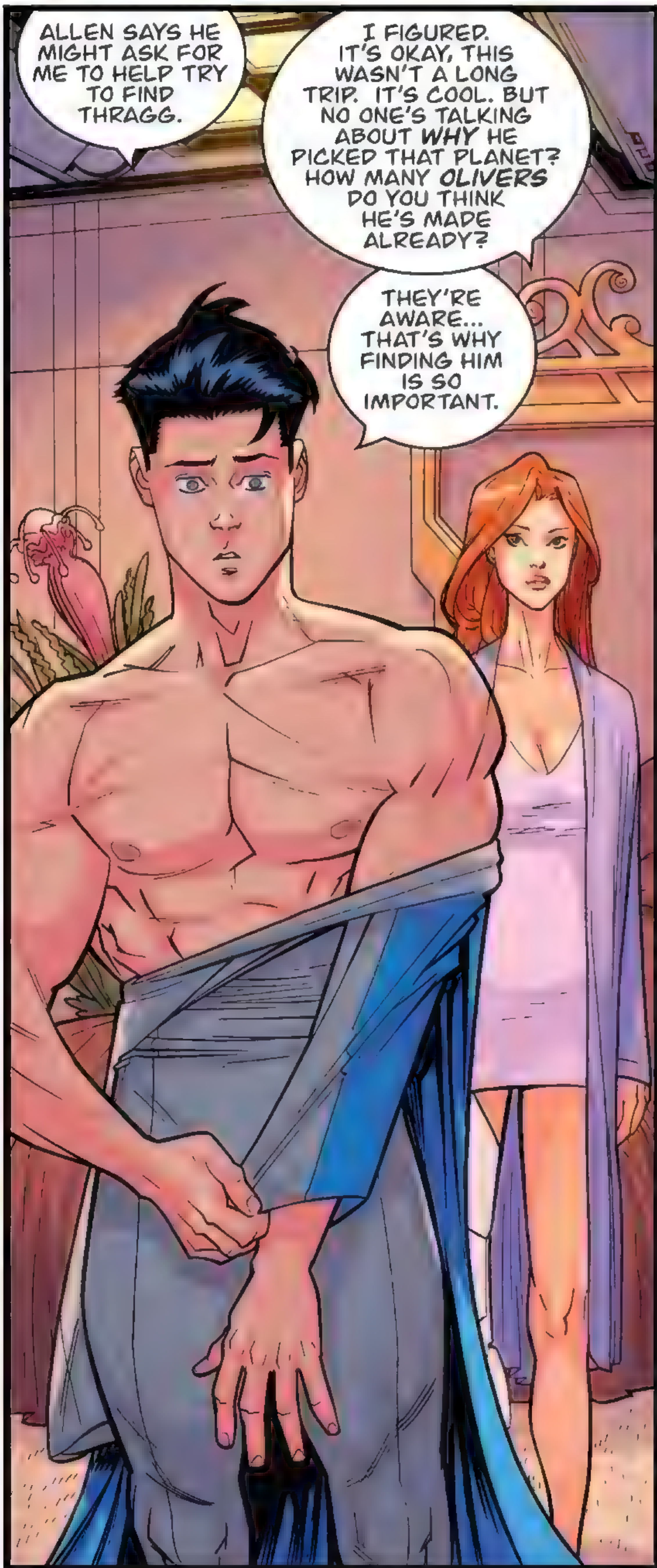
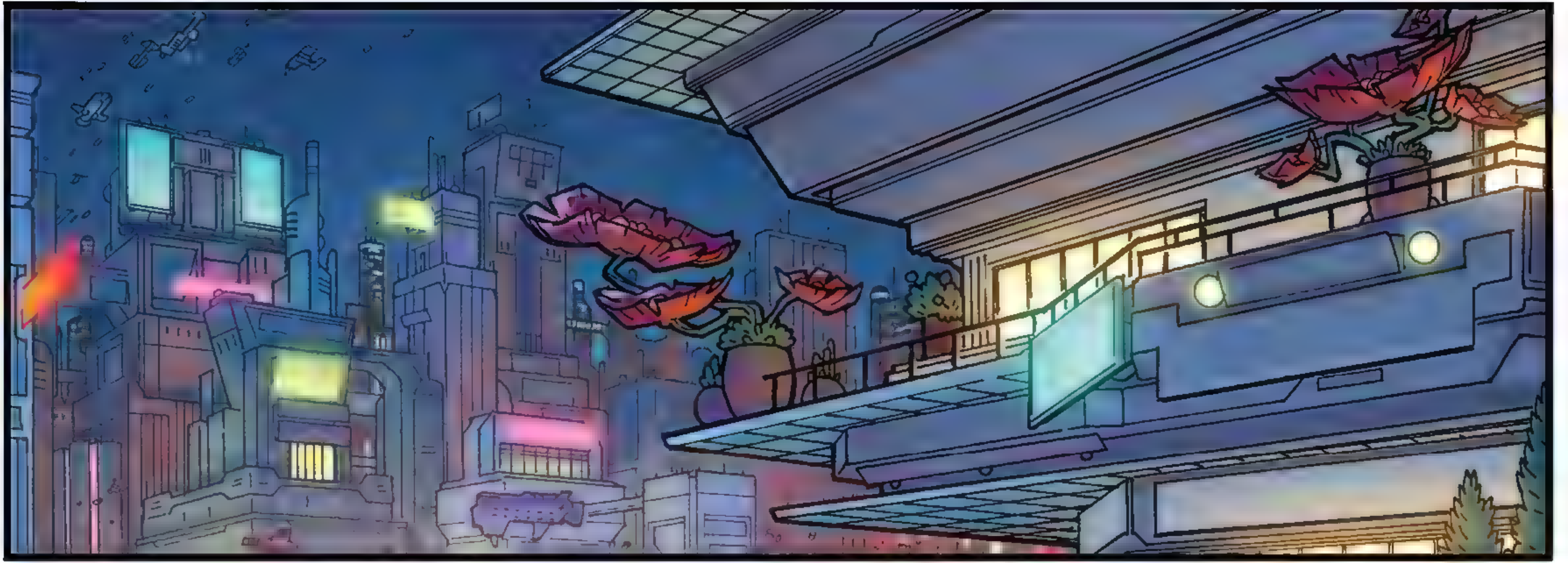
CAPTAIN, OUR TRACTOR BEAM COULD SMASH THEM AGAINST DEBRIS ON THE WAY IN. I RECOMMEND I LEAD AN AWAY TEAM TO--



WE'LL GO.

SHOW US TO AN AIRLOCK.



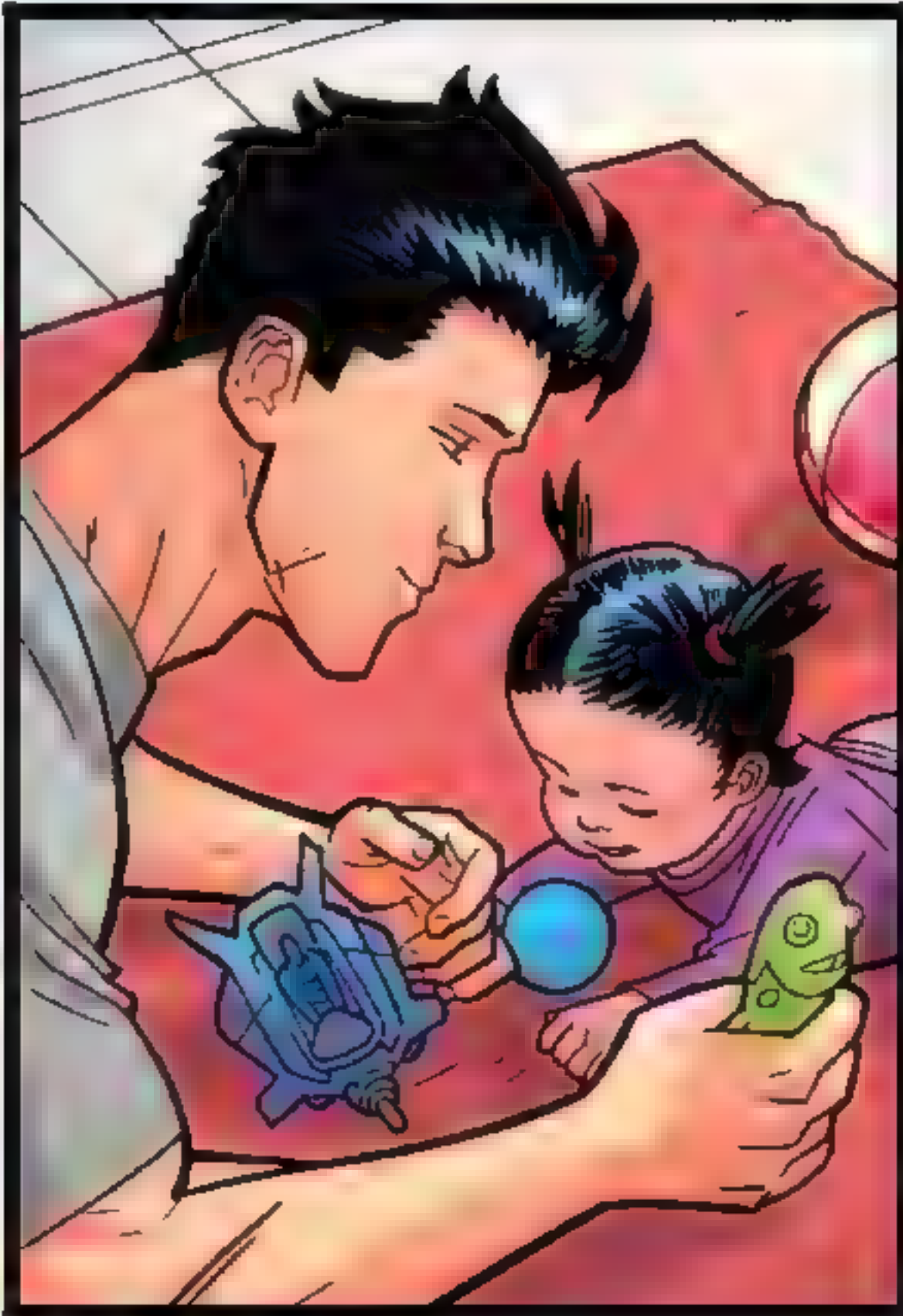
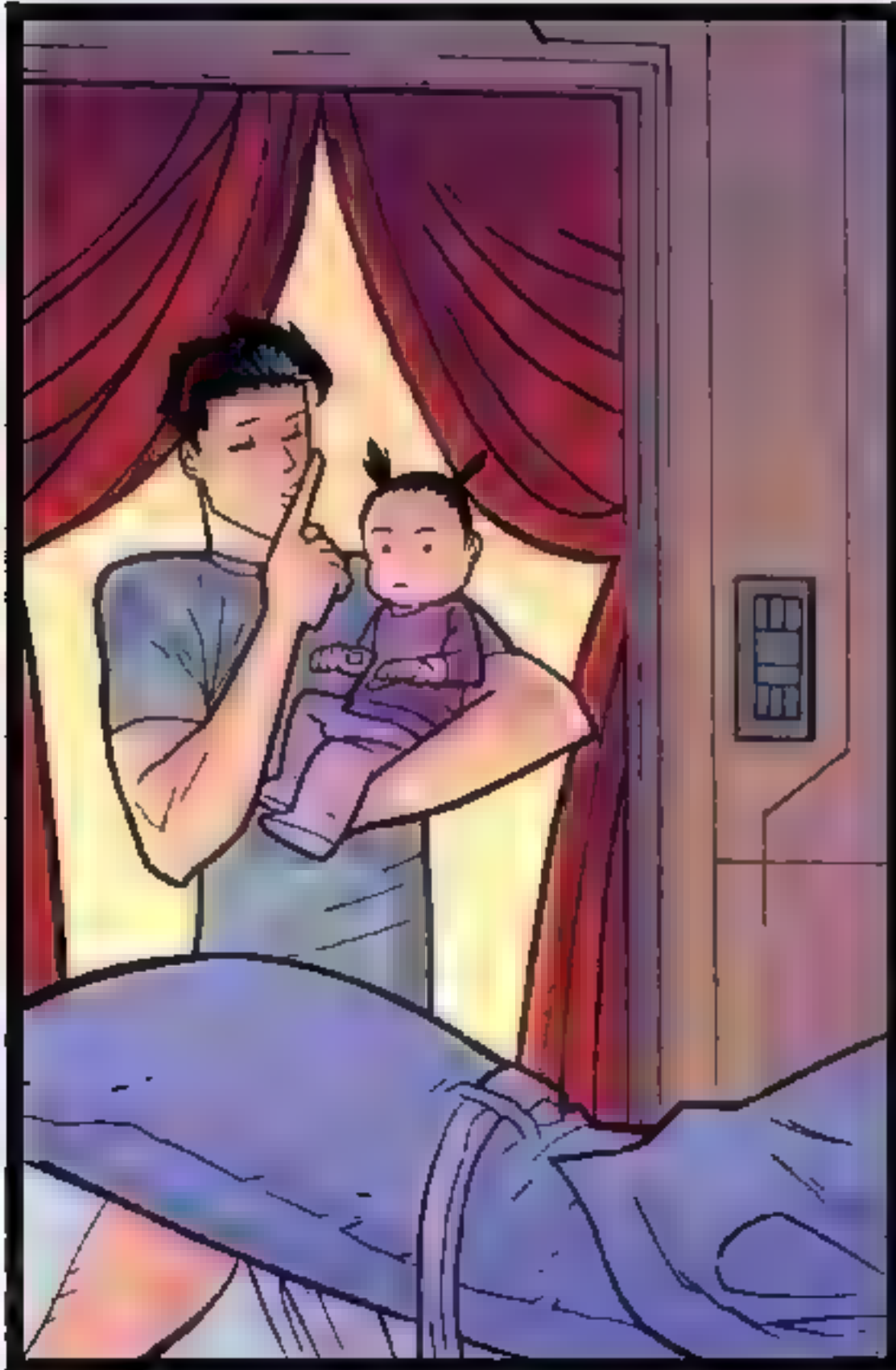
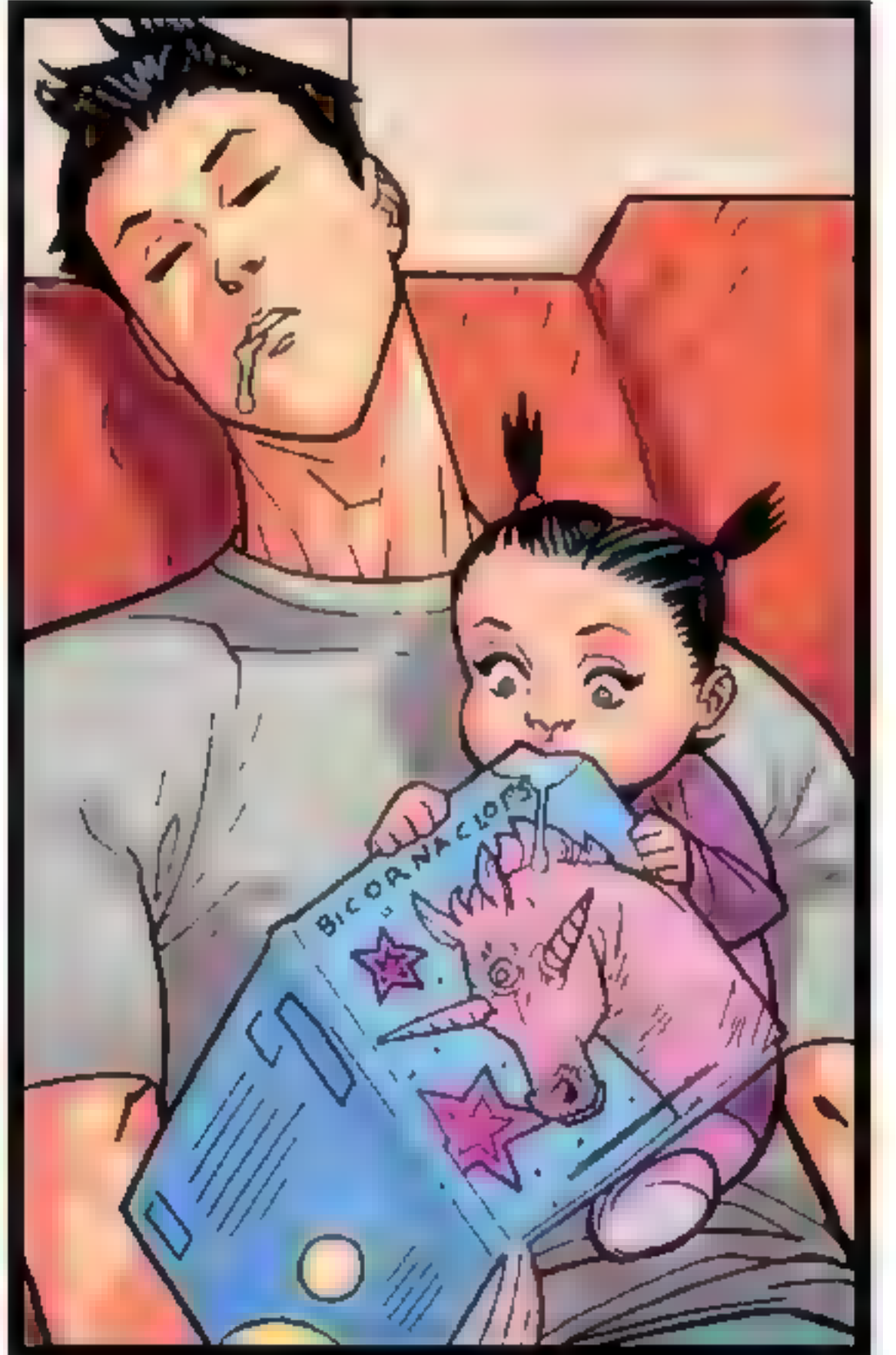
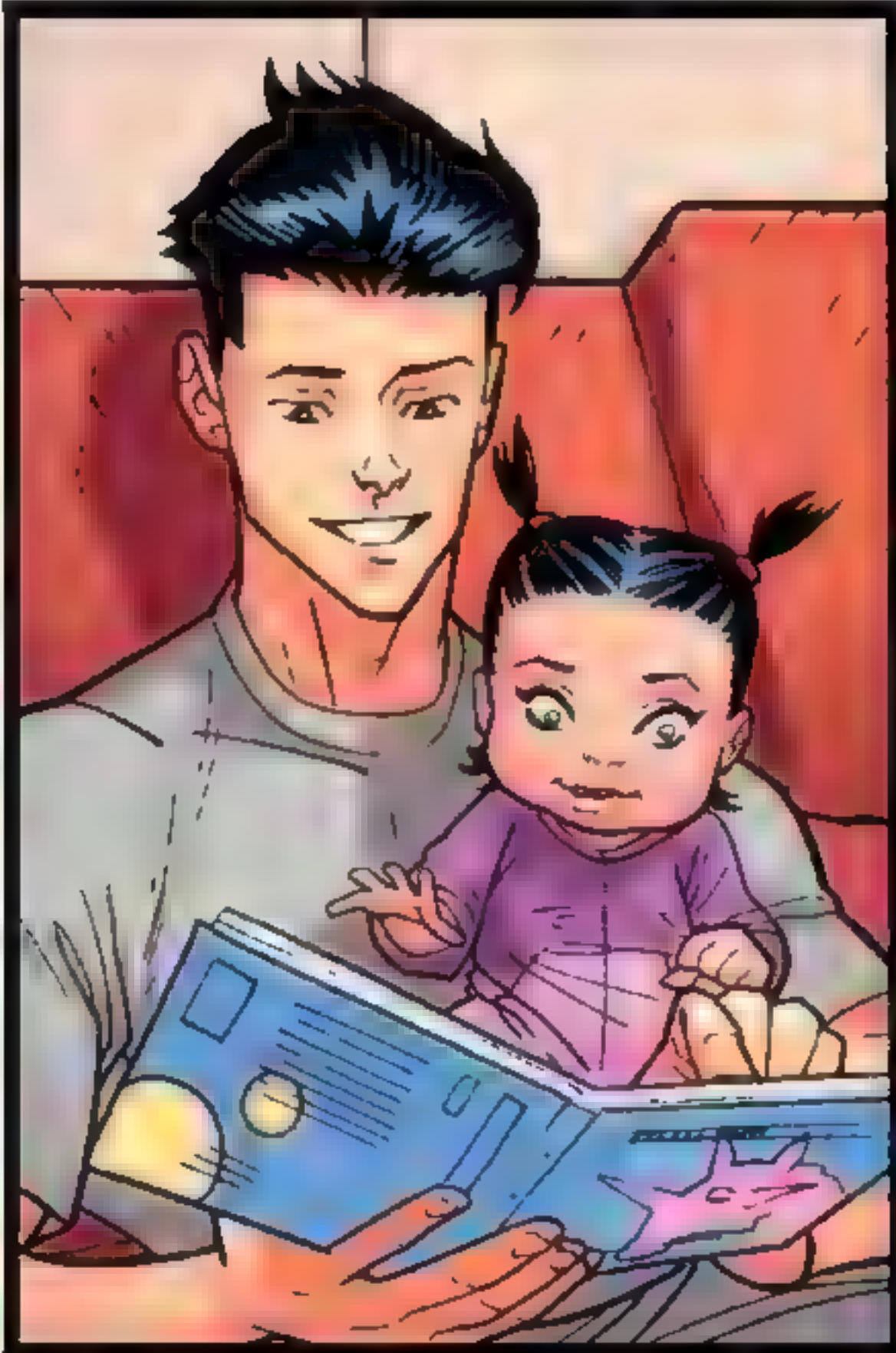
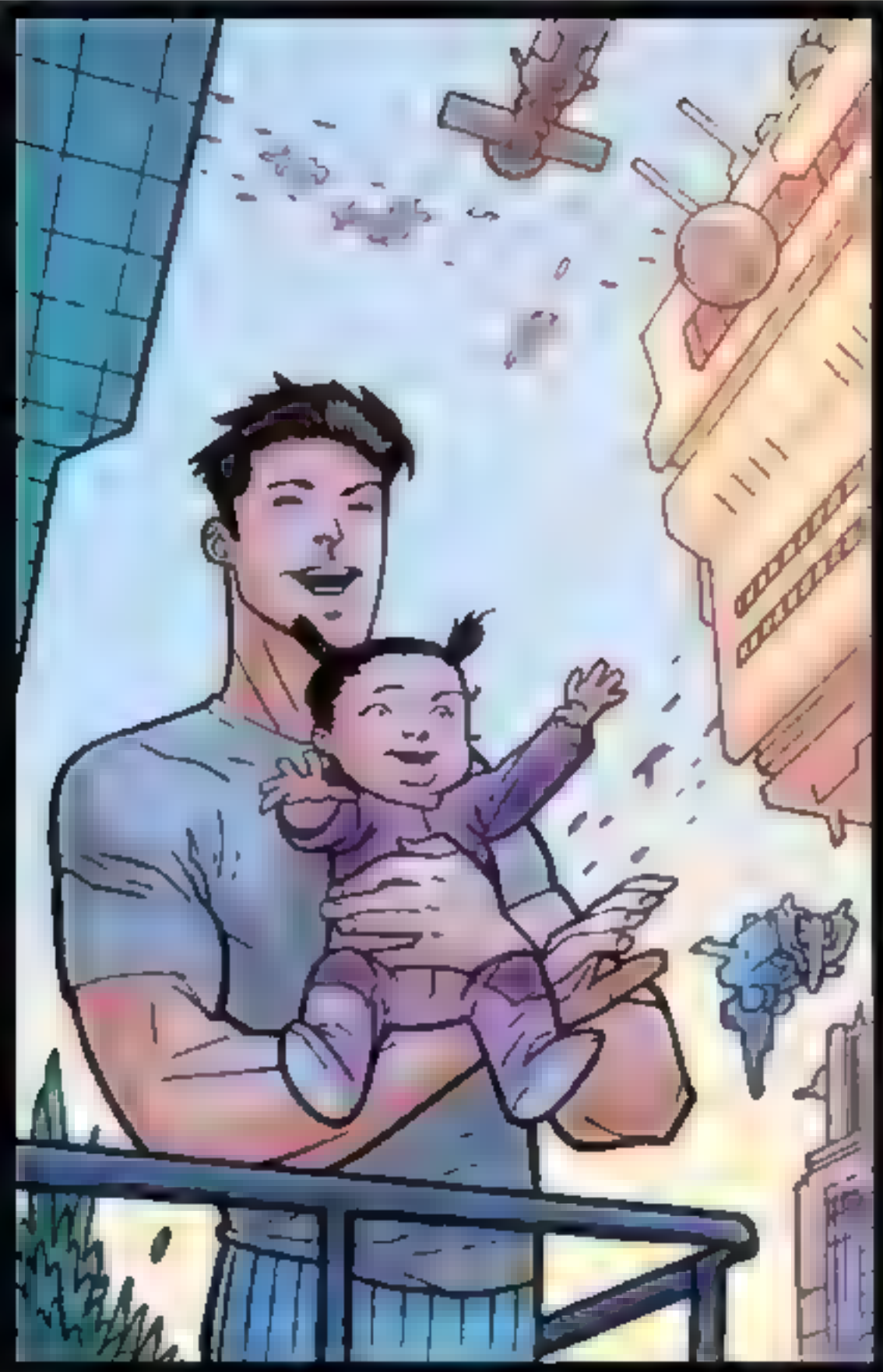
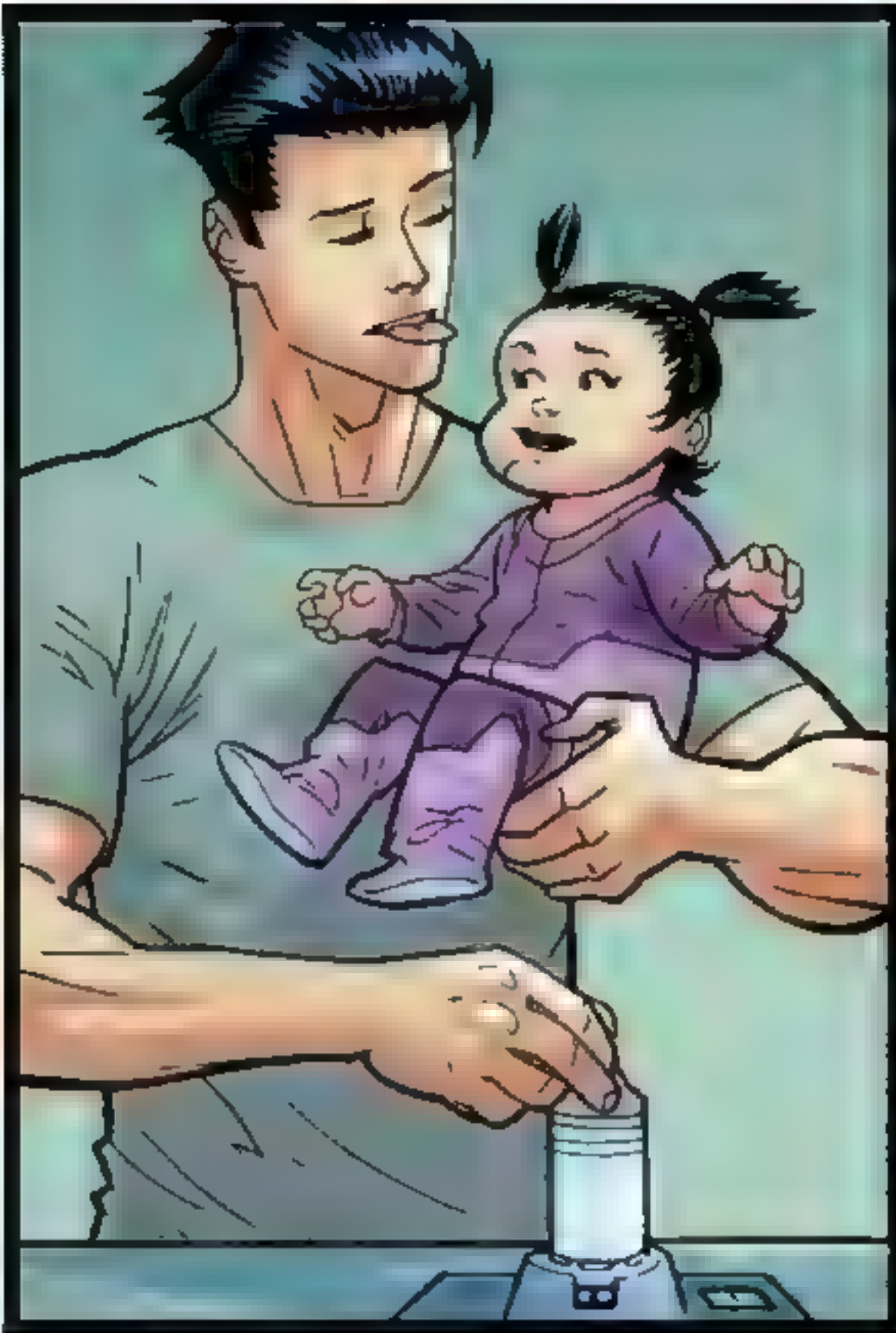
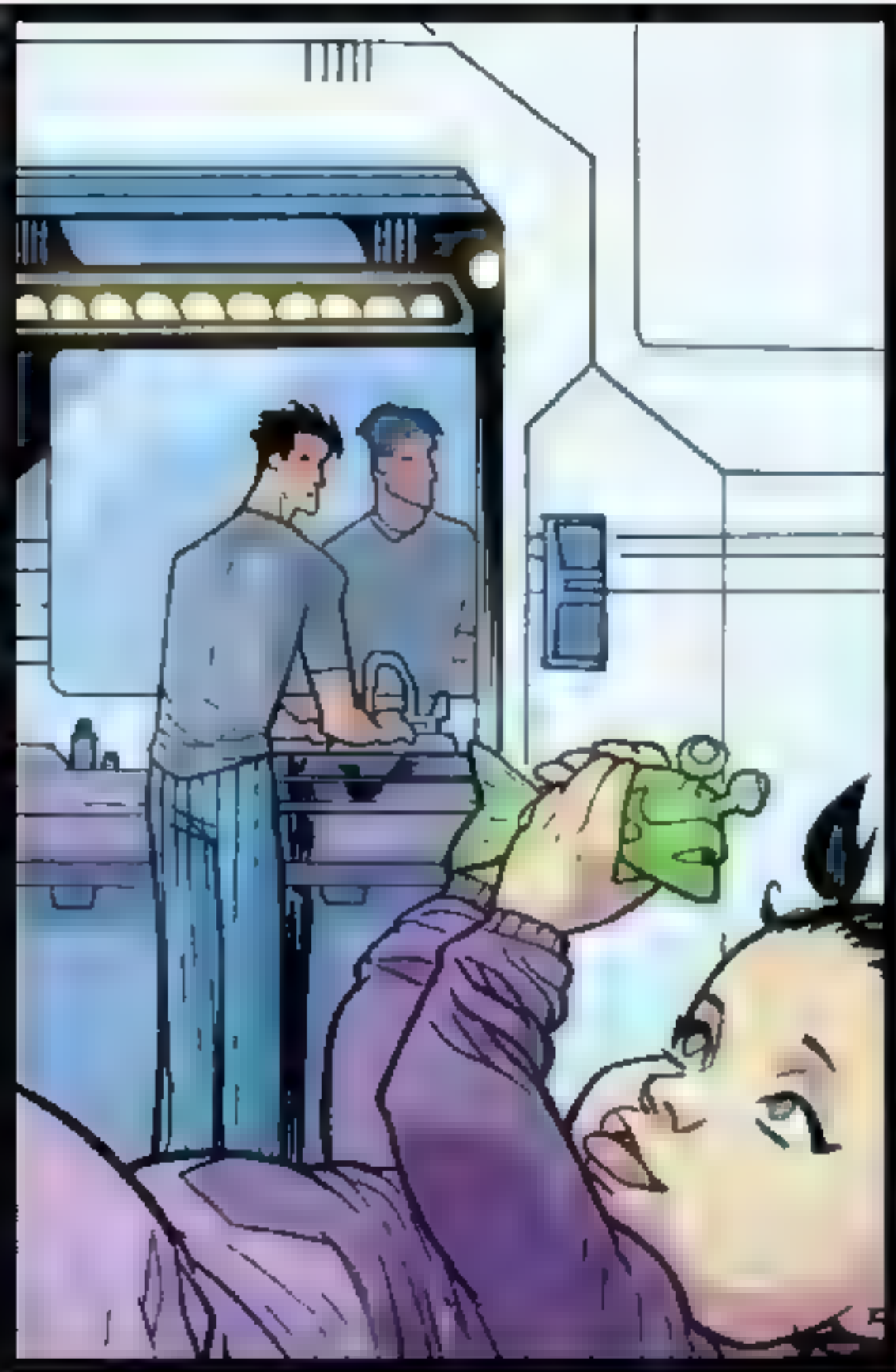






AND
YOU...

YOU'RE
PRETTY
DAMN
AWESOME,
TOO.



YOU KNOW... I WAS SO TERRIFIED WHEN I FOUND OUT YOUR MOTHER WAS PREGNANT.

COMPLETELY. TERRIFIED.

MY DAD TOLD ME TO GET USED TO IT. SAID I'D BE TERRIFIED EVERY DAY FROM NOW ON. AND BOY... WHEN WE HAD TO TAKE YOU TO THE HOSPITAL... HE WAS RIGHT.

THAT ALMOST KILLED ME.

YOU KNOW WHAT HE DIDN'T TELL ME?

HOW HAPPY YOU'D MAKE ME.

YOU'RE SERIOUSLY THE BEST THING TO EVER HAPPEN TO ME.

I MEAN, LOOK AT YOU.

I KNOW IT'S ONLY BEEN A COUPLE MONTHS, BUT I ALREADY HAVE TROUBLE REMEMBERING WHAT LIFE WAS LIKE BEFORE YOU CAME ALONG.

EVERYTHING IS SO... DIFFERENT NOW.

WHUMP!

OKAY... NOT QUITE THE EXPERT "SITTER" JUST YET.

I DON'T JUDGE.

THERE. MUCH BETTER.

I'M GOING TO MAKE A PROMISE TO YOU RIGHT NOW, TERRA.

AND I'M GOING TO KEEP IT. I SWEAR I WILL.

I WILL ALWAYS BE HERE FOR YOU.

I'M NOT GOING TO GET KILLED. I'M NOT GOING TO GET LOST IN ANOTHER DIMENSION. I'M NOT GOING TO DISAPPEAR.

I'M GOING TO BE CAREFUL... OH, SO CAREFUL. FOR YOU... AND YOUR MOMMY... BUT MOSTLY YOU, IF I'M HONEST.

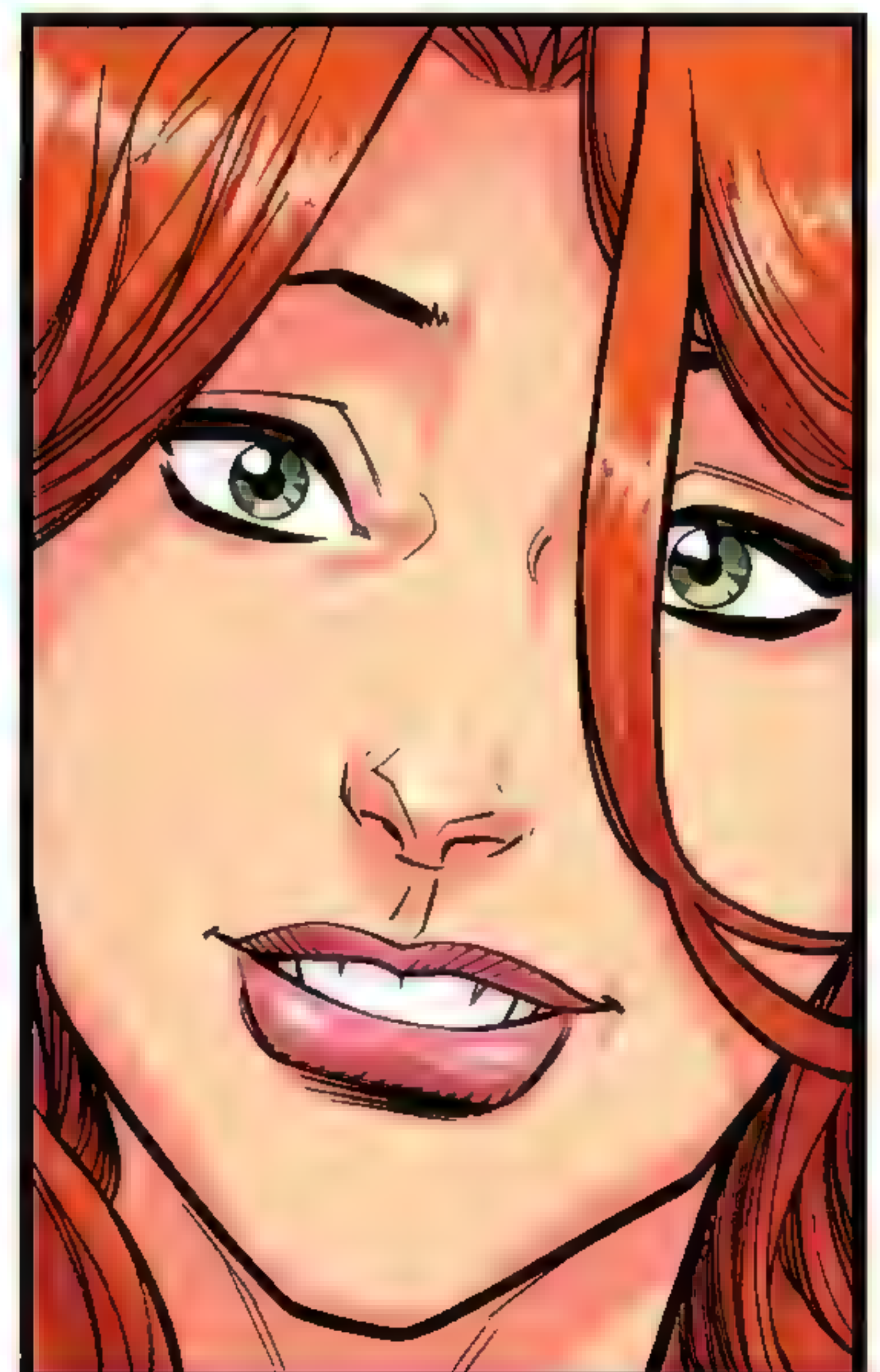
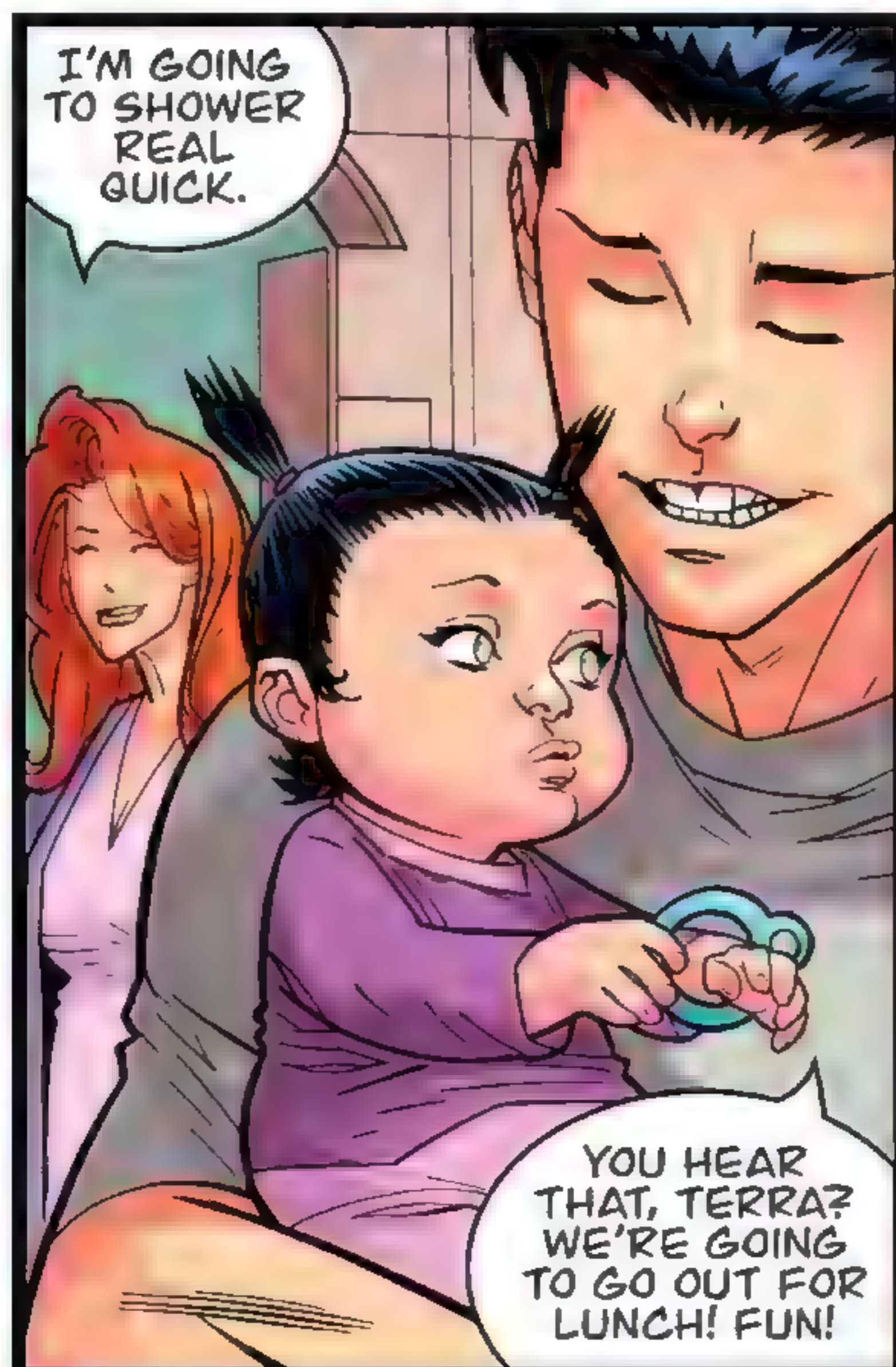
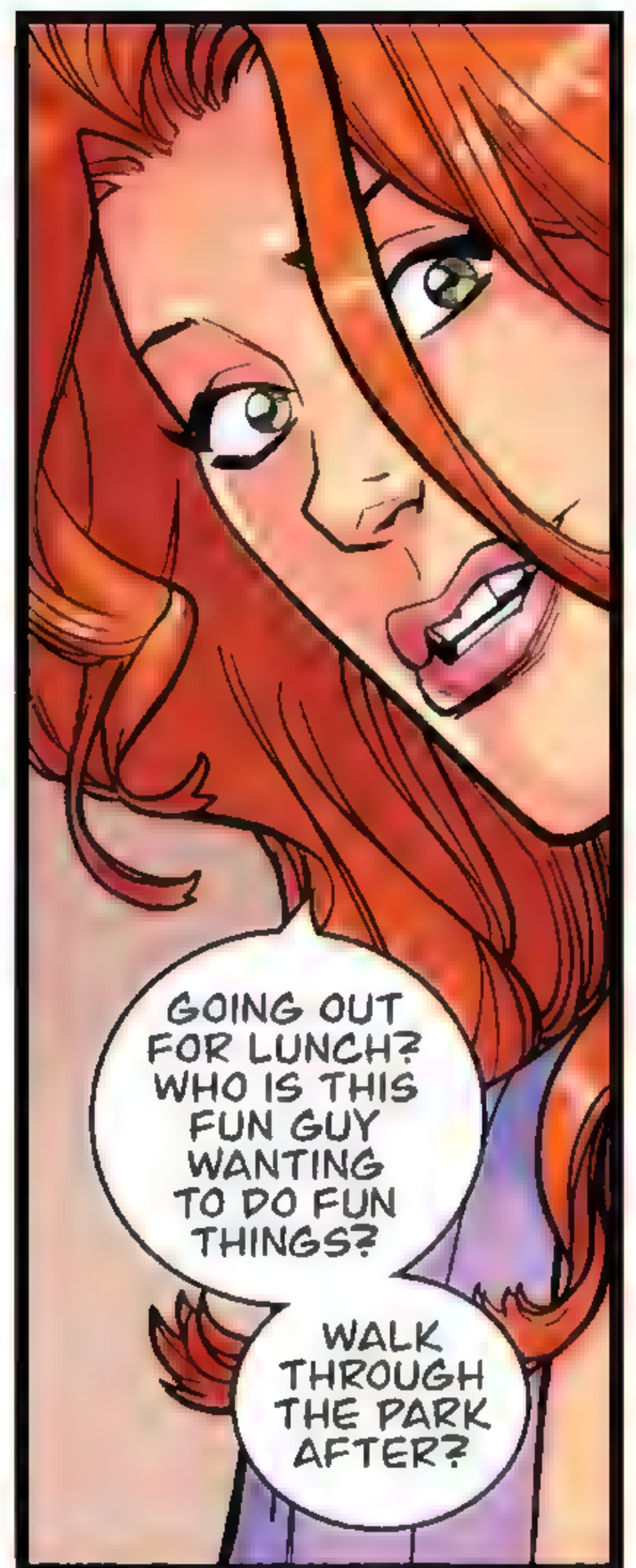
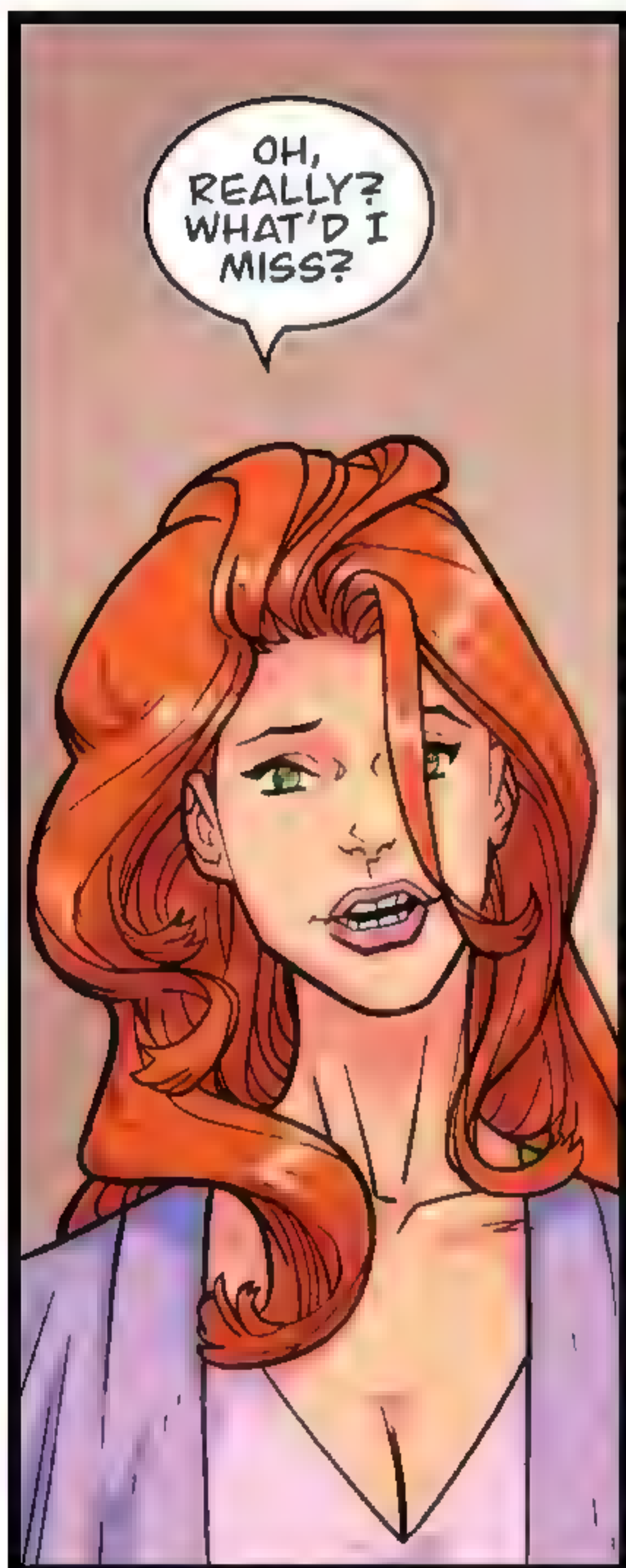
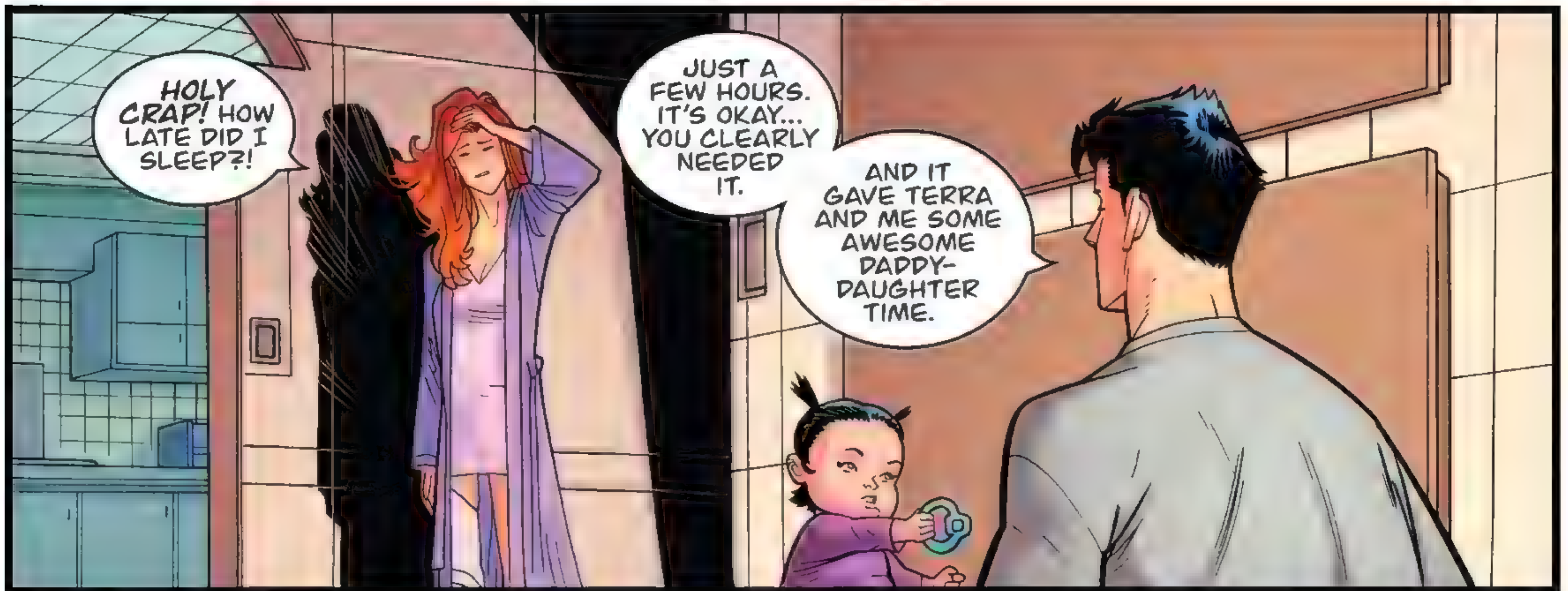
IF YOU EVER NEED TO TALK TO SOMEONE, WHEN YOU'RE ABLE TO TALK... I'LL BE THERE.

AND WHEN YOU'RE OLDER, IF YOU COME HOME DRUNK OR WRECK OUR SPACESHIP... OR FLYING CAR OR WHATEVER... I'LL SCOLD THE HELL OUT OF YOU, THAT'S MY JOB.

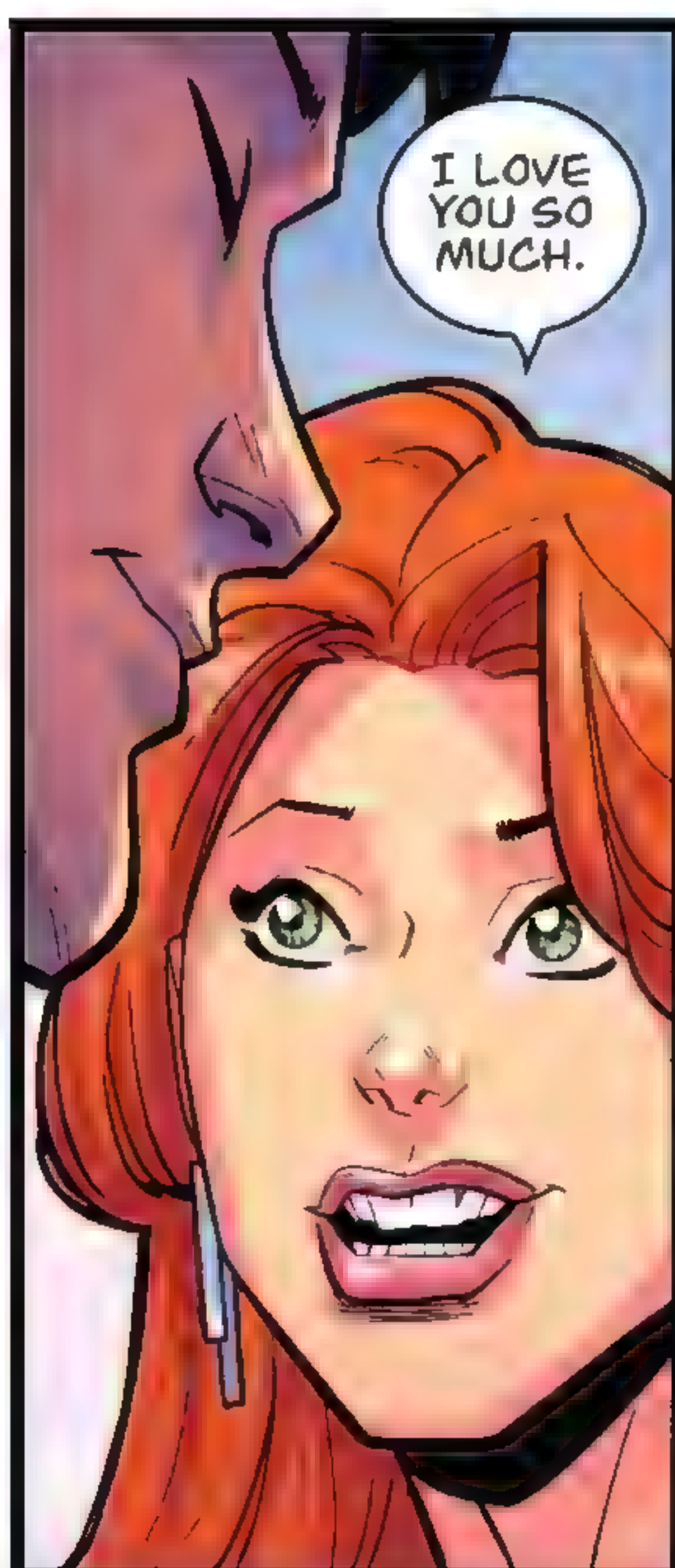
BUT DEEP DOWN... I'LL JUST BE HAPPY YOU'RE OKAY.

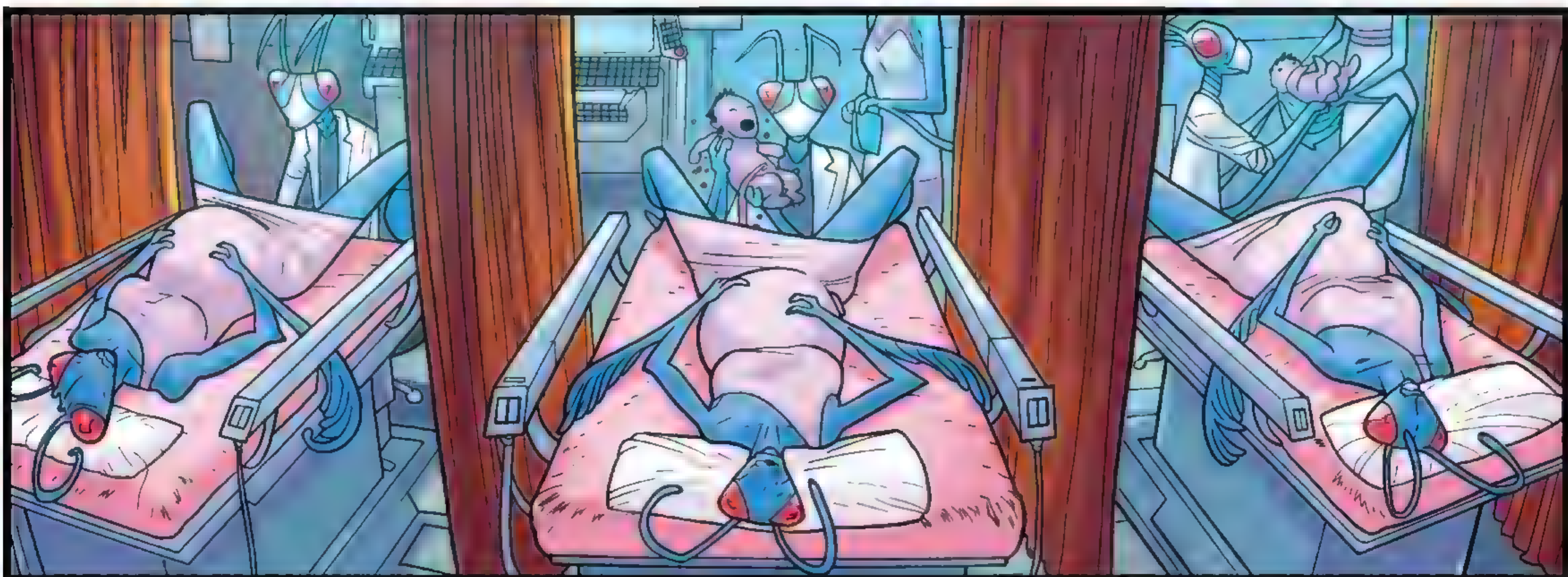
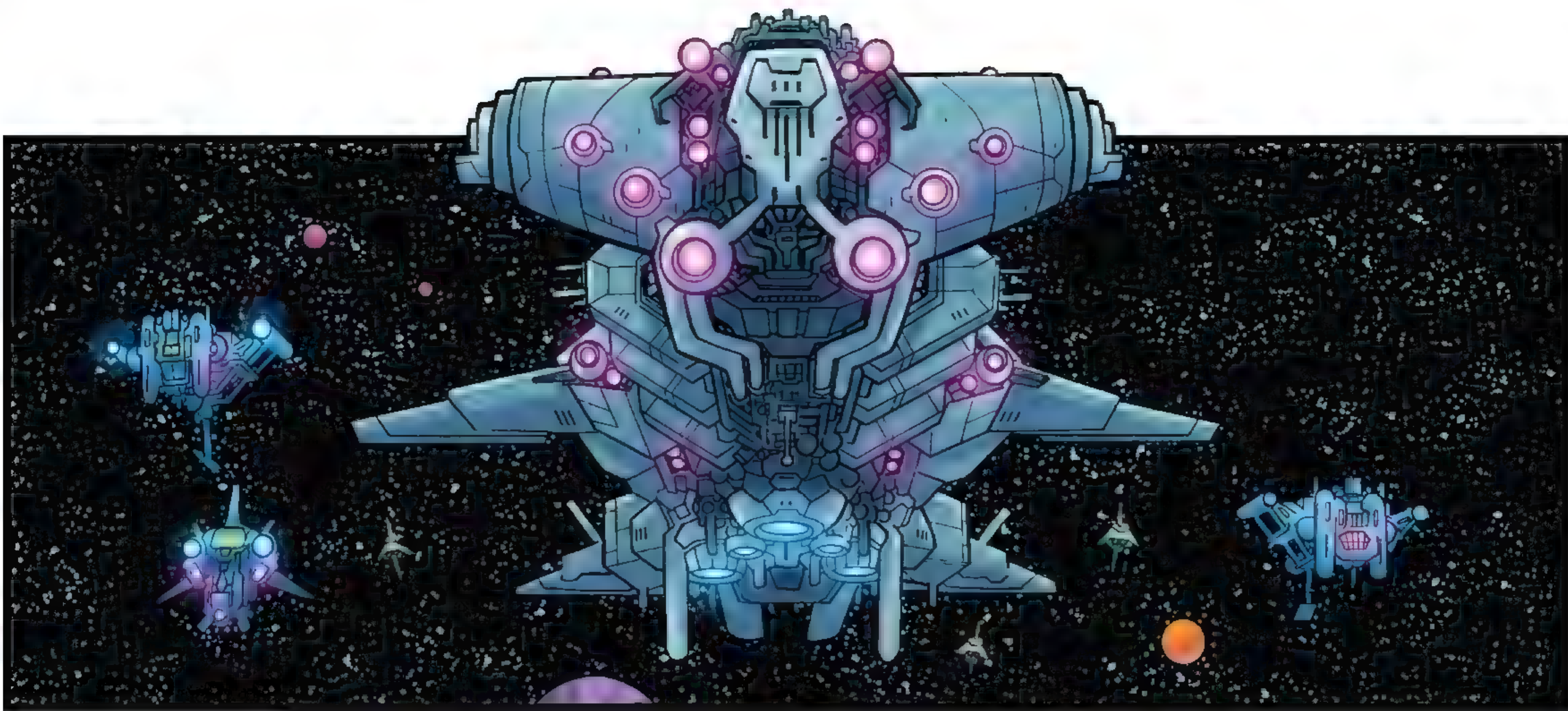
DON'T EVER THROW UP ON MY BACK AGAIN. THAT WAS HORRIBLE.

AND ALL I ASK IN RETURN...









MY
HEALTH
IS...

...IMPROVING.

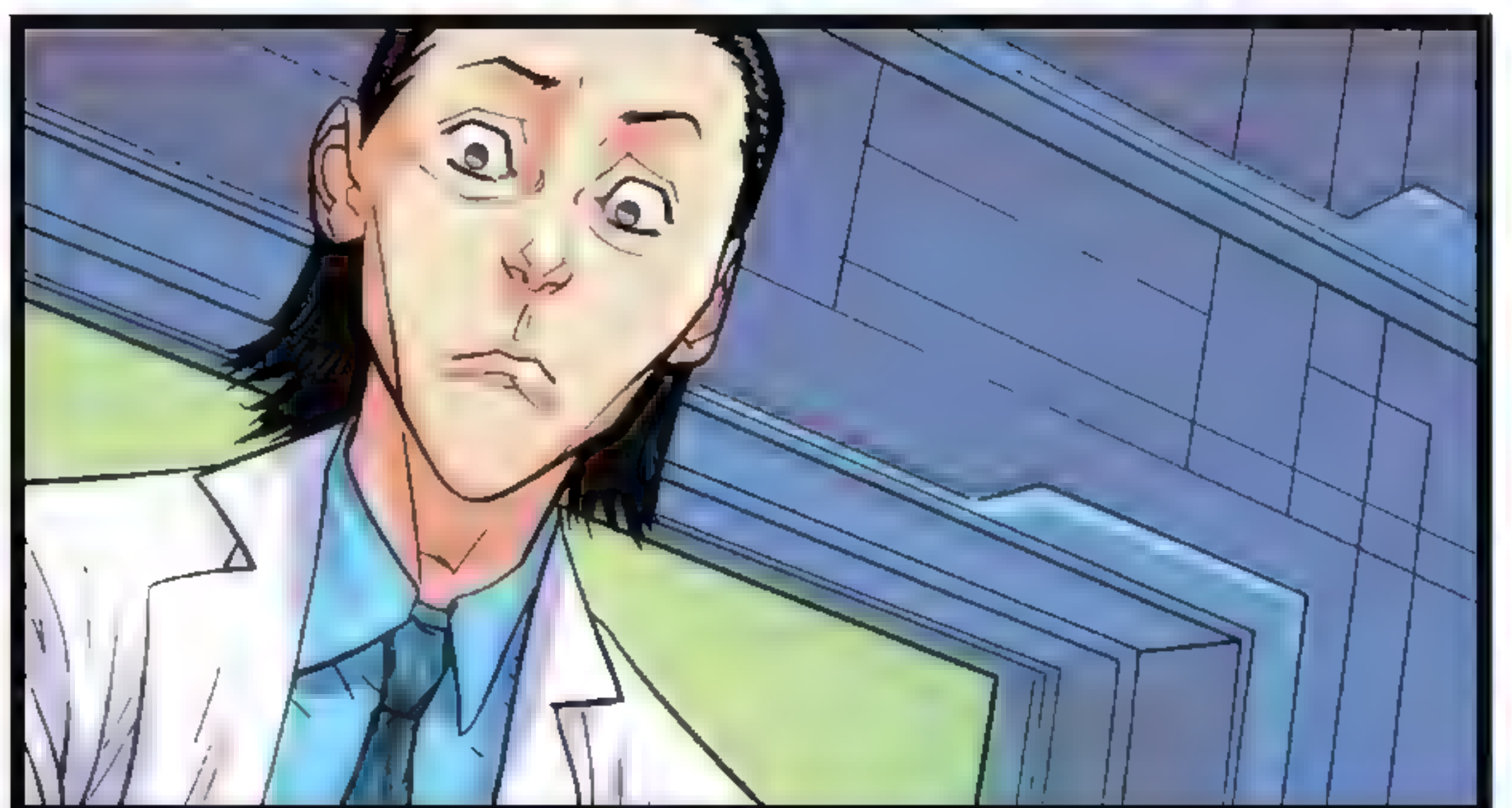
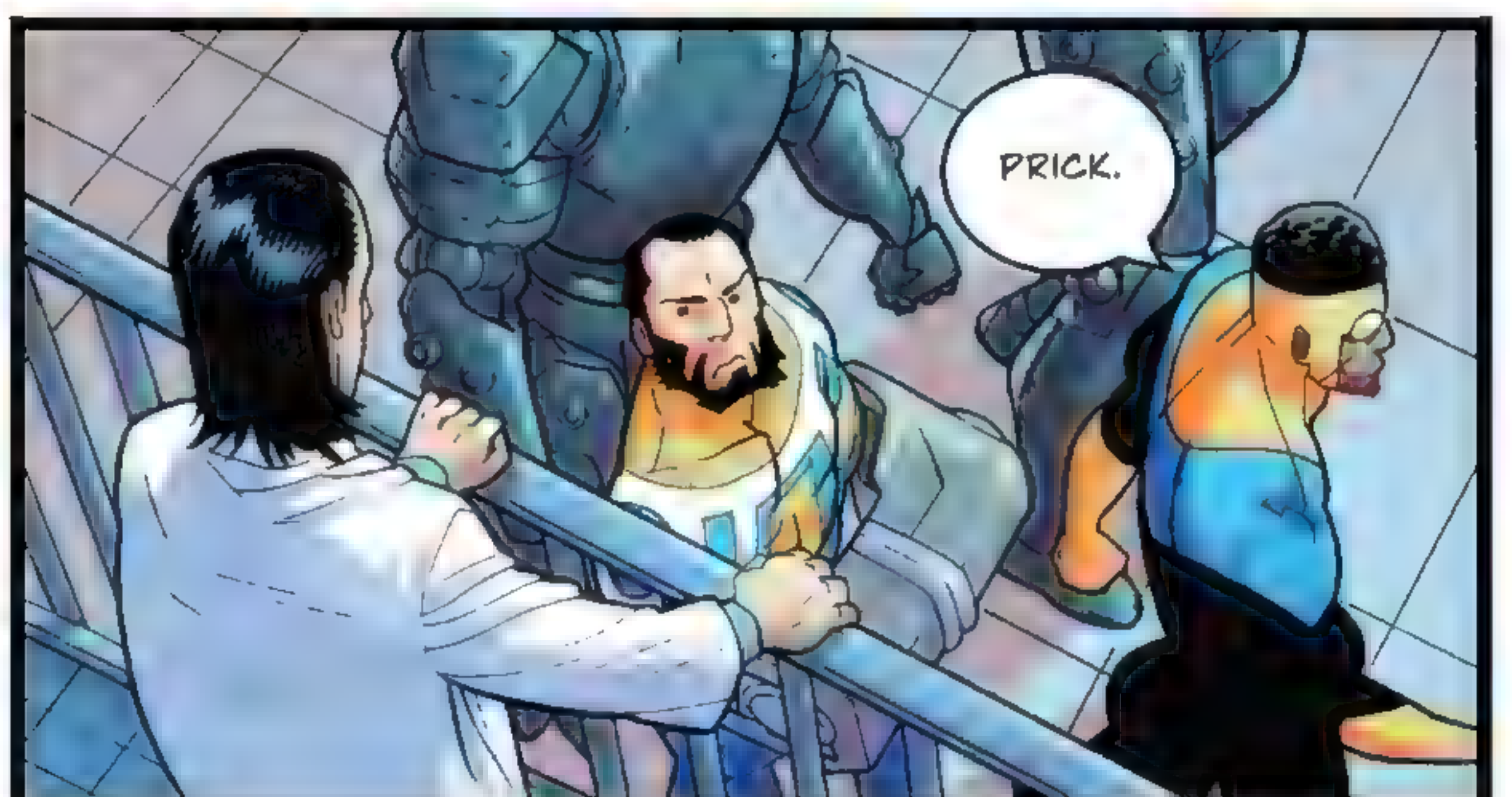
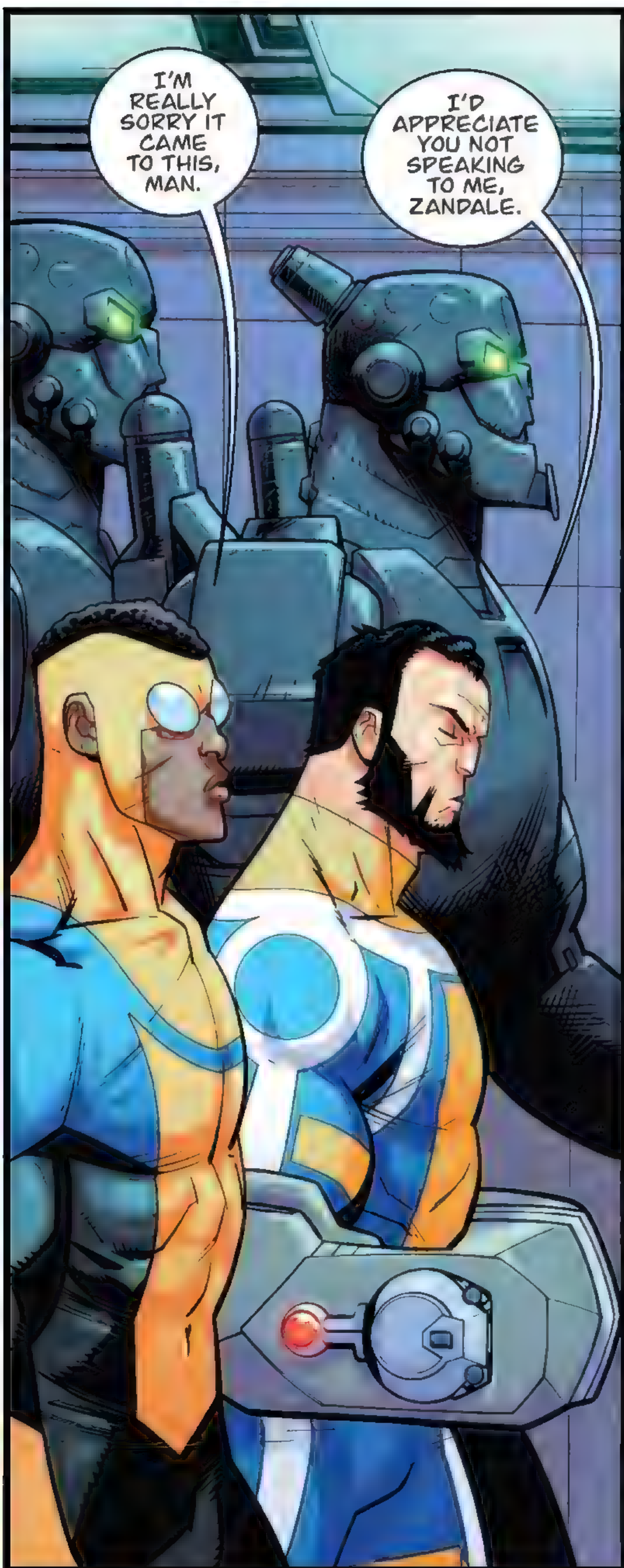
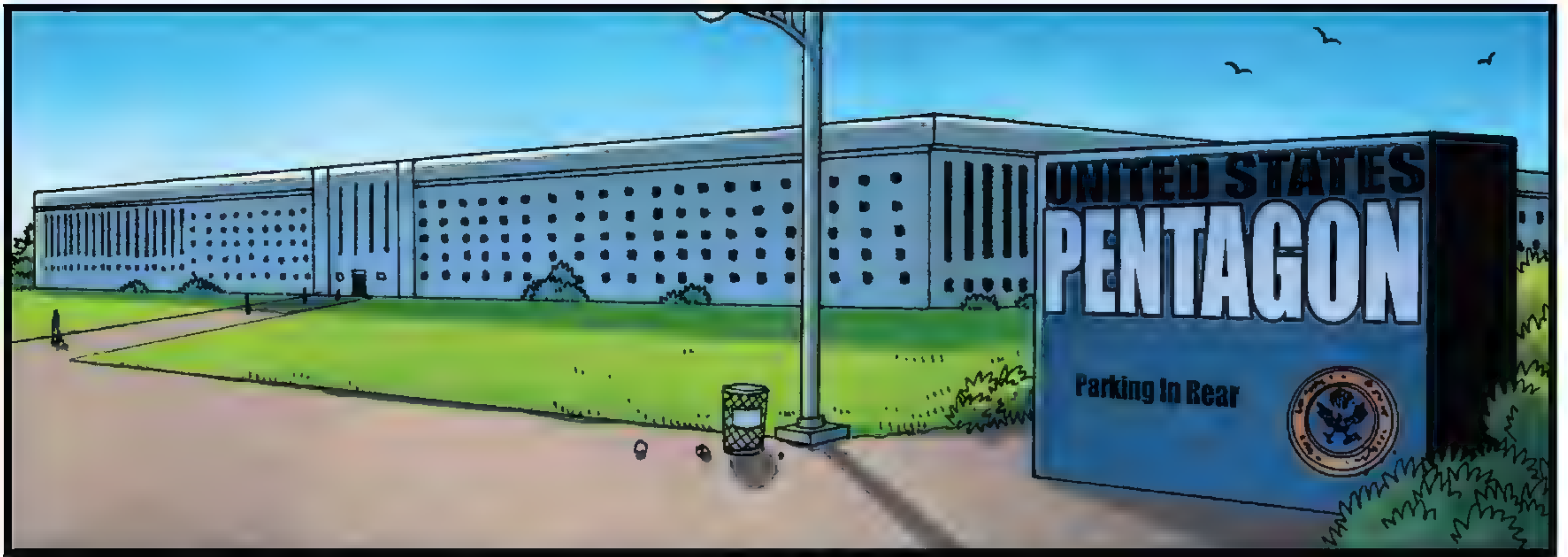


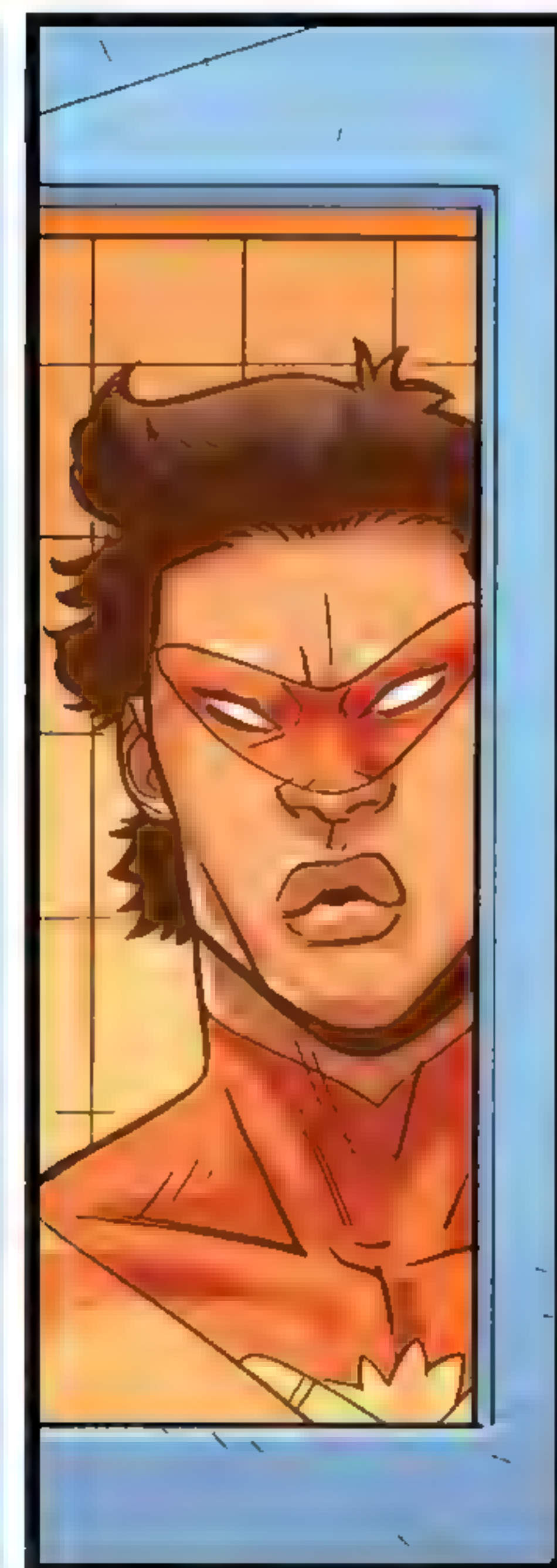
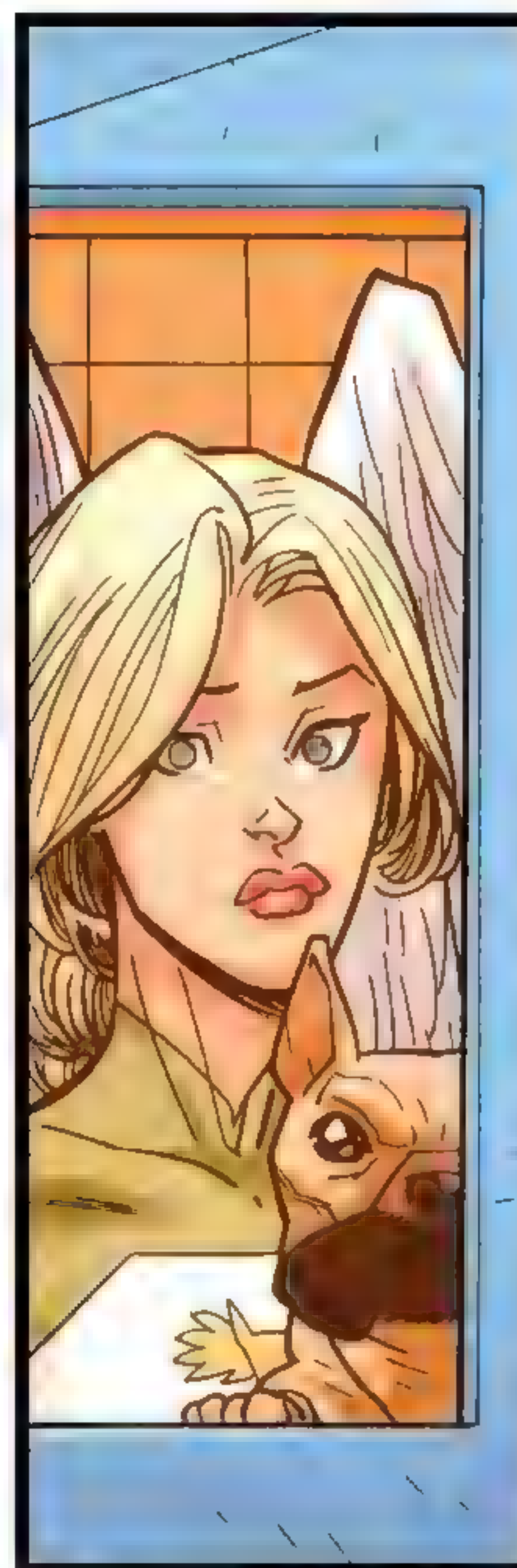
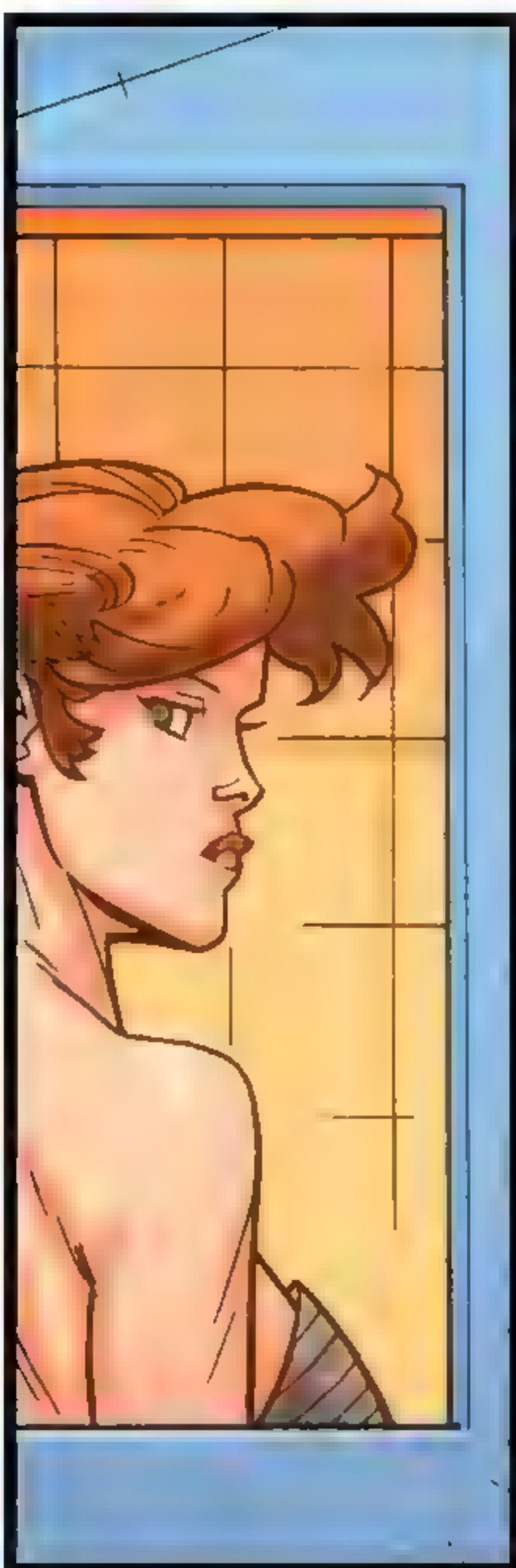
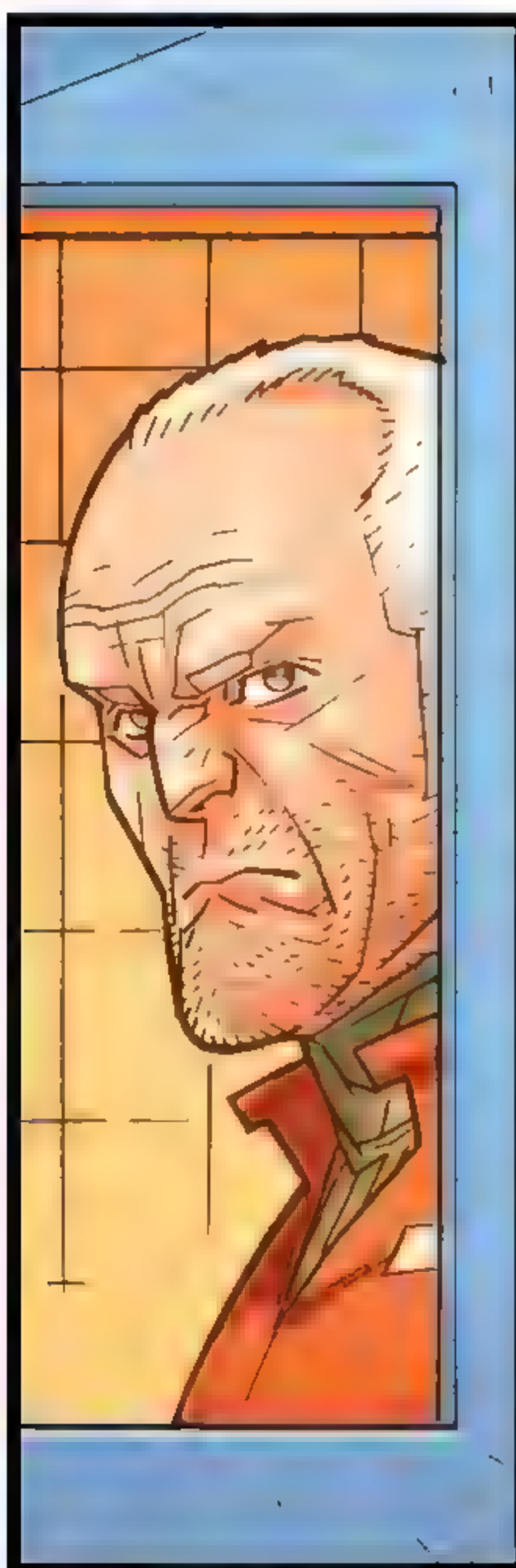


CHAPTER 121













OH,
GOD... MY
FACE...

GOD...



EVERYONE
ALIVE?!

LICK YOUR
WOUNDS AND
MOVE! WE DON'T
HAVE A LOT OF
TIME HERE!
EVERYONE
ON ME, LET'S
GO!



REX'S
SQUAD WILL
BE ON US
IN NO TIME,
C'MON!

MY
WING!
I STILL
CAN'T
FLY.



THEN
RUN!

I'M SORRY,
PRINCESS,
BUT YOUR
FEET WILL
HAVE TO
DO.

MY LEGS...
I DON'T SEE
THEM... HAVE
SOMEONE
GRAB MY
LEGS...

I'M LOSING
CONSCIOUSNESS,
BUT IF I DON'T
GET MOST OF
MY PIECES
I'LL--

SOMEONE
GRAB
IMMORTAL'S--







LOOKED LIKE
YOU GUYS NEEDED
A LITTLE HELP. I
KNOW I WASN'T
SUPPOSED TO BLOW MY
COVER, BUT I DON'T
THINK I'LL EVER BE
ABLE TO WORK OUT
ANOTHER PRISON
BREAK IF THIS ONE
FAILS.

GET OUT
OF HERE--
I'LL COVER
YOUR EXIT!



YOU GUYS
ARE REALLY
GOING TO NEED TO
MOVE QUICKLY.
MY REANIMEN
AREN'T EXACTLY
A GOOD MATCH
FOR ROBOT'S
DRONES.

BUT WHAT
THEY LACK
IN STRENGTH...
THEY MAKE
UP FOR IN
VOLUME.

I'LL KEEP
PILING THEM
ON UNTIL
YOU'RE
CLEAR.





I CHANGED THE FREQUENCY AND ACTIVATED THE WHITE ROOM TECHNOLOGY THROUGHOUT THE PENTAGON.



UNTIL HE FIGURES OUT A WORKAROUND, YOU'RE INVISIBLE TO REX'S DRONES!



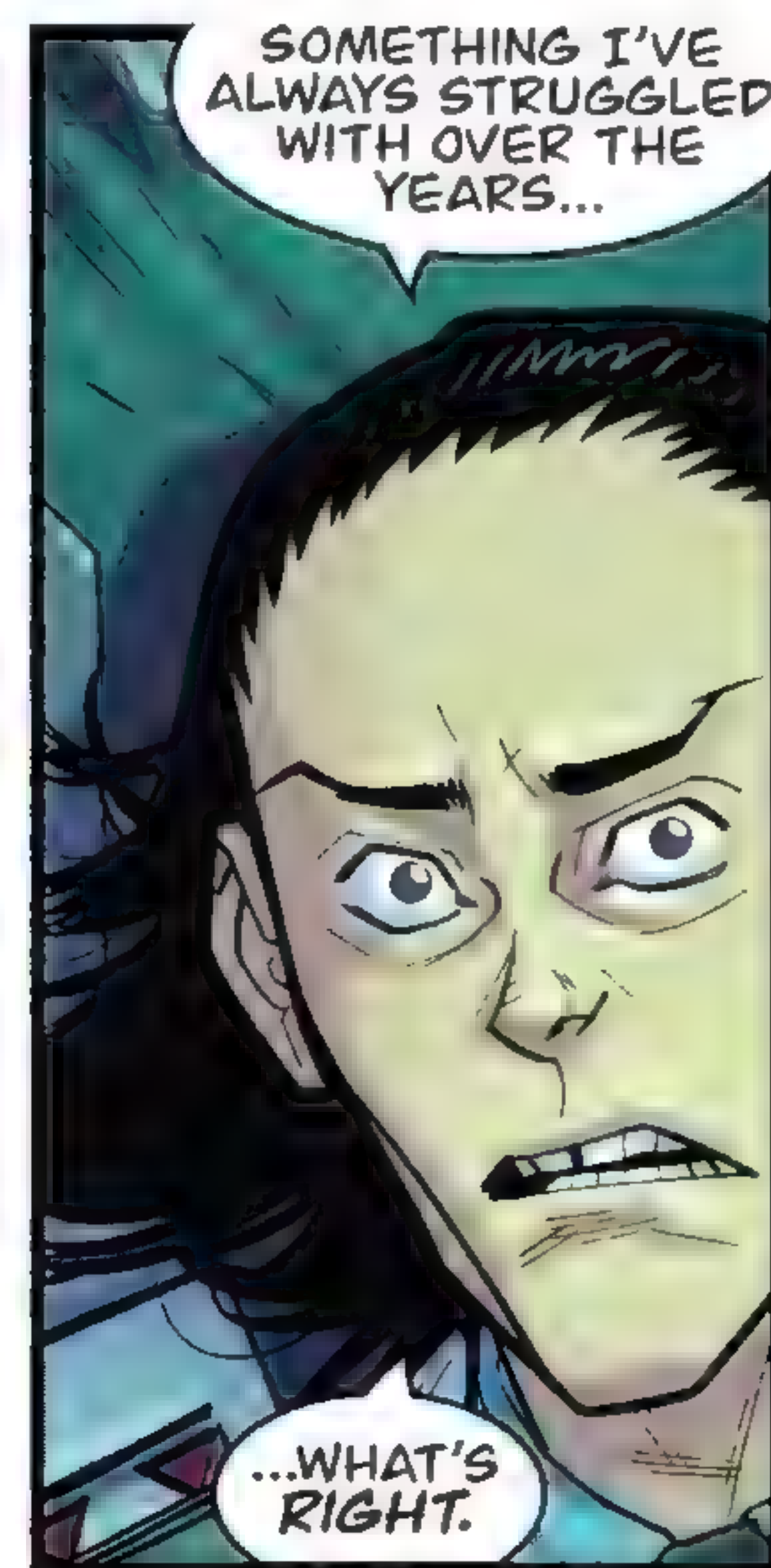
SWEET!

SHH!



SINCLAIR!

WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!



SOMETHING I'VE ALWAYS STRUGGLED WITH OVER THE YEARS...

...WHAT'S RIGHT.



ALMOST THERE--

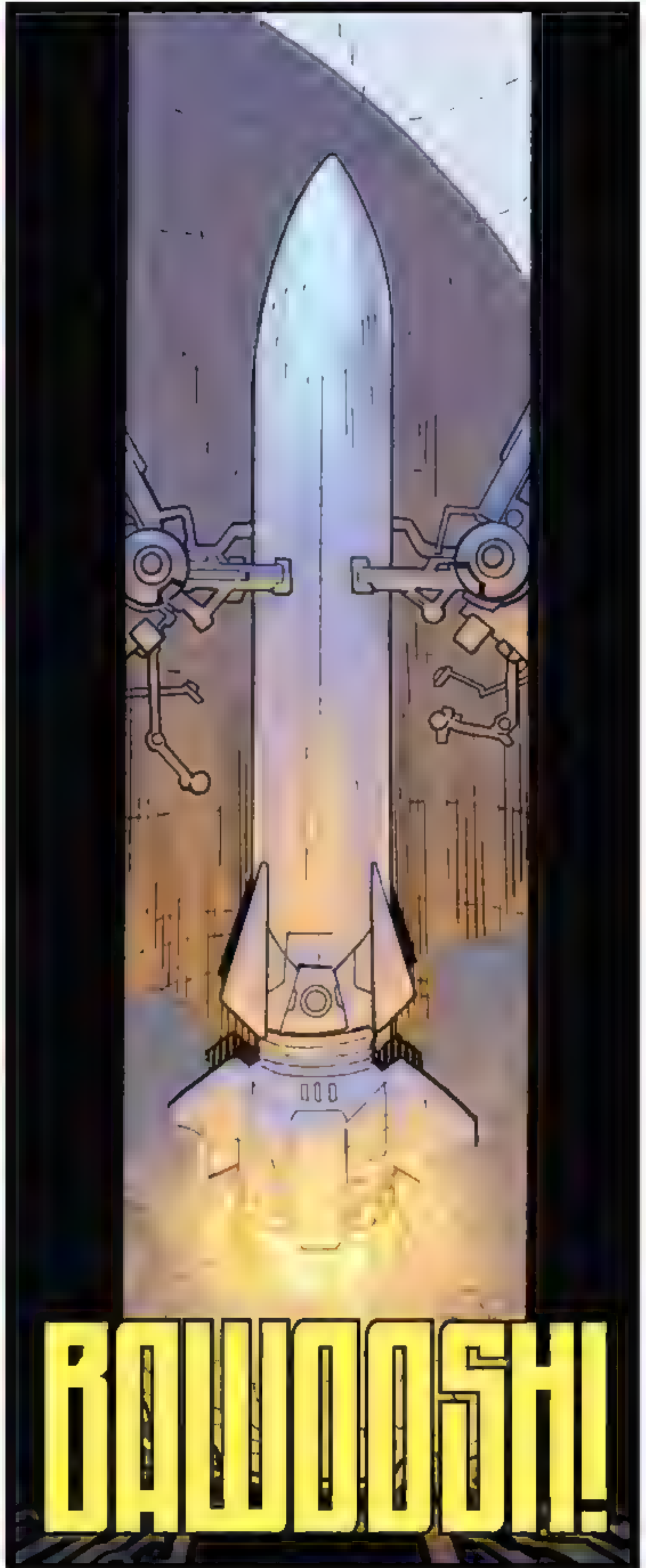
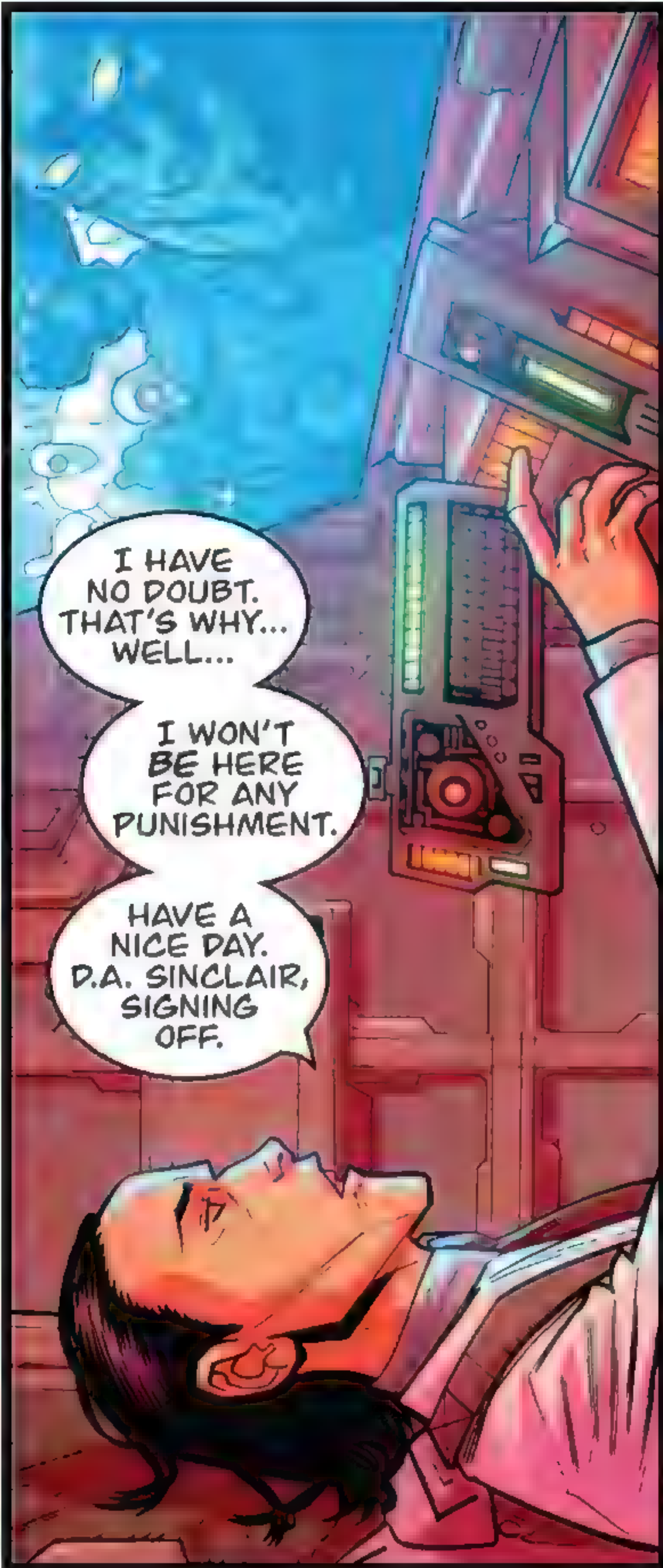
MOVE!



SWITCHING TO INFRARED VISION.



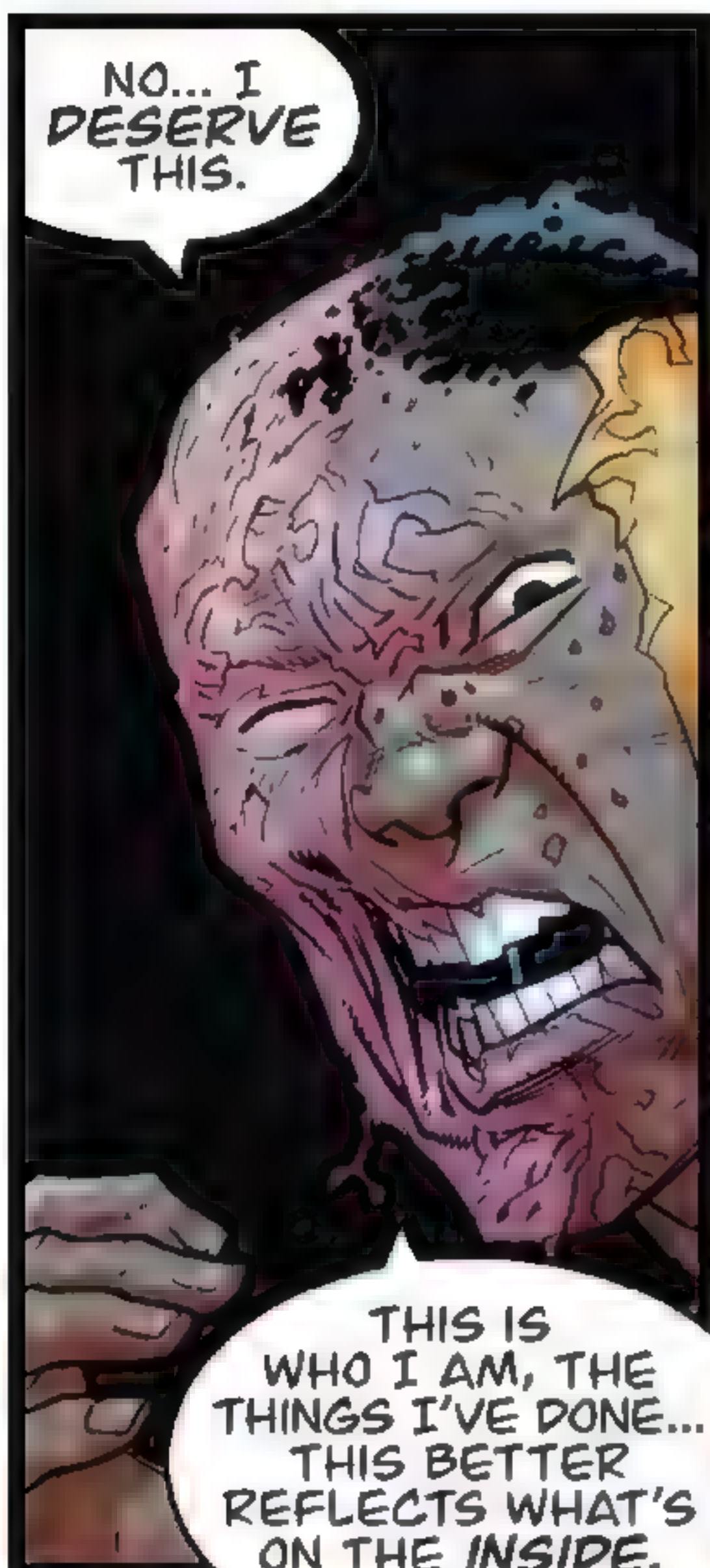
CRAP.





MY
FACE...
MY
FACE...

WE CAN
FIX IT.
CALM
DOWN.



NO... I
DESERVE
THIS.

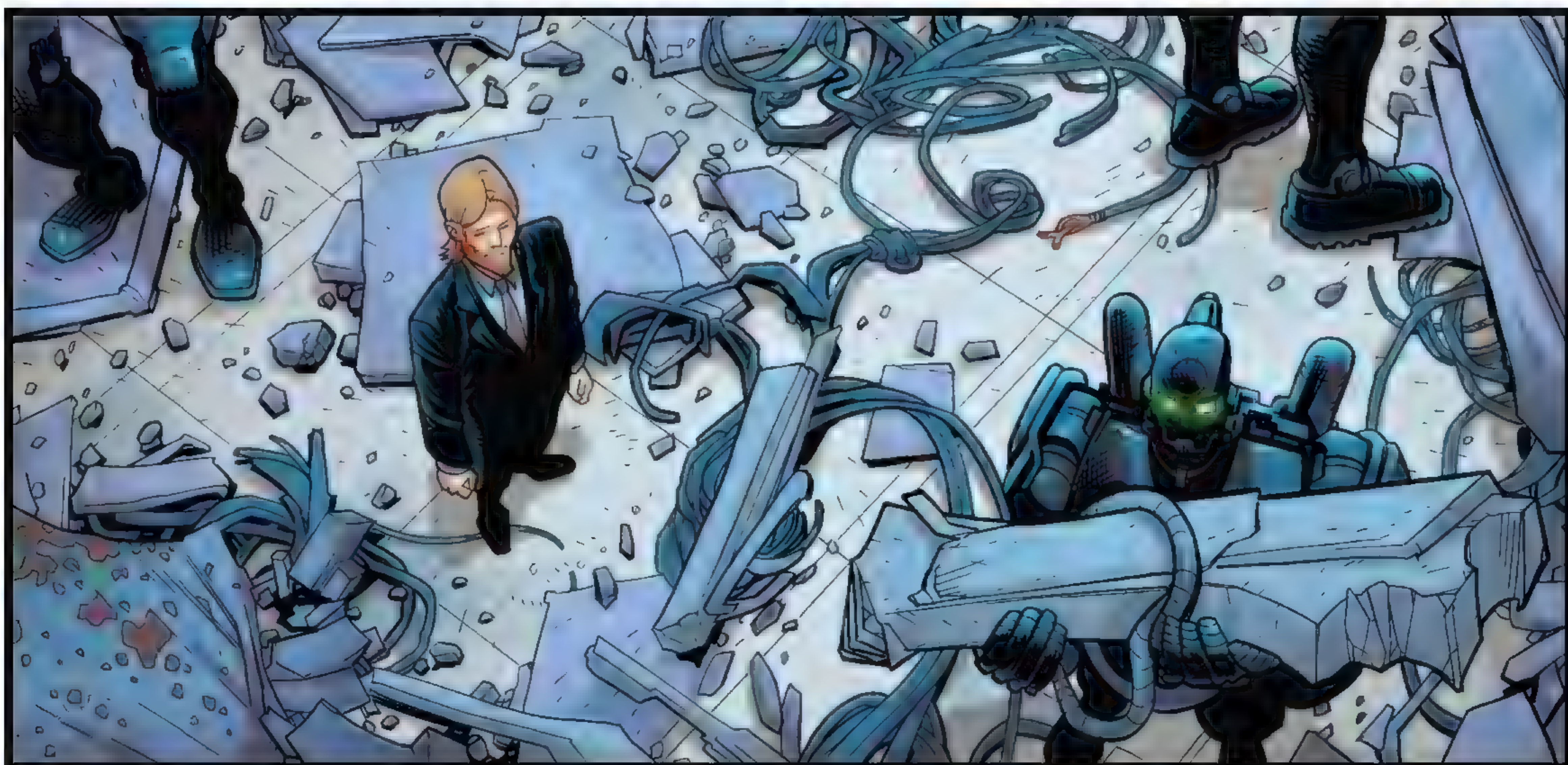
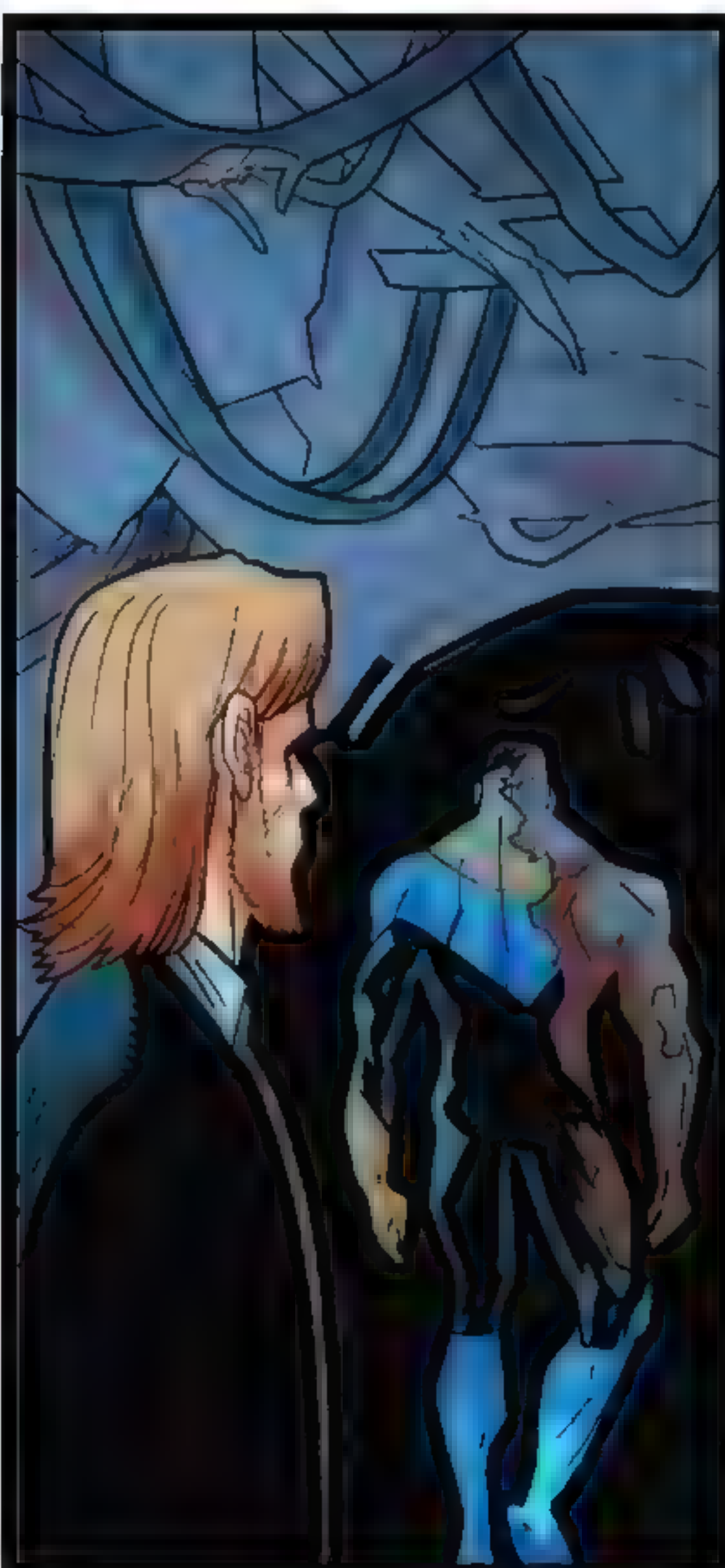
THIS IS
WHO I AM, THE
THINGS I'VE DONE...
THIS BETTER
REFLECTS WHAT'S
ON THE INSIDE.

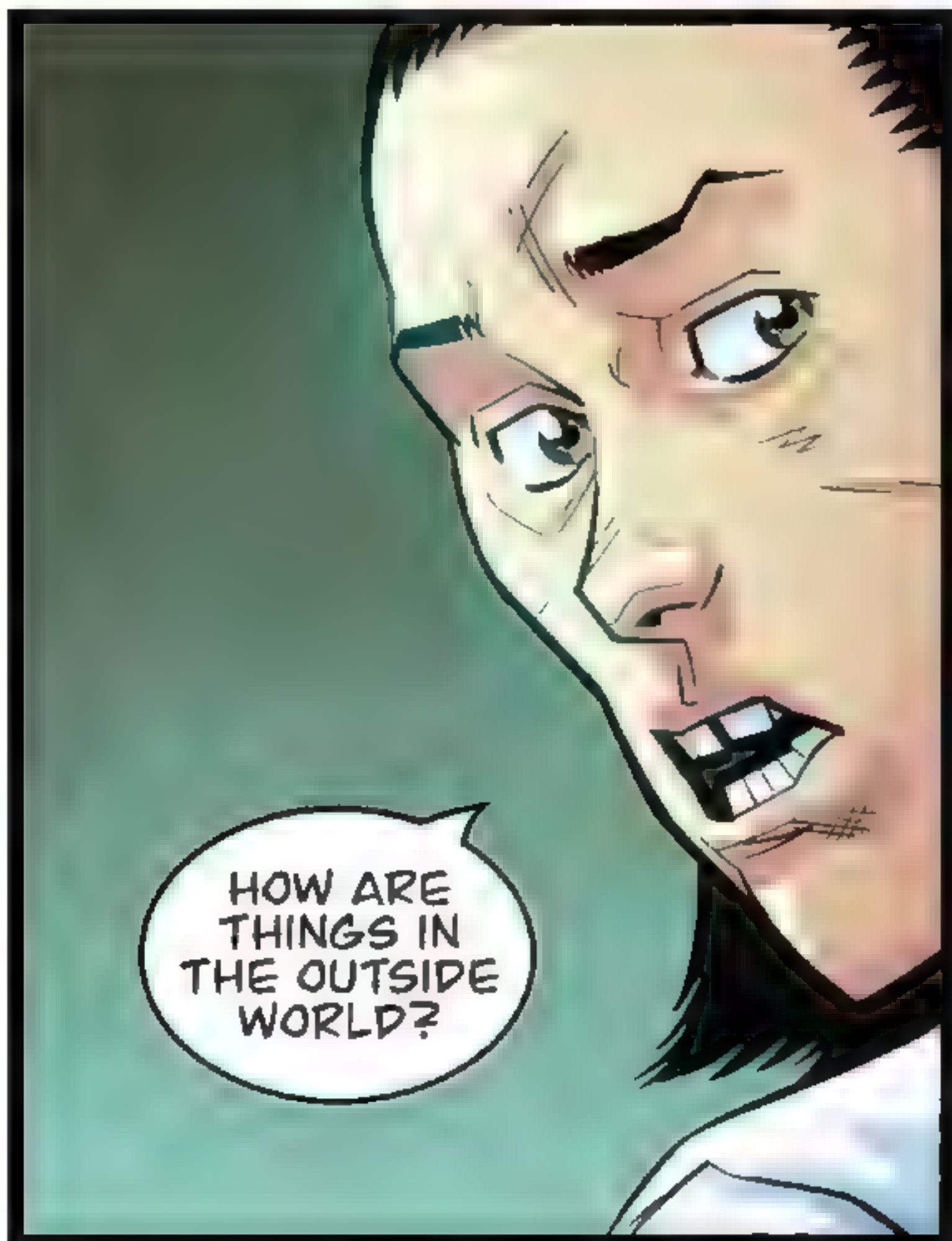
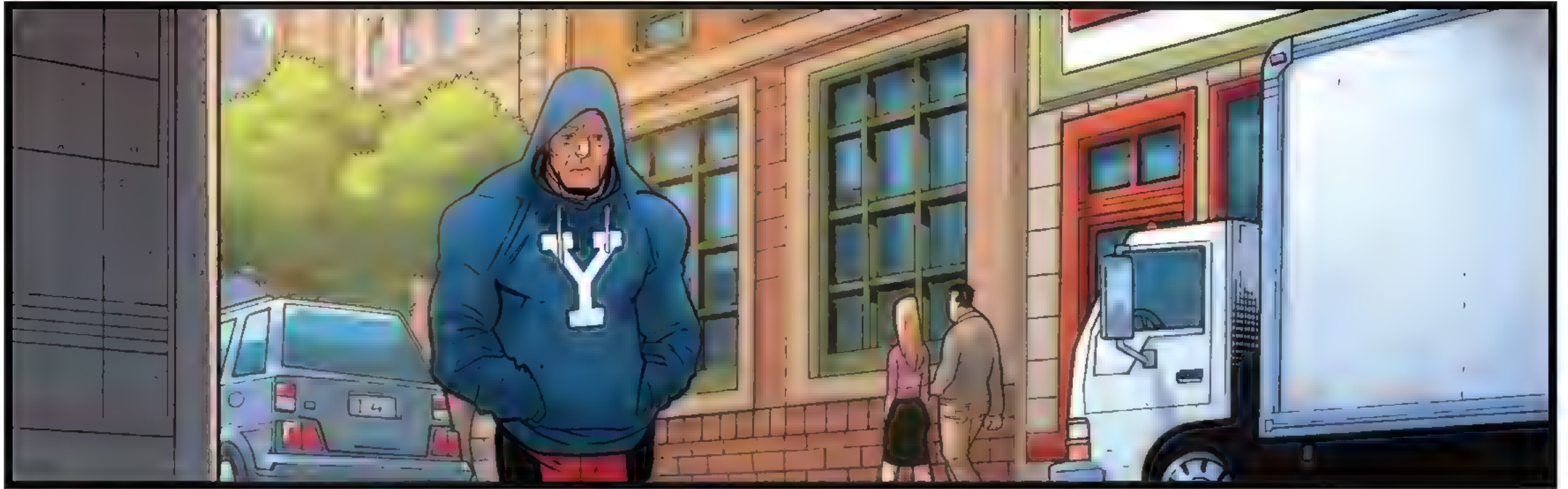


WE'RE
DOING GOOD
HERE,
ZANPALE.



I BELIEVE
THAT... I KNOW
THAT. THAT'S
NOT WHAT I WAS
TALKING ABOUT...







I TAKE NO PLEASURE IN YOU KNOWING I WAS RIGHT ABOUT HIM, FATHER.

I KNOW THAT YOU LOVED HIM VERY MUCH.



I DID... AND THEN I HATED HIM... JUST AS MUCH.

GOING FROM LOVING SOMEONE SO MUCH... TO HATING THEM... IMMENSELY... AS FAST AS I DID...



I THINK IT BROKE SOMETHING INSIDE ME.

I FEEL DIFFERENT.



THAT IS A PAIN I'VE KNOWN ALL TOO WELL ALL MY LIFE. IT'S FEAR... FEAR OF YOURSELF.

FEAR OF THE THINGS YOU KNOW YOUR HATRED WILL ALLOW YOU TO DO. FEAR THAT WILL KEEP YOU FROM DOING THEM...



IT MEANS YOU ARE A GOOD PERSON.



WHAT'S
THE
MATTER,
BRIT?

ASIDE
FROM THE
OBVIOUS...
I MEAN.



HAVE ANY OF YOU
LOOKED OUTSIDE?
HAVE YOU BEEN
WATCHING THE
NEWS IN HERE?
THINGS HAVE
CHANGED.

CRIME IS
DOWN, THE
ECONOMY IS
BOOMING, THE
CRIME RATE AND
UNEMPLOYMENT
HAVE BOTH
DROPPED
TO RECORD
LOWS.

THE
WORLD IS
A BETTER
PLACE.

THEY'RE ALL
WONDERING... **WHAT
HAPPENED?** THAT'S
THE BIG QUESTION... WHO
IS RESPONSIBLE FOR ALL
THIS? THERE ARE TV
SPECIALS, BOOKS BEING
WRITTEN, EVERYONE IS
TRYING TO WORK OUT
WHAT CHANGED...
**WHAT FIXED THE
WORLD...**

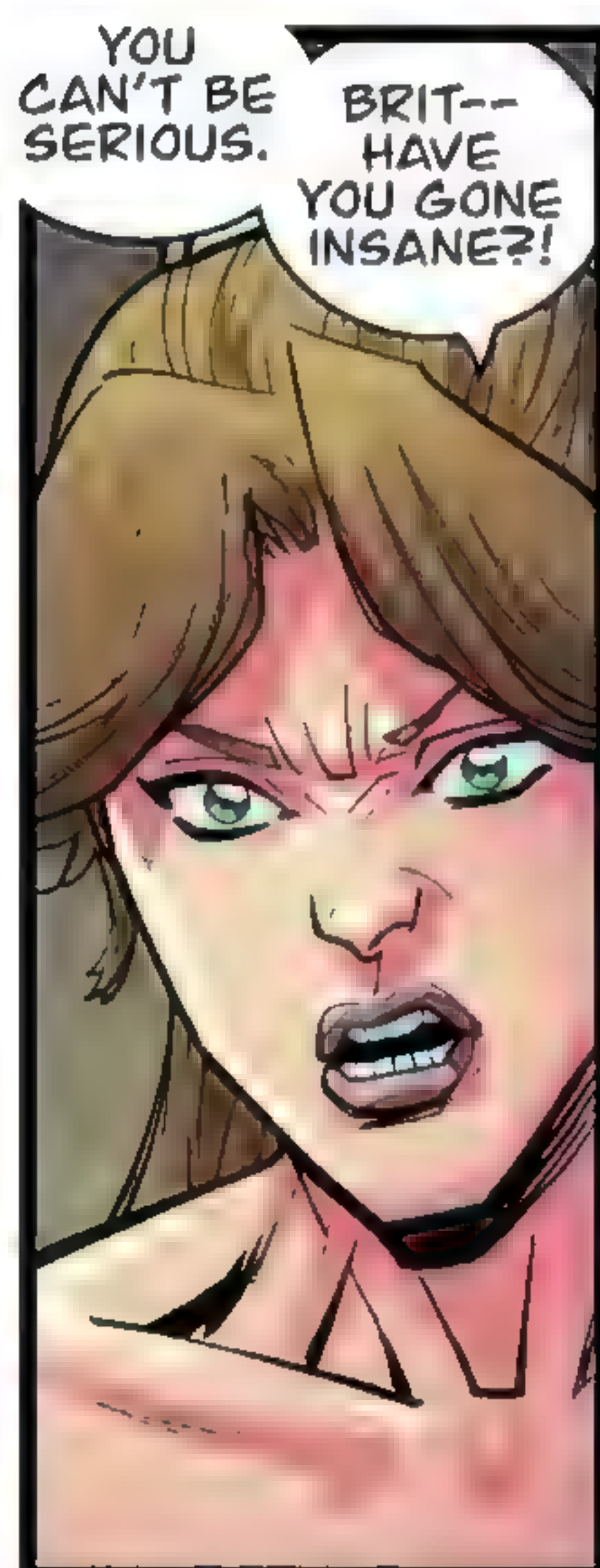


IT WAS
REX.

HE SAVED THE
WORLD... HE MADE
EVERYTHING BETTER.
HE SOMEHOW DID WHAT
WE'D ALL WANTED TO
DO... MAKE PEOPLE
SAFE, STOP ALL
THE FIGHTING.

HE DID
IT.

HE MURDERED
SO MANY PEOPLE...
KILLED FRIENDS
OF OURS... BUT...
I JUST CAN'T
ARGUE WITH HIS
RESULTS.



YOU
CAN'T BE
SERIOUS.

BRIT--
HAVE
YOU GONE
INSANE?!

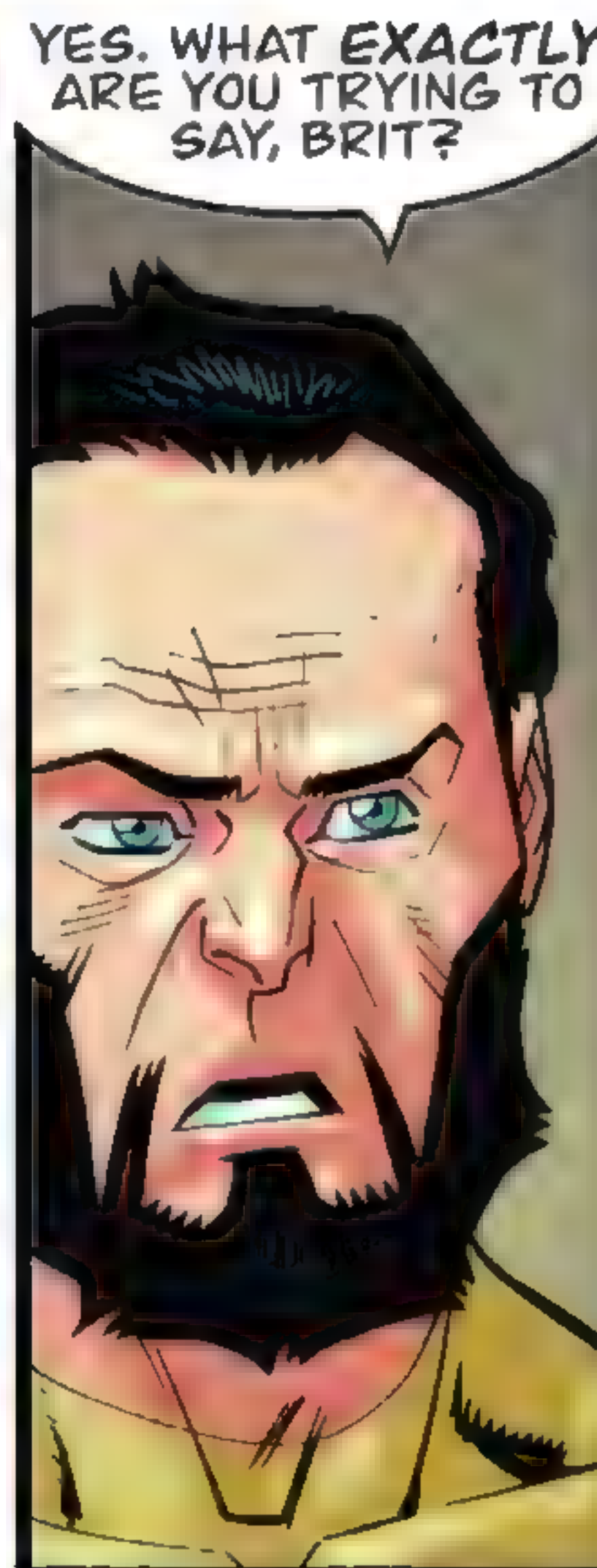


THAT HAS TO
BE THE ONLY
EXPLANATION
HERE.

YOU'RE REALLY
GOING TO FORGIVE
HIM FOR WHAT HE'S
DONE? YOU AND
CECIL WERE CLOSE.



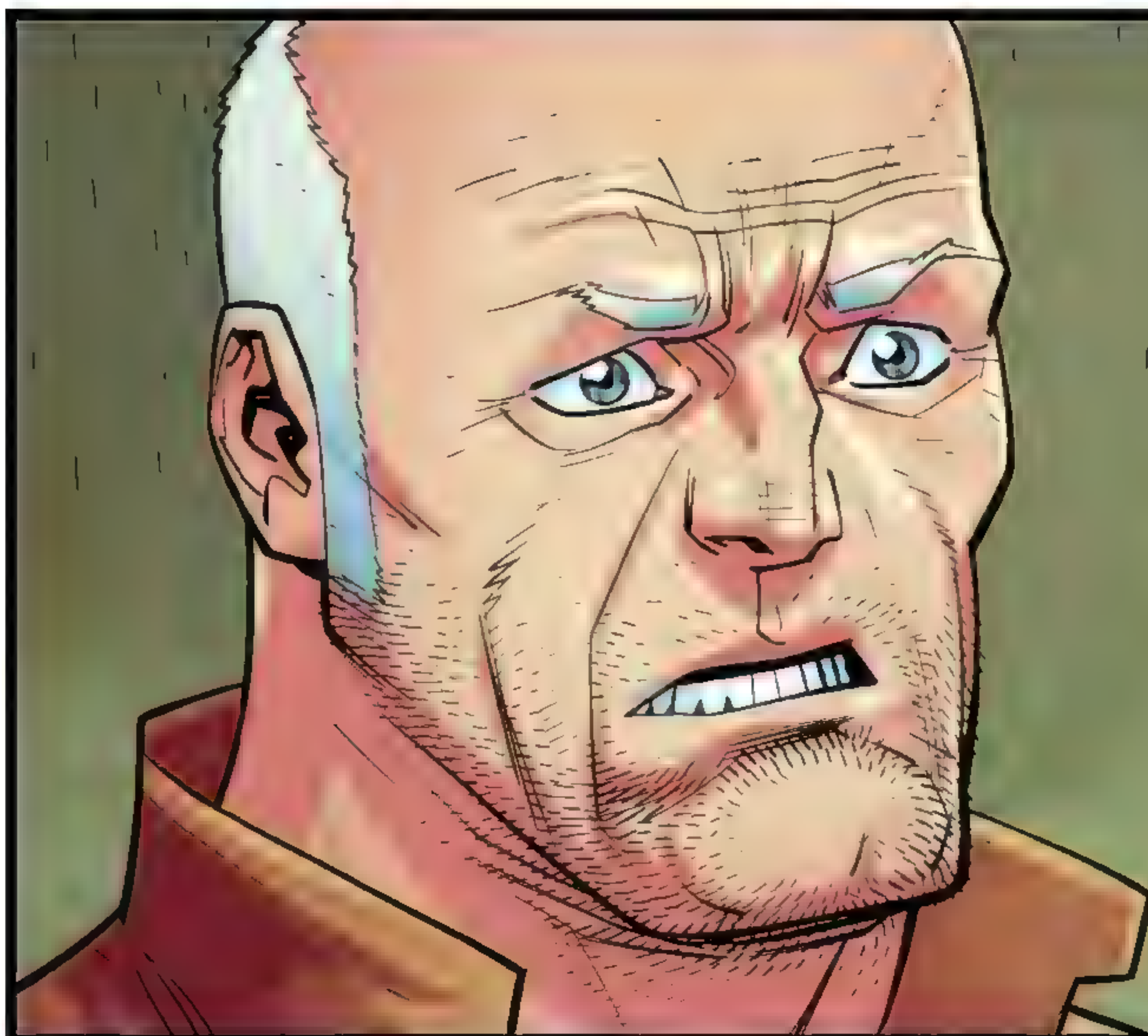
HOLD
ON. LET
HIM
FINISH!



YES. WHAT EXACTLY
ARE YOU TRYING TO
SAY, BRIT?



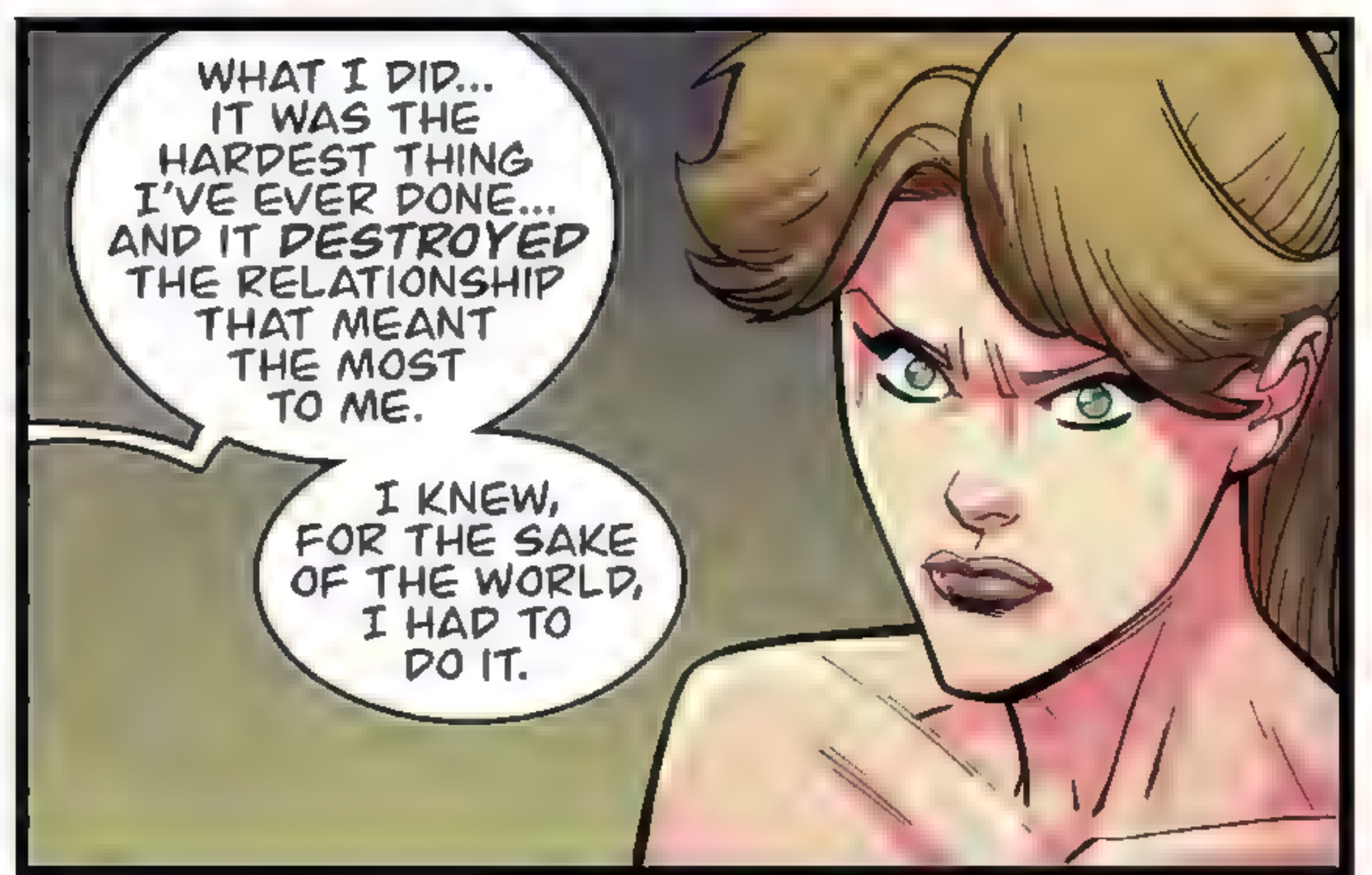
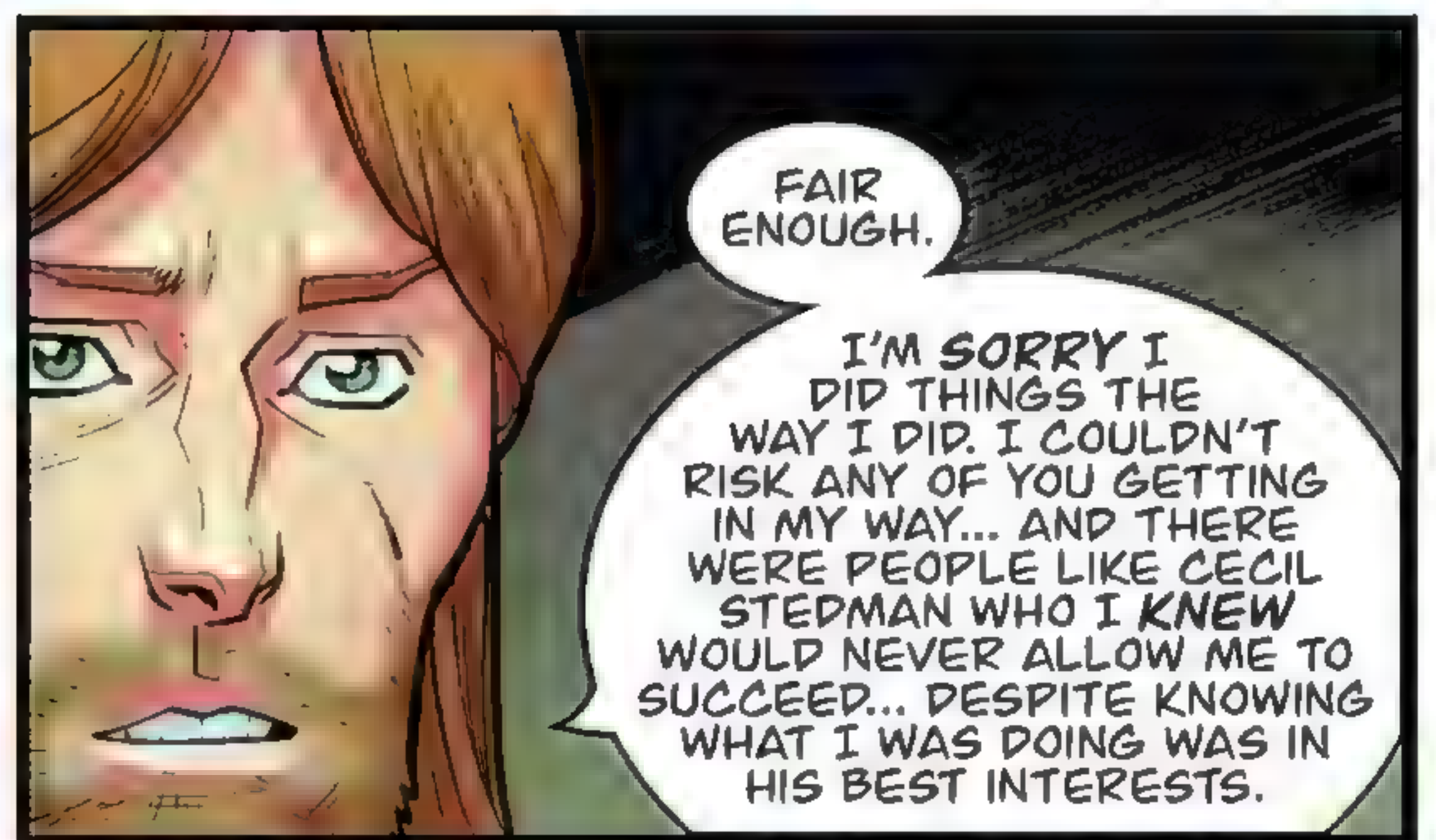
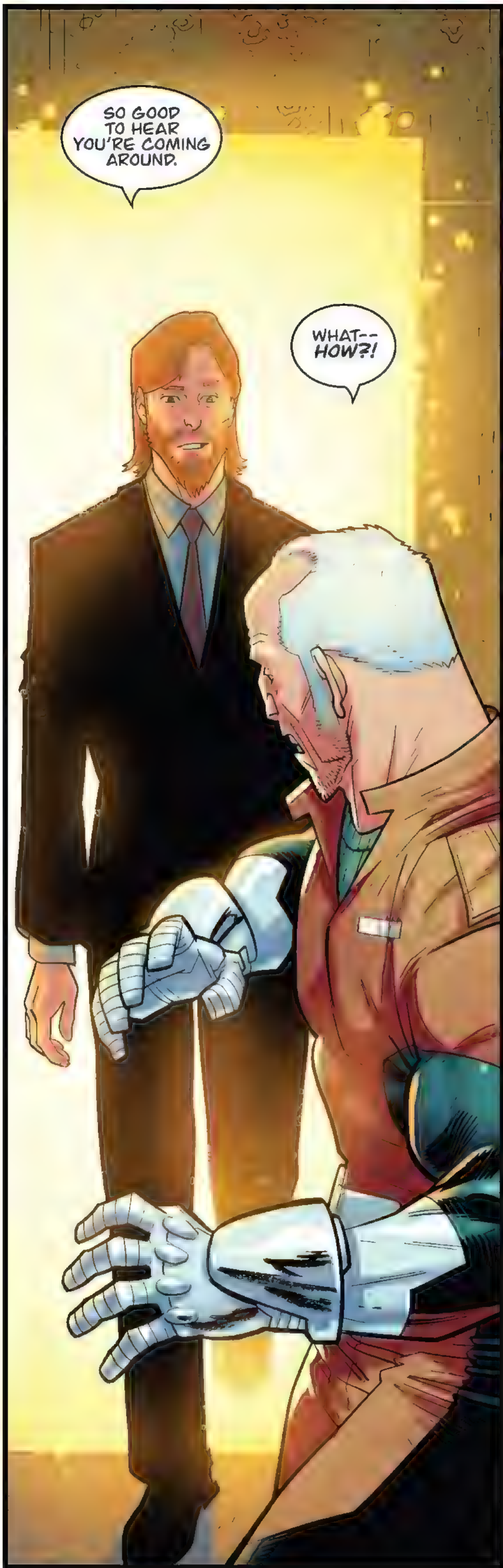
THIS IS HARD FOR
ME... I KNOW HOW
YOU ALL FEEL,
AND TRUST ME...
I FEEL THE
SAME...



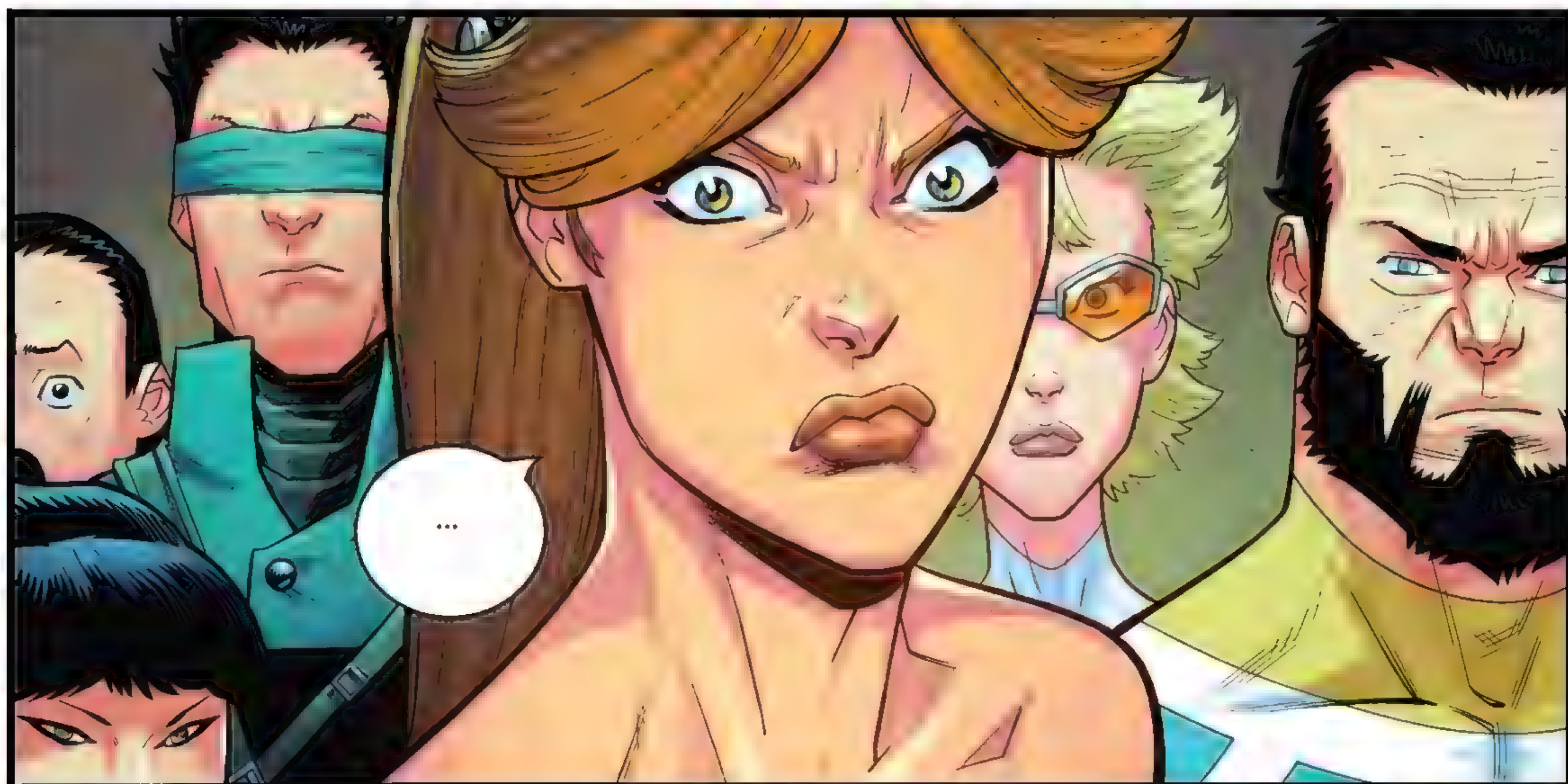
...BUT THIS IS
WHAT CECIL WOULD
HAVE WANTED. THIS
WAS HIS END GOAL.
WHAT'S HAPPENING
OUTSIDE... RIGHT
NOW. THAT WAS HIS
LIFE'S WORK.

IF HE'D BEEN
TOLD DYING WAS
THE THING THAT
WOULD HAVE MADE
THIS A REALITY... HE
WOULDN'T HAVE
HESITATED.

I KNEW THE
MAN... I LOVED
HIM. MAYBE HE
WASN'T SMART
ENOUGH TO FIGURE
OUT A WAY TO
ACCOMPLISH ALL
THIS... AND REX
WAS.









CHAPTER 122





REST ASSURED,
LOCATING THRAGG
IS CURRENTLY
MY NUMBER ONE
PRIORITY.

ALL THE
RESOURCES
AVAILABLE TO
THE COALITION
OF PLANETS ARE
BEING UTILIZED
TO ACCOMPLISH
THIS GOAL.

HE POSES
TOO GREAT
A THREAT. I
AM FULLY
AWARE OF
THAT.



WE
APPRECIATE
THE REASSURANCE,
BUT THERE WAS
NEVER ANY DOUBT. YOU
HAVE PROVEN YOURSELF
MORE THAN CAPABLE OF
ENSURING THE
COALITION'S SAFETY
SINCE YOU TOOK OVER
FOR THAEDUS, GREAT
ALLEN.

PERSONALLY,
I'M SO
CONFIDENT IN
YOUR ABILITIES, I
WONDER WHY
LOCATING THRAGG
IS YOUR TOP
PRIORITY.

IT SEEMS
THERE IS AN
OPPORTUNITY
HERE THAT
WOULD BE MORE
BENEFICIAL TO US
IN THE LONG
TERM.



I'M SORRY?

WHAT OPPORTUNITY WOULD THAT BE?



SPACE RACER'S REPORT MENTIONED THAT PLANET MANTIA WAS CHOSEN BY THRAGG BECAUSE OF THE GENETIC MAKEUP OF ITS PEOPLE.

THRAGG HAS USED THE POPULATION TO CREATE A RAPIDLY AGING VILTRUMITE HYBRID POPULATION... HIS OWN ARMY.



YES, AND THAT'S WHY IT IS IMPERATIVE WE LOCATE AND STOP THRAGG BEFORE THAT ARMY IS ALLOWED TO GROW TO ADULthood.



AND I AGREE THAT IS A WORTHY EFFORT... BUT THE OPPORTUNITY I SPEAK OF IS THE FACT THAT WE CURRENTLY HAVE TWO VILTRUMITES IN OUR EMPLOY.

BOTH HYBRIDS THEMSELVES, BUT I THINK IT'S BEEN PROVEN THERE IS LITTLE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THEM AND FULL-BLOODED VILTRUMITES.

COULD WE NOT TURN MANTIA INTO A BREEDING FARM? ONE THAT IS TWICE AS PRODUCTIVE?

AND BUILD OUR OWN ARMY?



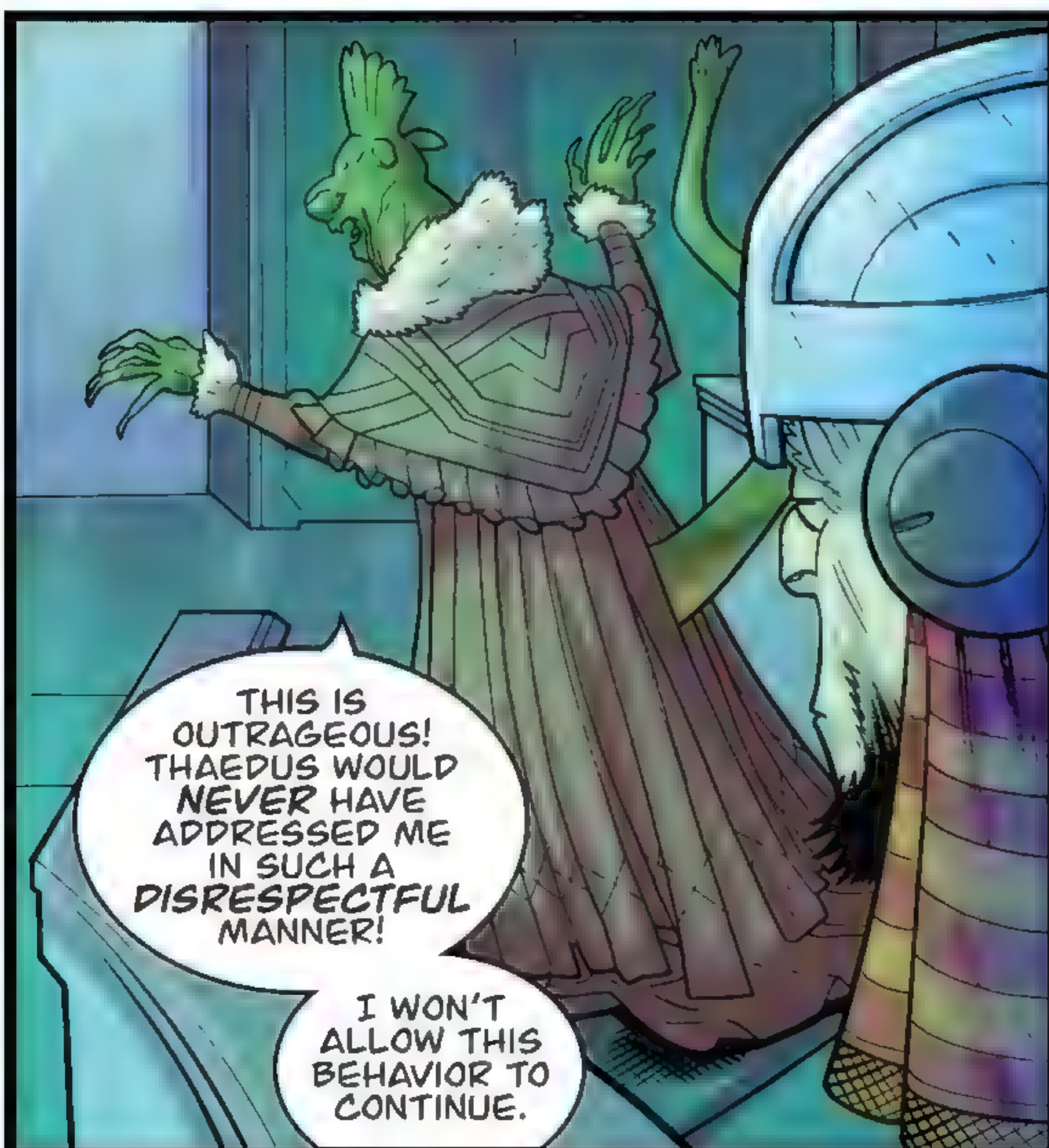
MY WORD, REPRESENTATIVE ELIA!

HAVE YOU LOST YOUR MIND?!



WHAT DO YOU MEAN? IS THIS NOT A MISSED OPPORTUNITY?

I'M FRANKLY CONCERNED I WAS THE FIRST TO THINK OF IT.





MY
APOLOGIES,
GREAT
ALLEN.

ALL YOU
NEED TO
APOLOGIZE
FOR IS
CALLING
ME THAT.



YOUR DISDAIN FOR
FORMALITIES IS
SOMETHING I ADMIRE
MOST ABOUT YOU. BUT
REPRESENTATIVE ELIA
WAS OUT OF LINE.
I APOLOGIZE ON
HER BEHALF.

AND I JUST
WANTED TO
REASSURE YOU THAT
YOU HAVE FAR MORE
ALLIES IN THE COALITION
THAN SHE DOES.



THANK
YOU.

I'M GLAD WE
HAVE THIS
MOMENT. I KNOW
IT'S BEEN A
WHILE, BUT I'VE
BEEN MEANING
TO EXPRESS MY
CONDOLENCES
FOR YOUR
LOSS.

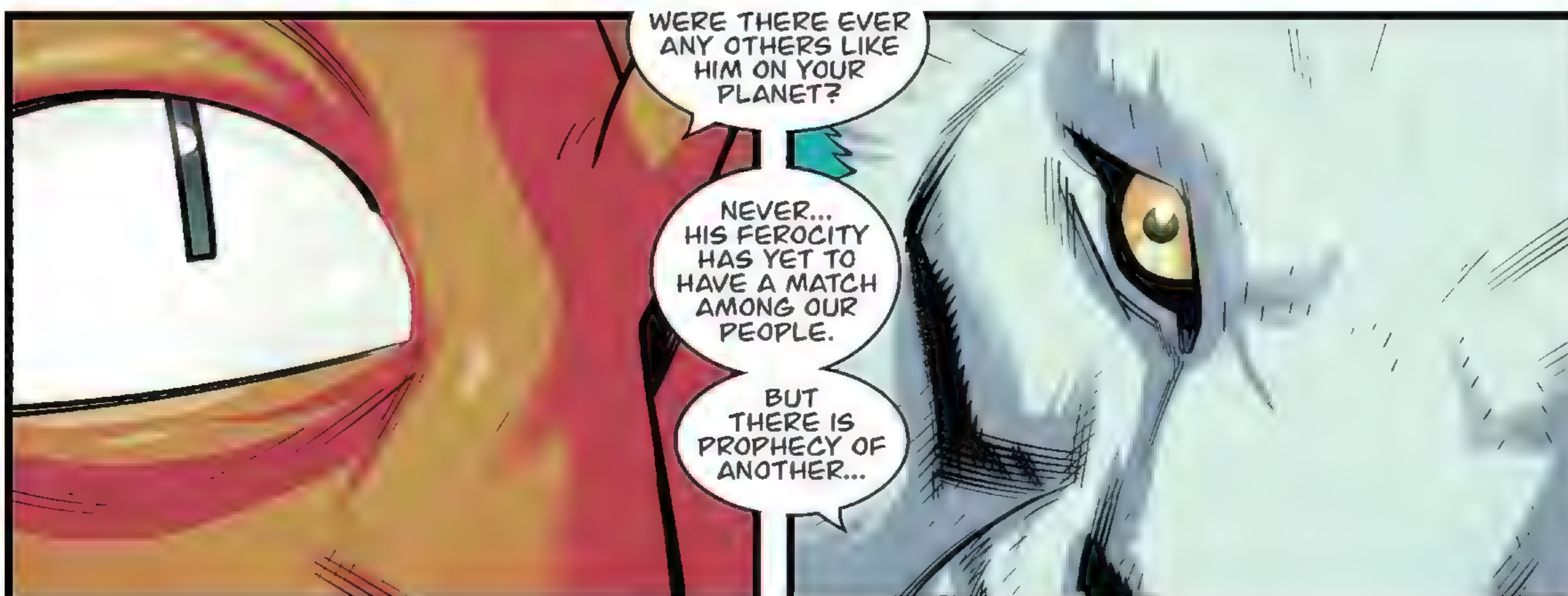
I KNOW
BATTLE BEAST
WAS VERY
IMPORTANT TO
YOUR PEOPLE.



THE ONE KNOWN AS
BATTLE BEAST WAS A
GREAT MANY THINGS TO
MY PEOPLE, AND HIS
LOSS IS FELT IN ALL
CORNERS OF
MY WORLD.

I'M GRATEFUL
HE WAS FOUND
AND BECAME A PART
OF THE COALITION.
THE **REAL** TRAGEDY
WOULD HAVE BEEN US
NEVER KNOWING
HIS FATE.

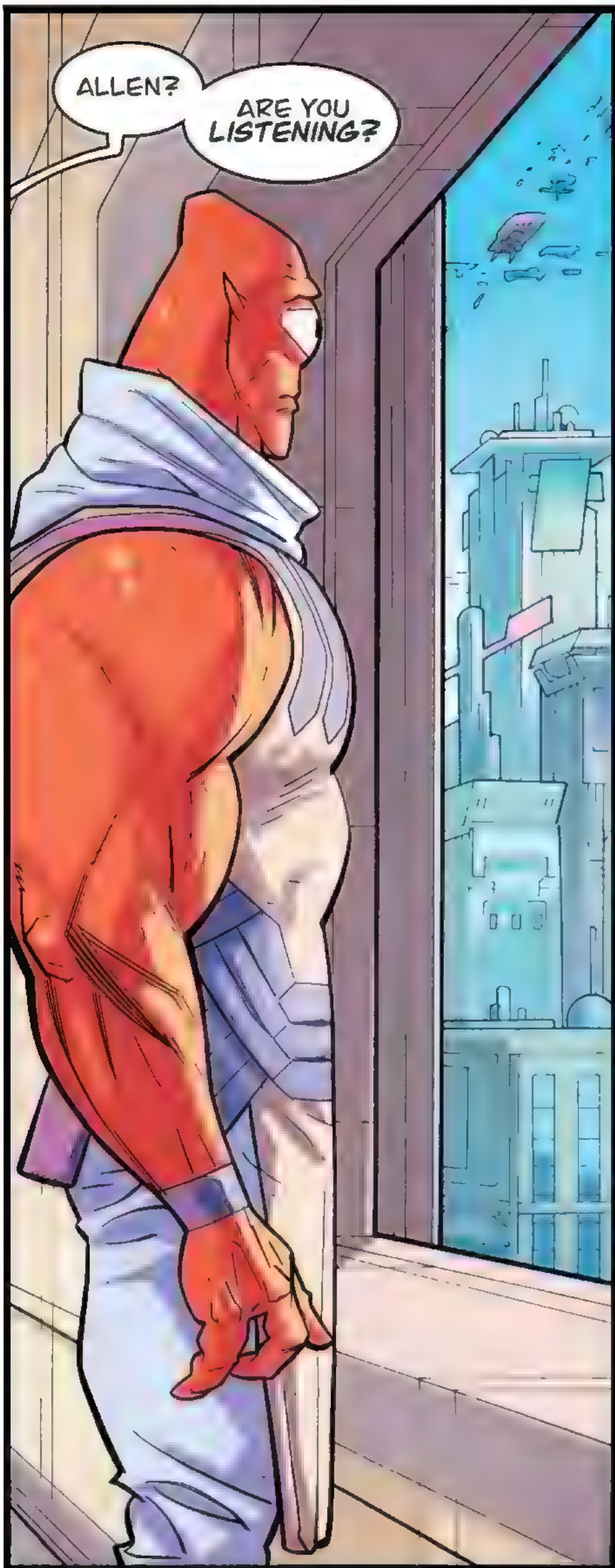
HE
WILL BE
MISSED.



WERE THERE EVER
ANY OTHERS LIKE
HIM ON YOUR
PLANET?

NEVER...
HIS FEROCITY
HAS YET TO
HAVE A MATCH
AMONG OUR
PEOPLE.

BUT
THERE IS
PROPHECY OF
ANOTHER...



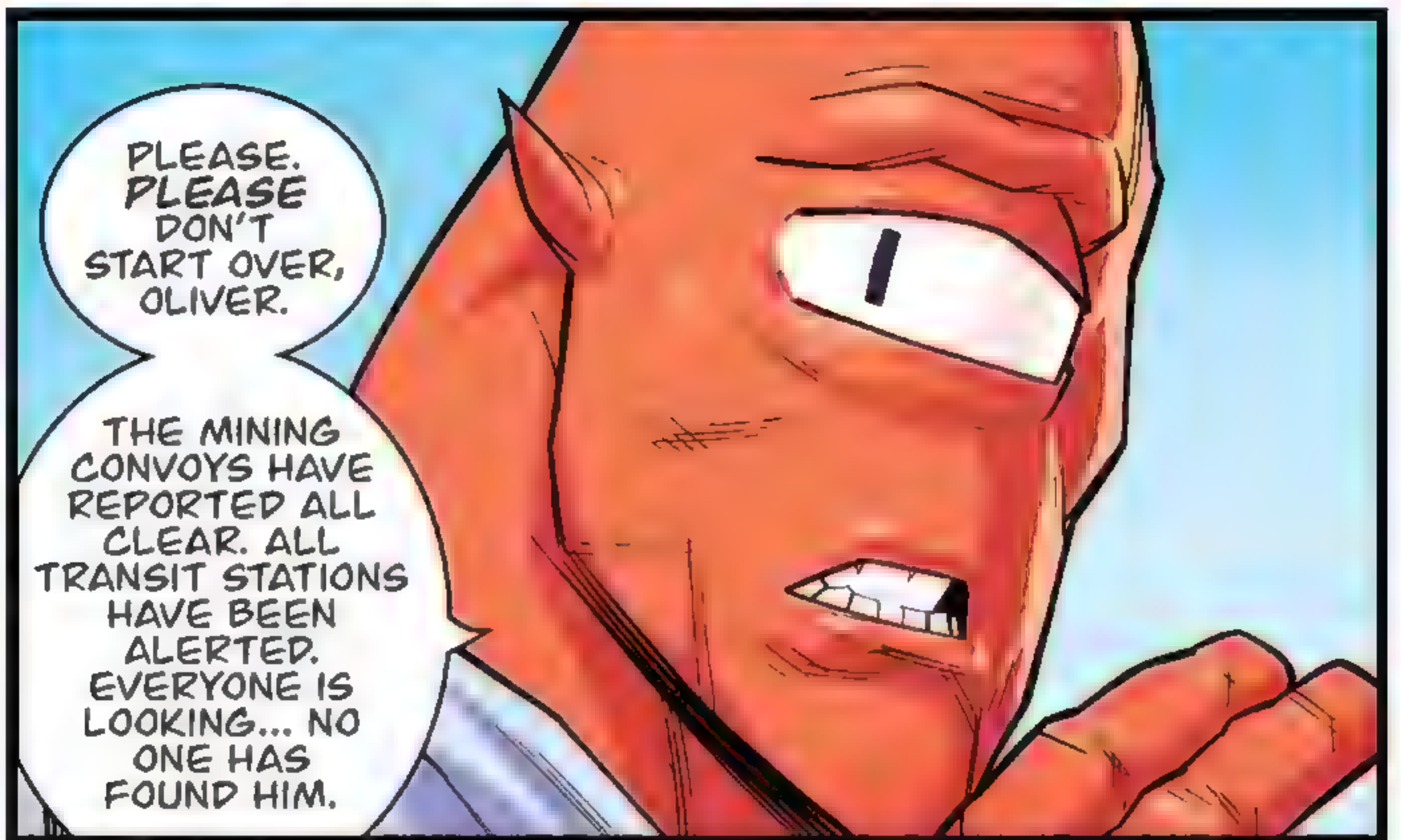
ALLEN?

ARE YOU LISTENING?



YES, SORRY... OF COURSE. PLEASE CONTINUE.

I'M NOT GOING TO CONTINUE... I'M GOING TO START OVER. YOU WEREN'T LISTENING TO A WORD I SAID.



PLEASE. PLEASE DON'T START OVER, OLIVER.

THE MINING CONVOYS HAVE REPORTED ALL CLEAR. ALL TRANSIT STATIONS HAVE BEEN ALERTED. EVERYONE IS LOOKING... NO ONE HAS FOUND HIM.



THAT PRETTY MUCH SUMS IT UP... YES.

I LIKED ALLEN'S VERSION A LOT BETTER.



OKAY, ONTO MORE INTERESTING THINGS... OH, WAIT--

MARK, DID YOU TAKE EVE AND TERRA TO THE GREEN LANDS LIKE I SUGGESTED? HOW WAS IT?



IT WAS...

UM...





OH,
CRAP.

I'VE BEEN
SO BUSY I
DIDN'T REALIZE
IT WAS THORG
SEASON.



DAMN, ALLEN.
TERRA COULD
HAVE BEEN
KILLED!

I KNOW, I KNOW. I CAN'T BELIEVE
I DID THAT. IT'S ONLY SIX WEEKS
OUT OF THE YEAR THEY COME OUT
OF THEIR NESTS
TO FEED.



I SHOULD
HAVE BEEN
MORE
CAREFUL.



EVE AND I WERE *CURIOUS*
WHY WE SEEMED TO HAVE
THE WHOLE PLACE TO
OURSELVES.

THEN
IT MADE
SENSE...

OH, MAN. SHE PROBABLY
HATES ME. I'LL MAKE
IT UP TO YOU,
SOMEHOW.



IT'S JUST
A START, BUT
TONIGHT IS ON
ME. WE'RE
STILL ON FOR
TONIGHT,
RIGHT?



YEAH... OF
COURSE.

AND WE'RE
NOT MAD... WE
MADE IT OUT FINE.
WE'RE... GETTING
USED TO THAT
KIND OF THING ON
THIS PLANET...
SADLY.



OKAY, WELL,
I'LL SEE
YOU BOYS
TONIGHT.

TELIA
WILL BE
THRILLED!



HONESTLY, I'M JUST HAPPY TO GET OUT OF THE HOUSE. I DON'T KNOW WHAT WE'RE SEEING, HOW WE'RE SEEING IT, OR HOW I'M GOING TO FEEL AFTERWARDS...

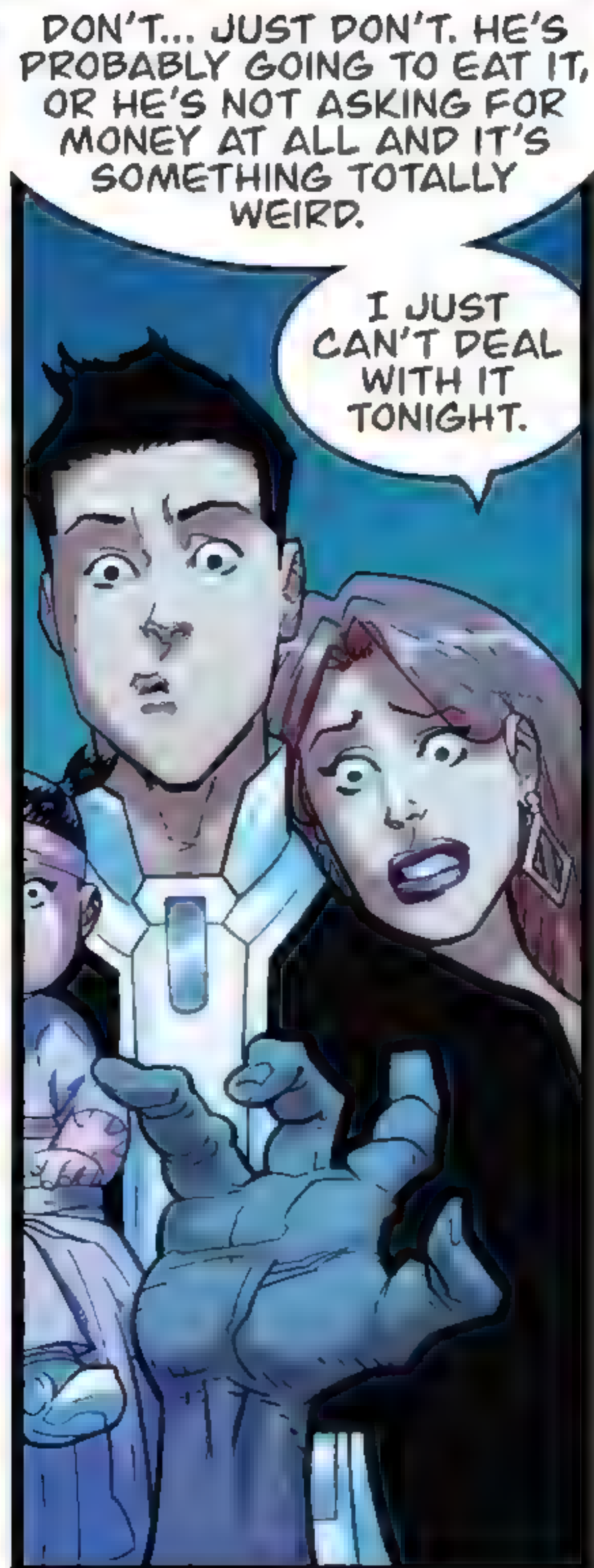
...BUT I'M EXCITED.

OKAY, I'LL CHECK IN AGAIN WITH YOU WHEN IT'S OVER.



OLIVER DESCRIBED IT AS A "SONIC PLAY." I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT THAT COULD--

A LITTLE HELP?



DON'T... JUST DON'T. HE'S PROBABLY GOING TO EAT IT, OR HE'S NOT ASKING FOR MONEY AT ALL AND IT'S SOMETHING TOTALLY WEIRD.

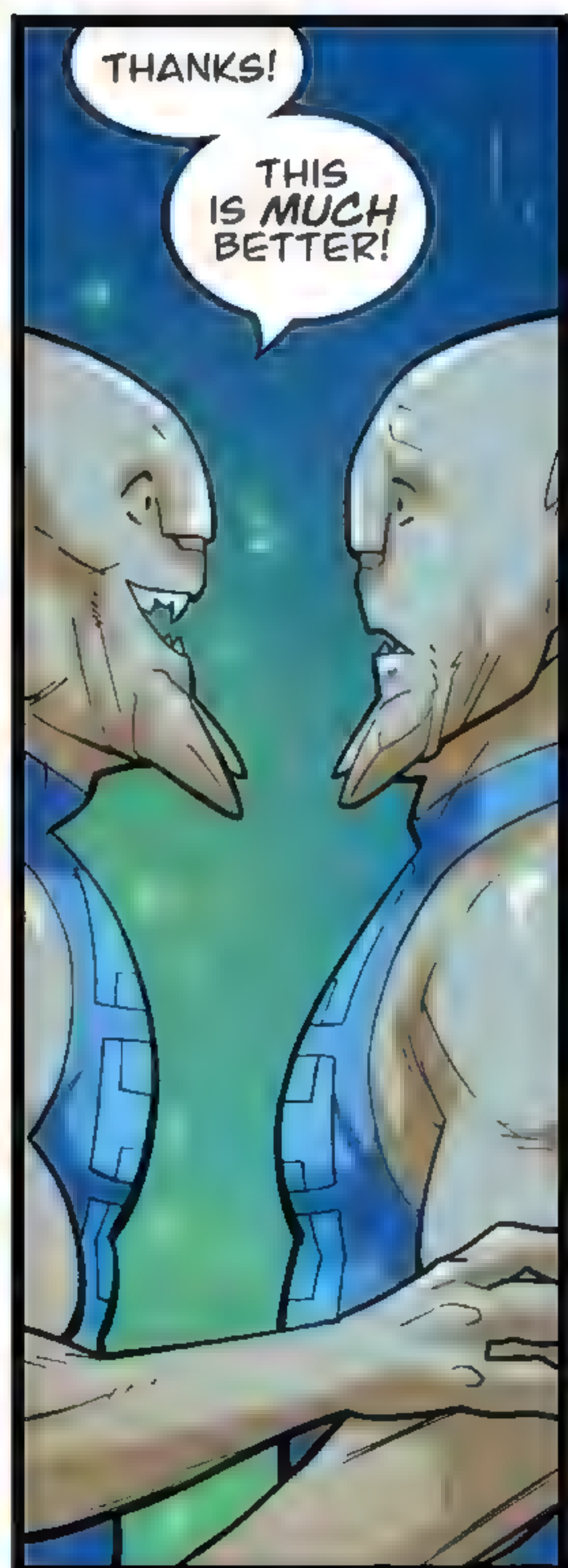
I JUST CAN'T DEAL WITH IT TONIGHT.



OKAY... YOU'RE THE BOSS.

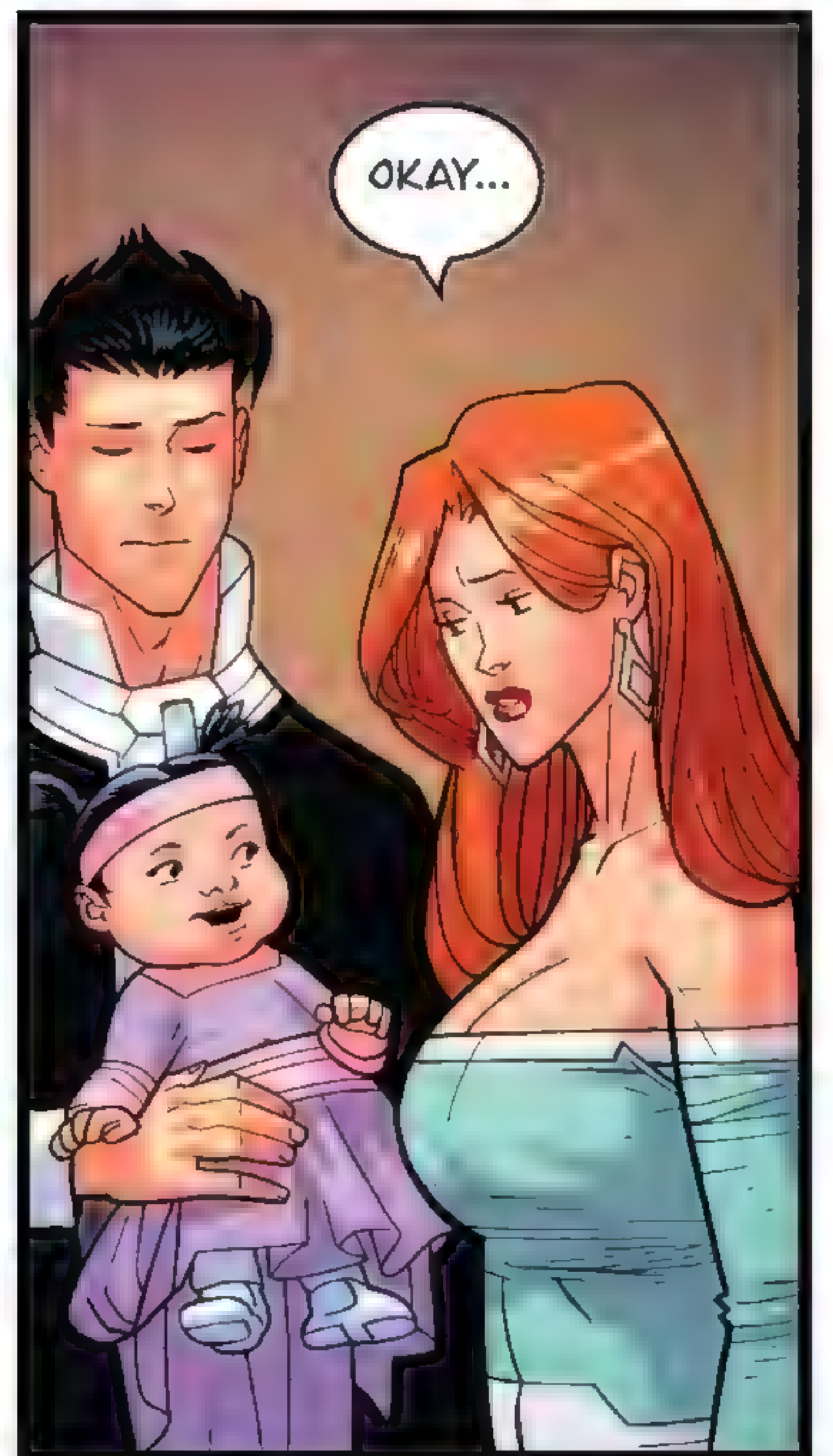
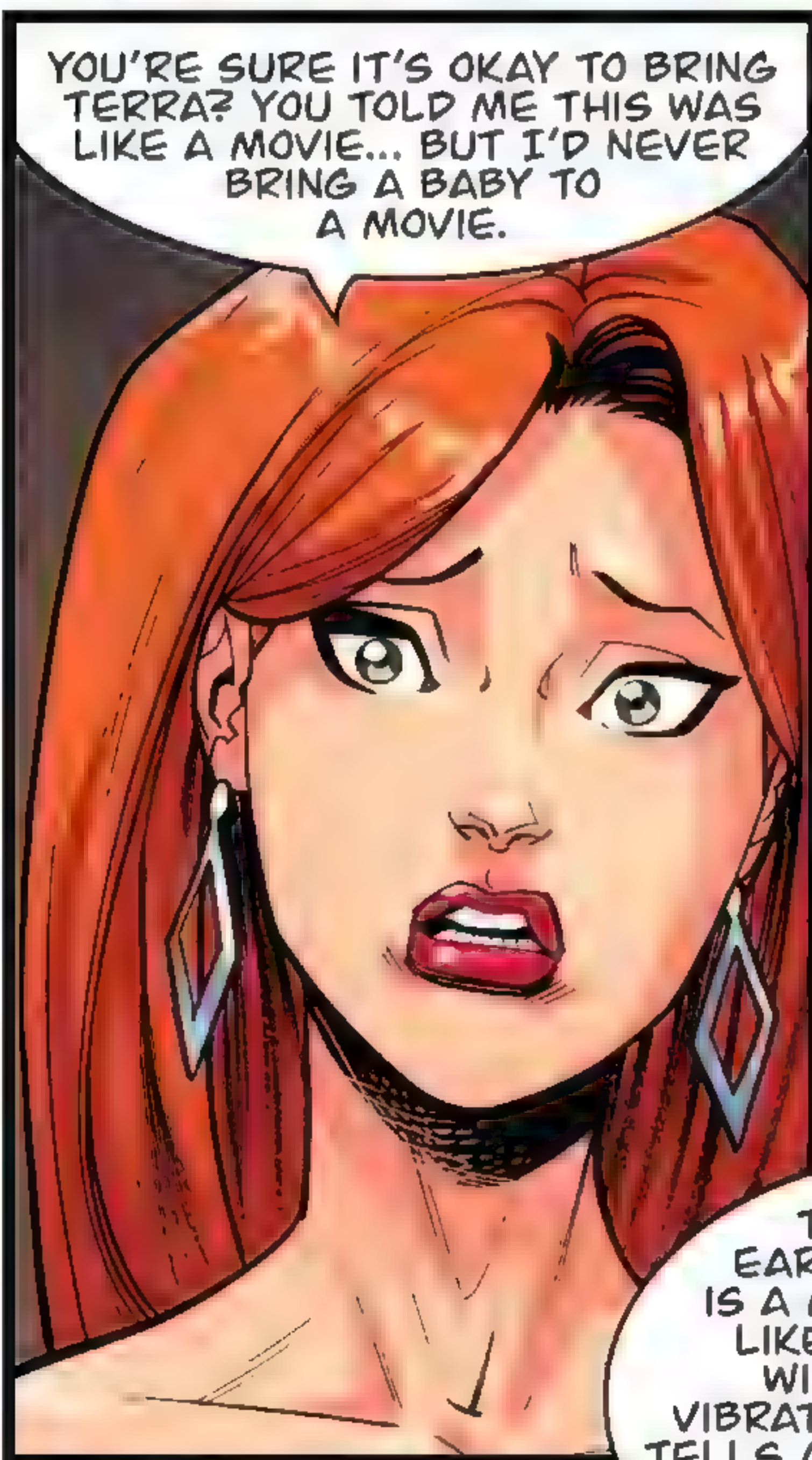
A LITTLE HELP?

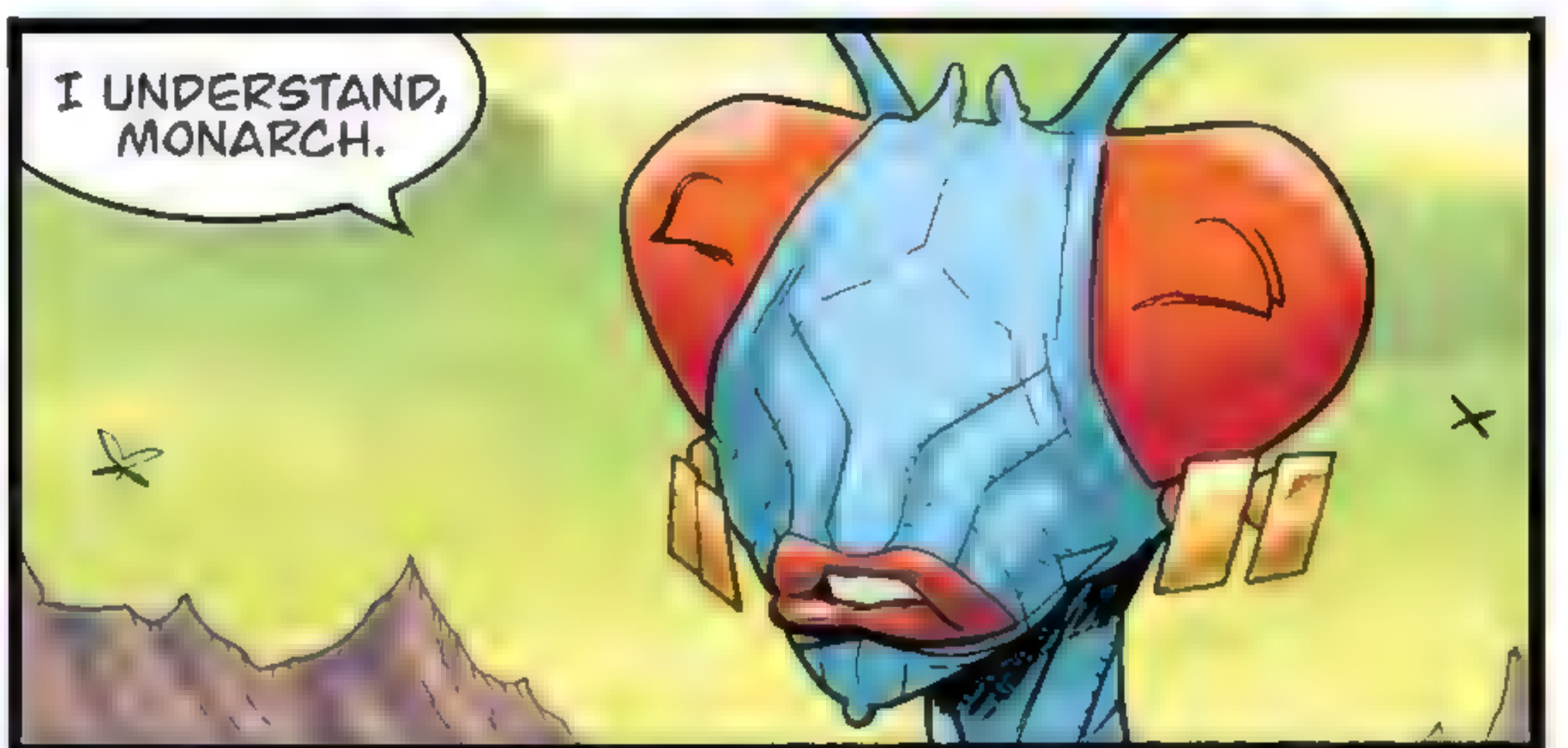
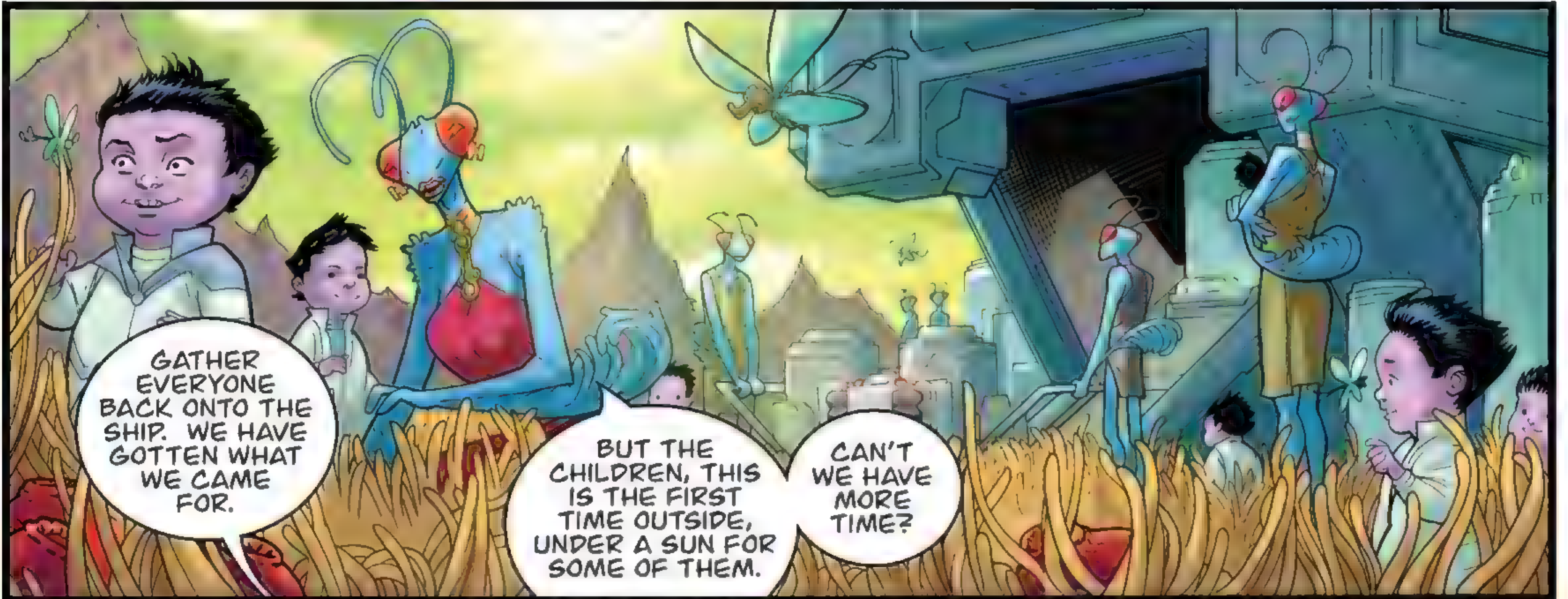
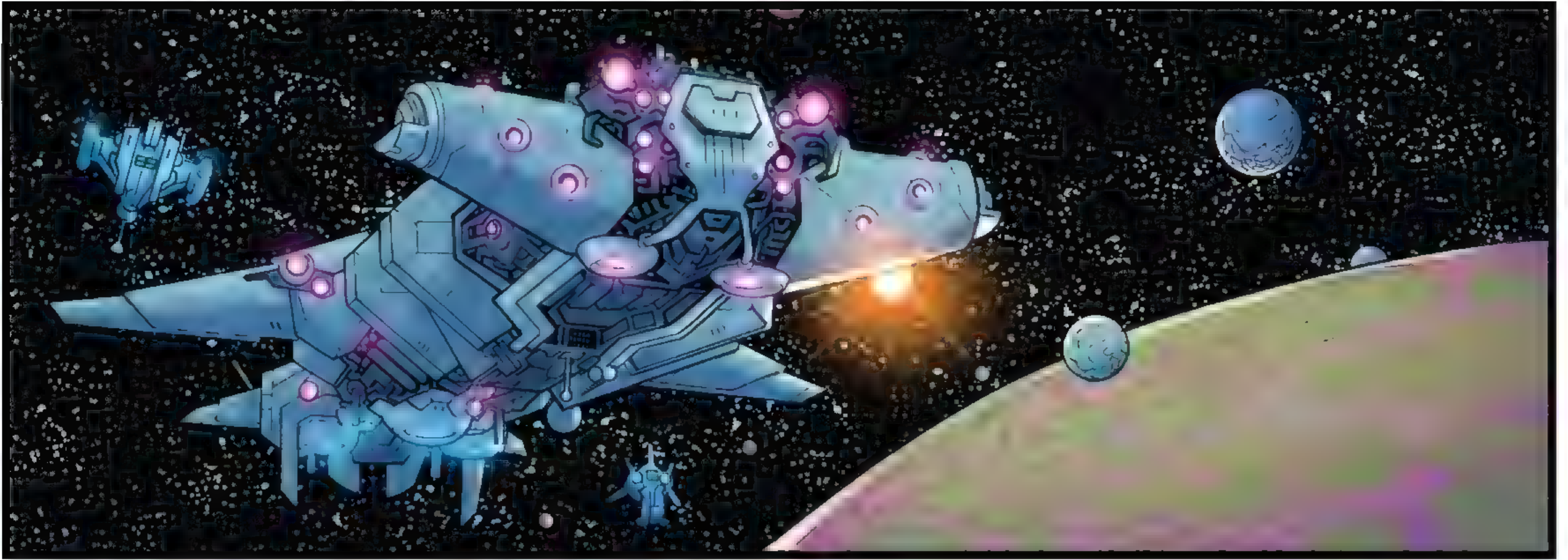
WHY SURE...

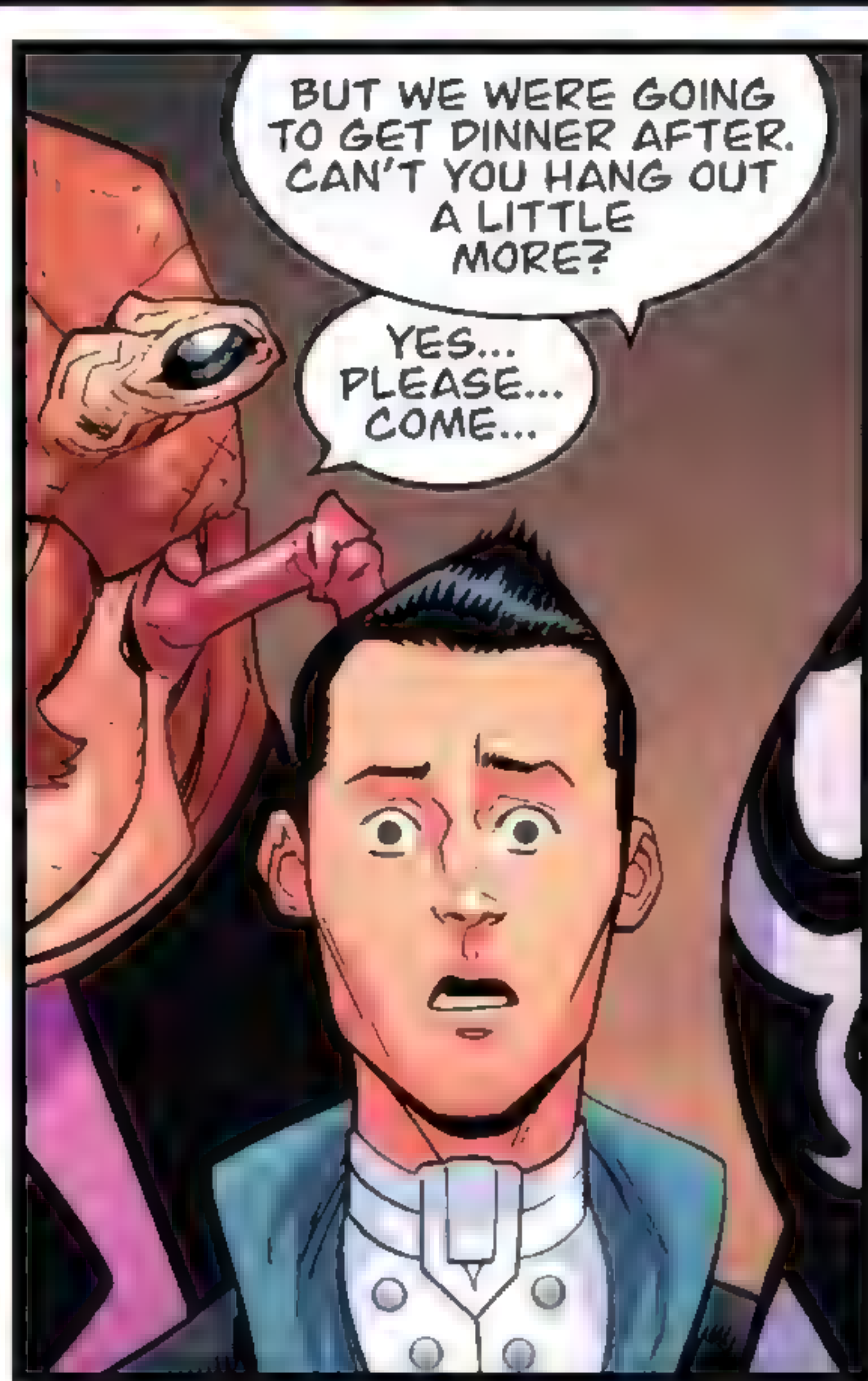
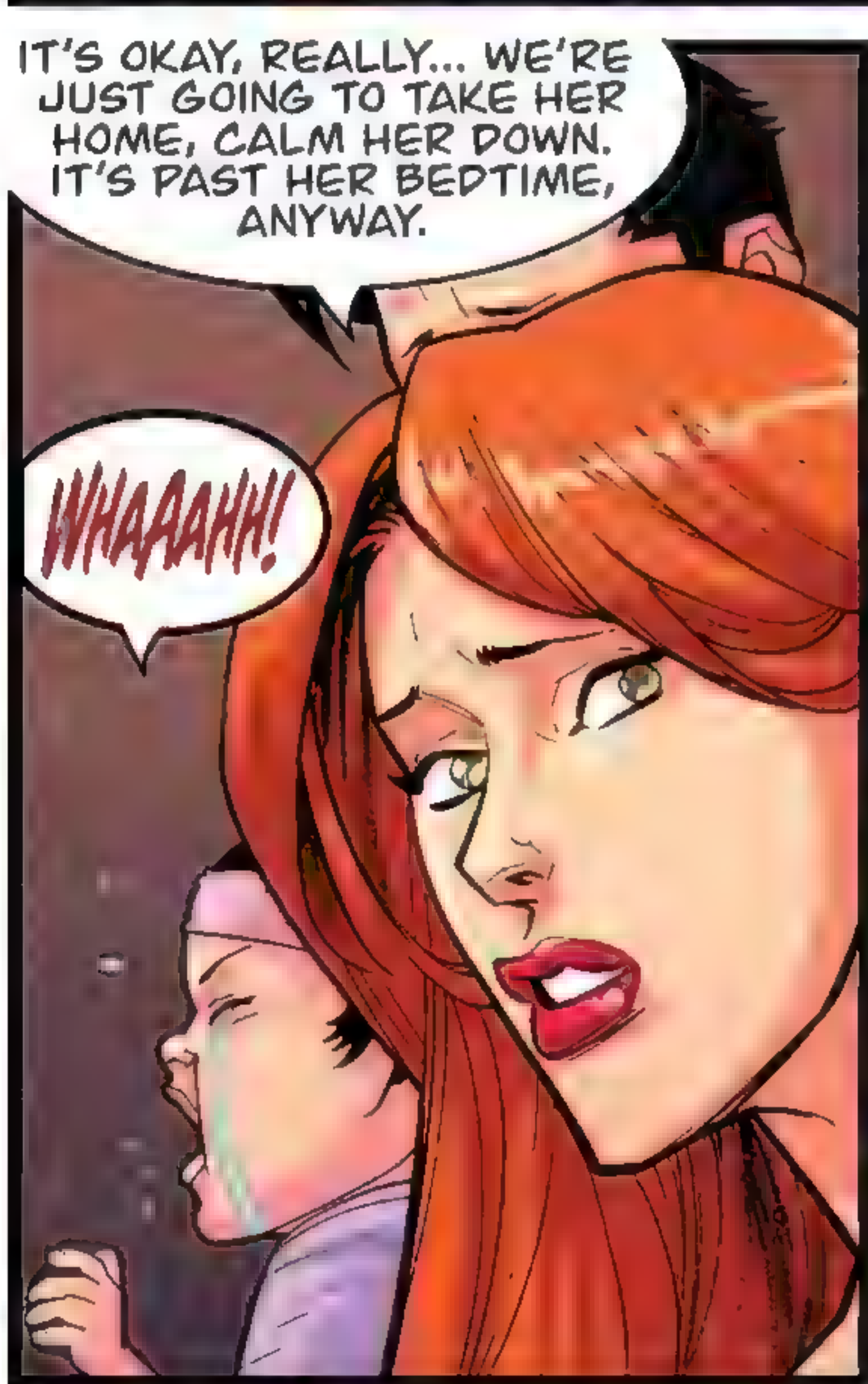


THANKS!

THIS IS MUCH BETTER!









SHE CALMED
DOWN AFTER A
COUPLE HOURS
AND SLEPT... MOST
OF THE NIGHT. IT
WASN'T SO
BAD...

JEEZ,
BETWEEN
THAT AND THE
FOOD AND...
EVERYTHING
ELSE... EVE MUST
REALLY HATE
IT ON
TALESCRIA.



SHE
DOESN'T...

SORRY,
SHE DOES.
I THINK SHE
REALLY
DOES.



HALUMA WAS
WANTING TO TAKE
HER OUT SOMETIME...
TRY TO MEND FENCES
THERE, MAYBE WE
COULD WATCH TERRA
ONE NIGHT AT YOUR
PLACE... LET
THE GIRLS GO
OUT.

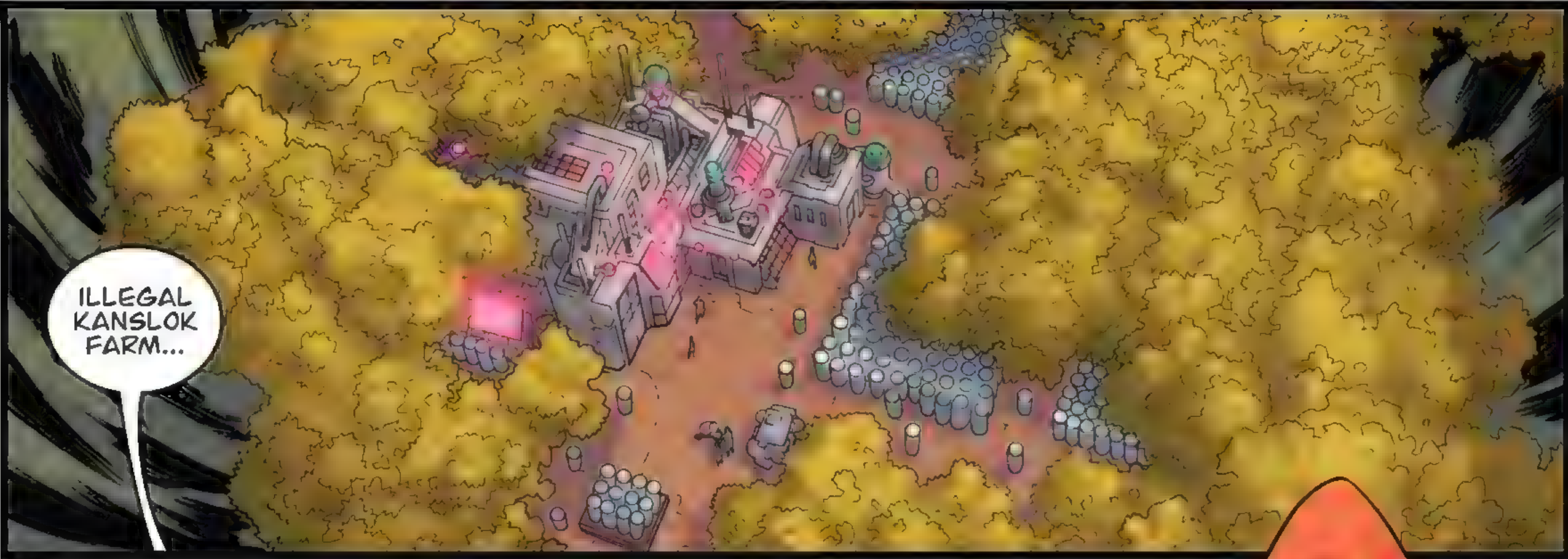


WE COULD
TRY THAT.
IT COULD BE
FUN.



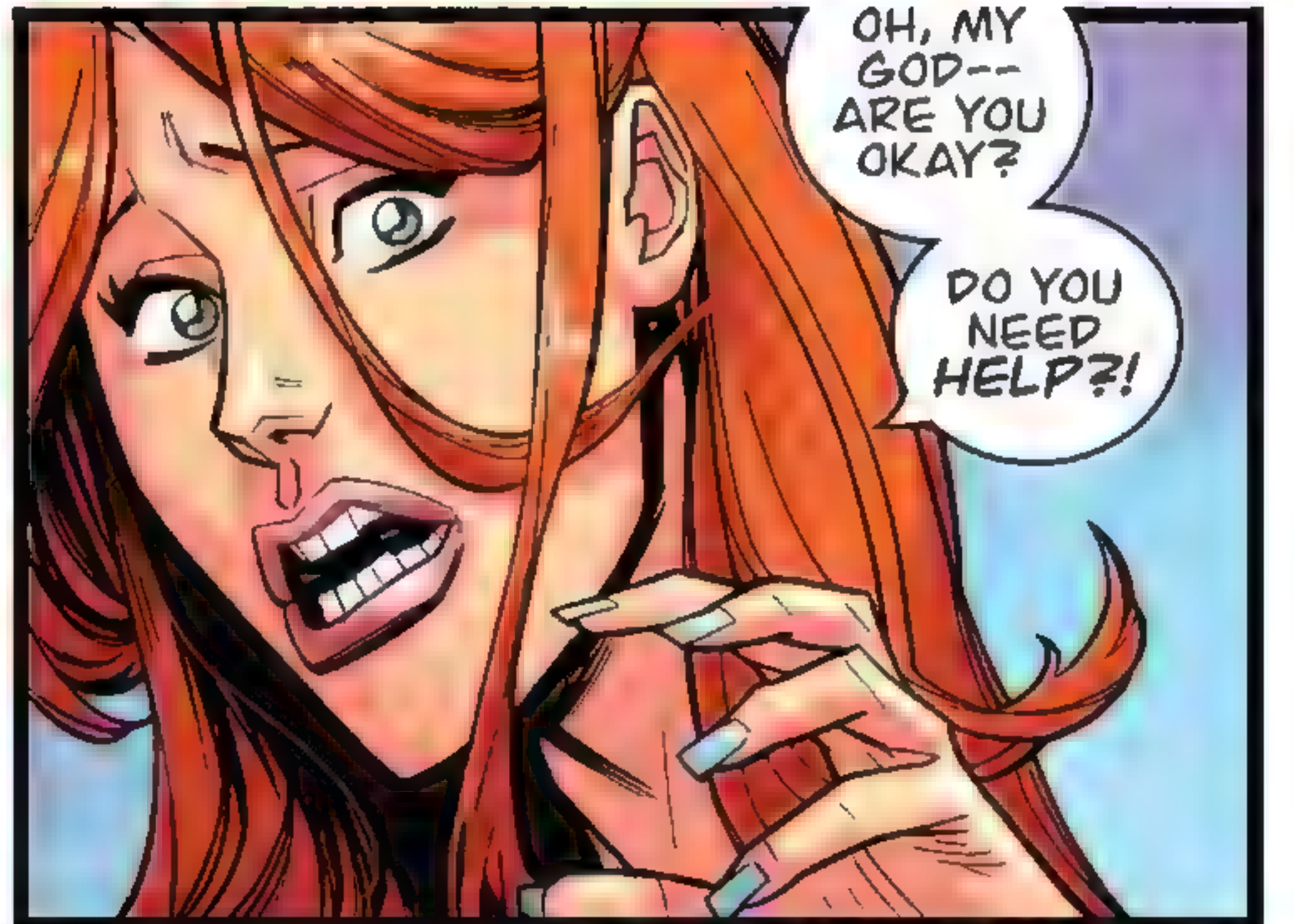
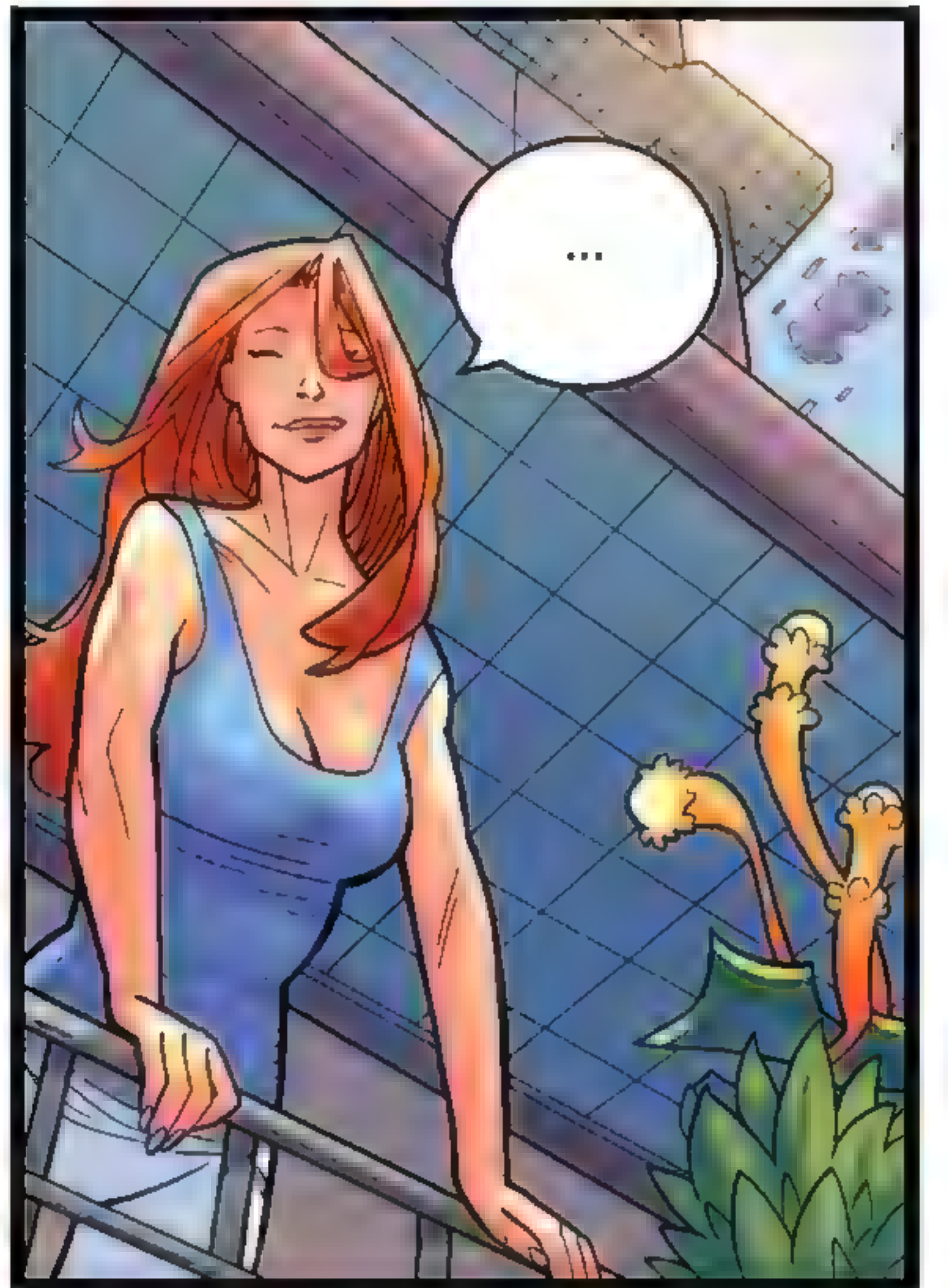
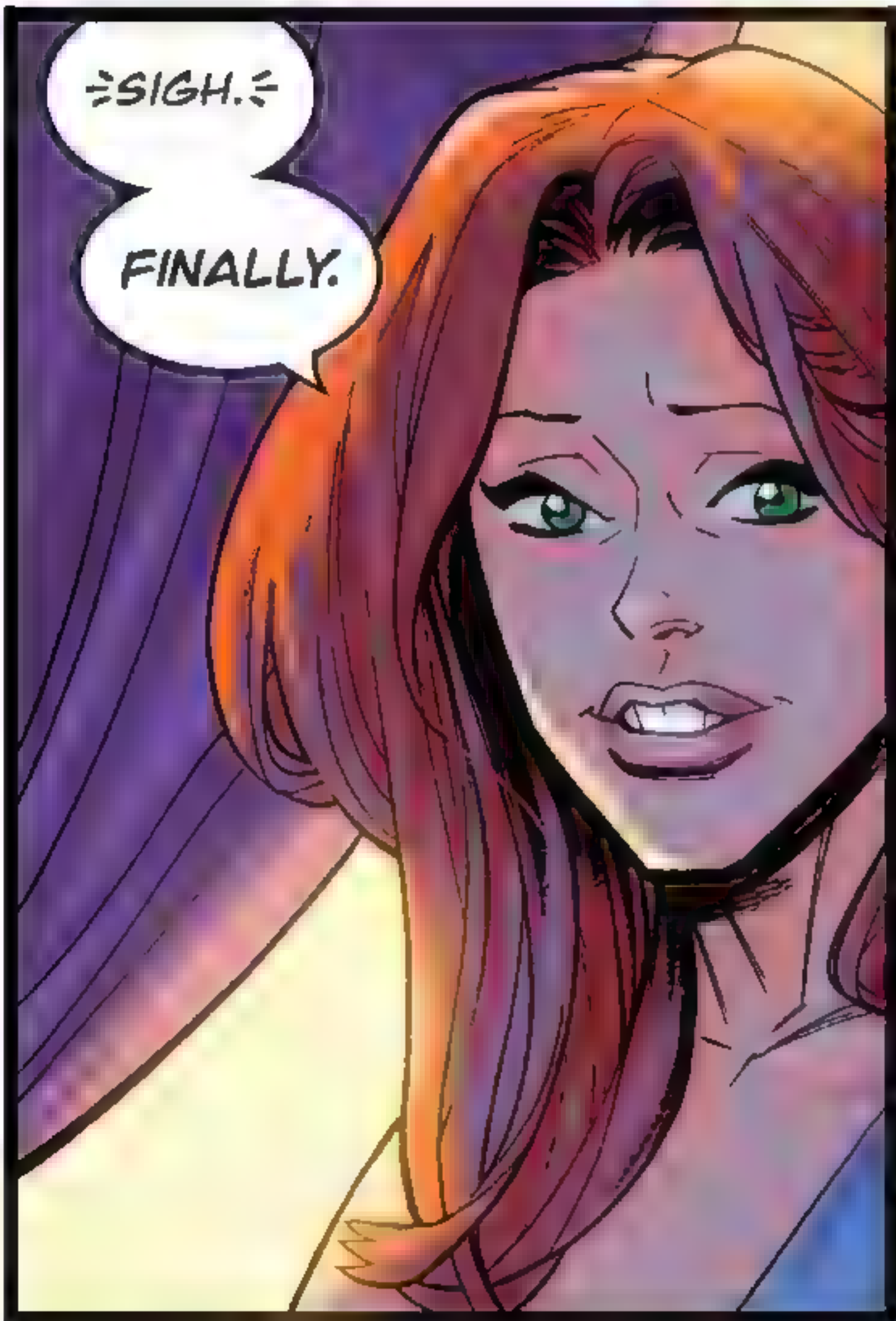
WAIT, IS
THAT--?

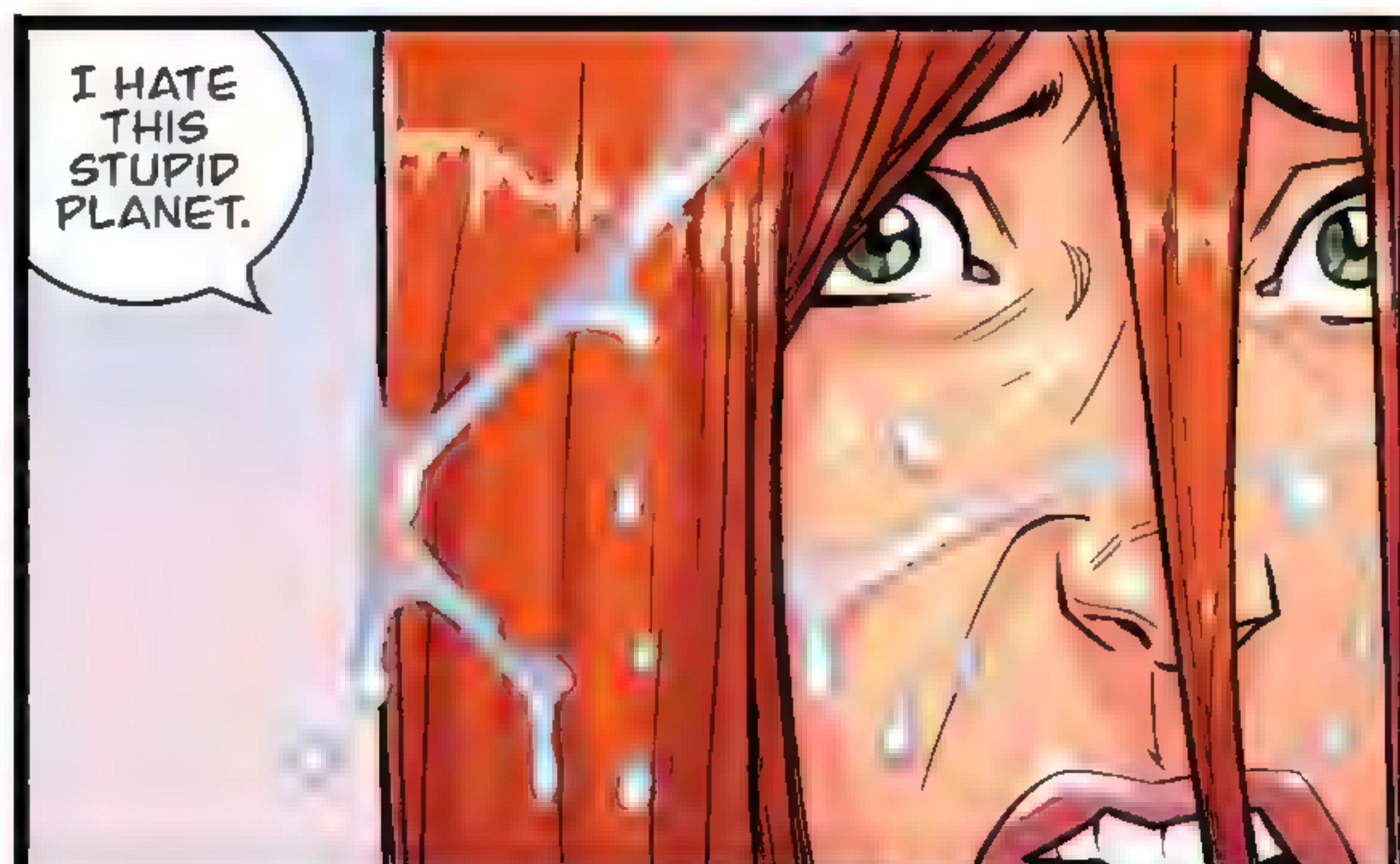
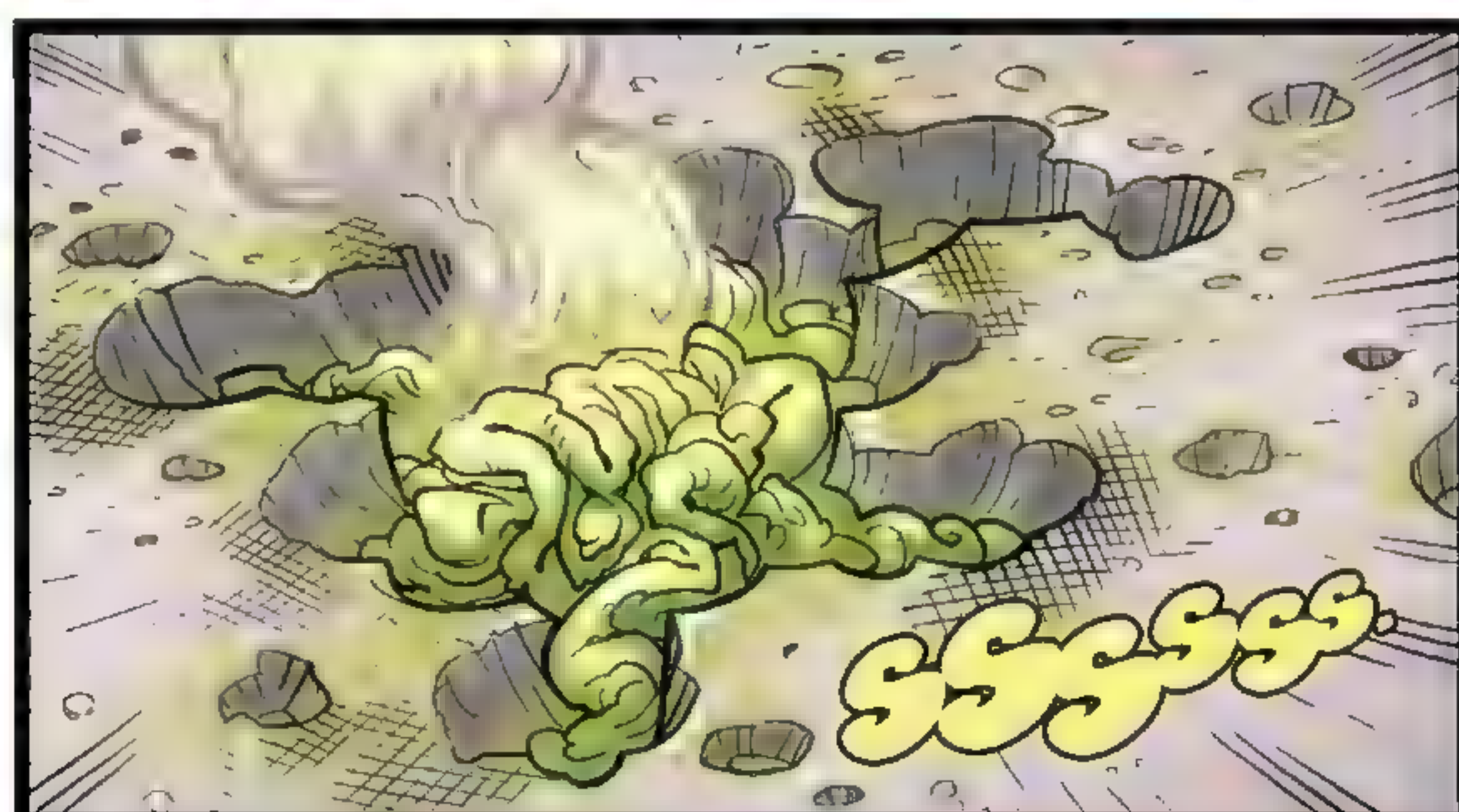
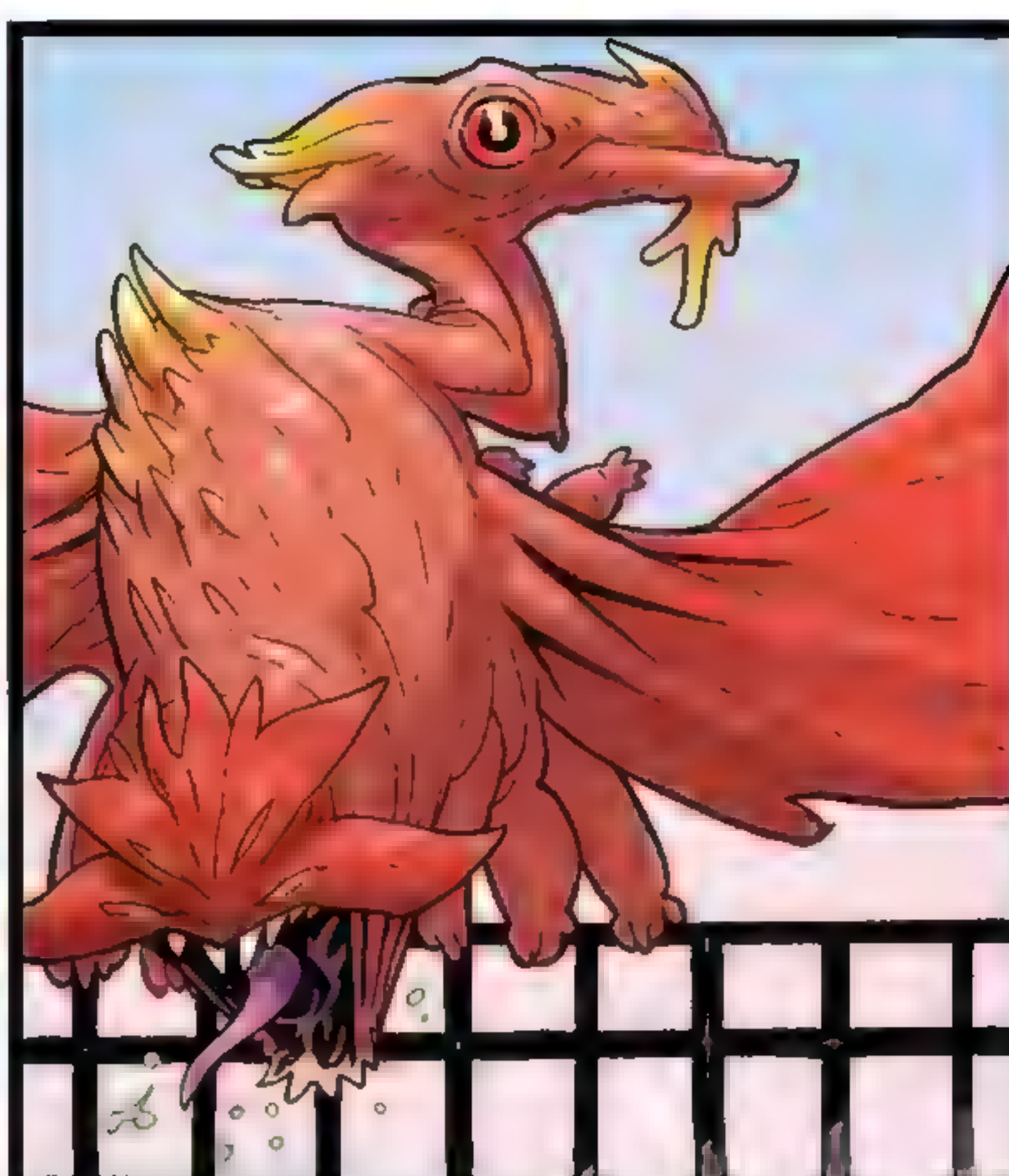
YEAH.
LOOKS
LIKE IT.







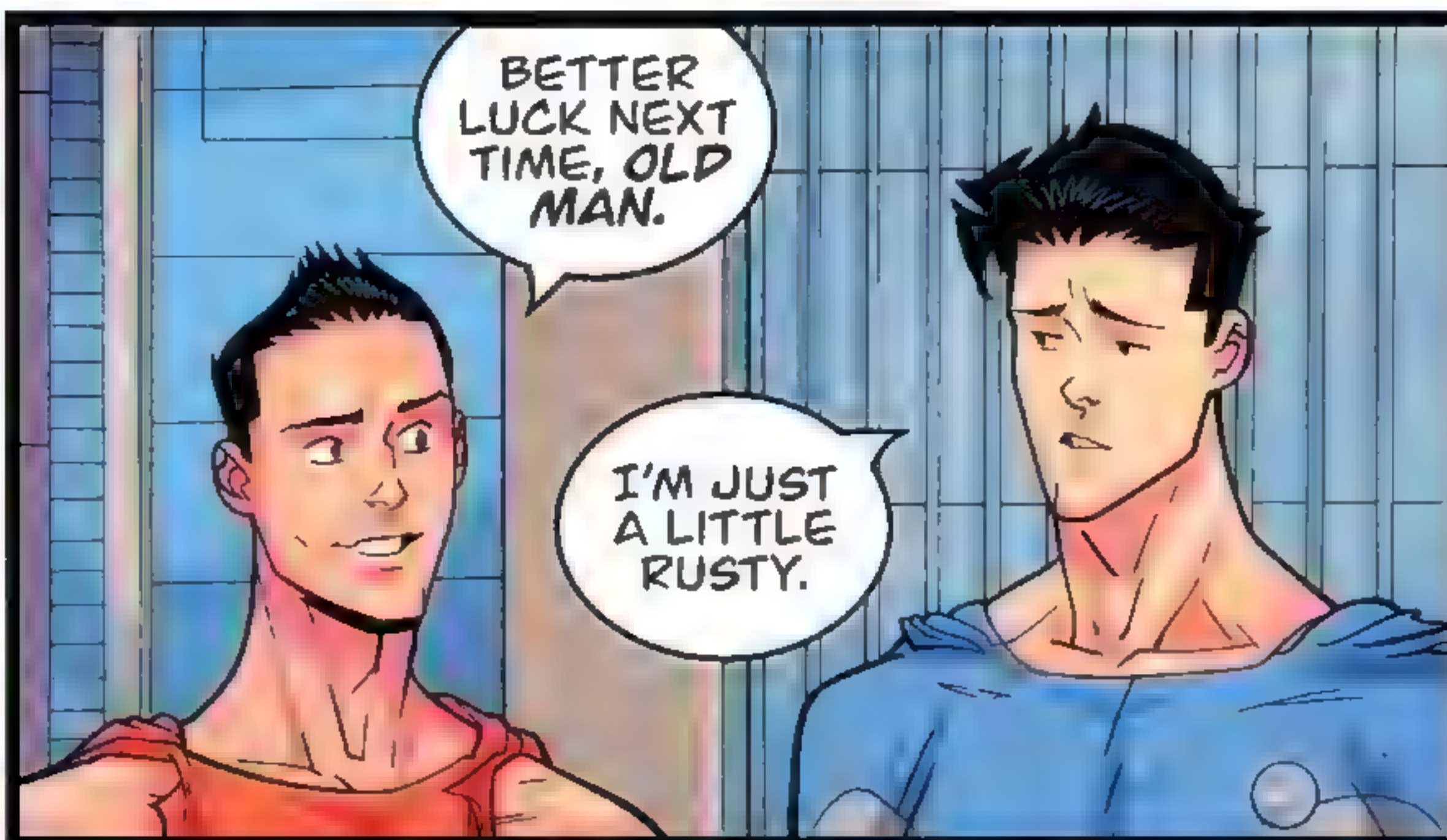






HOW'S YOUR BACK?

I'LL BE FINE.



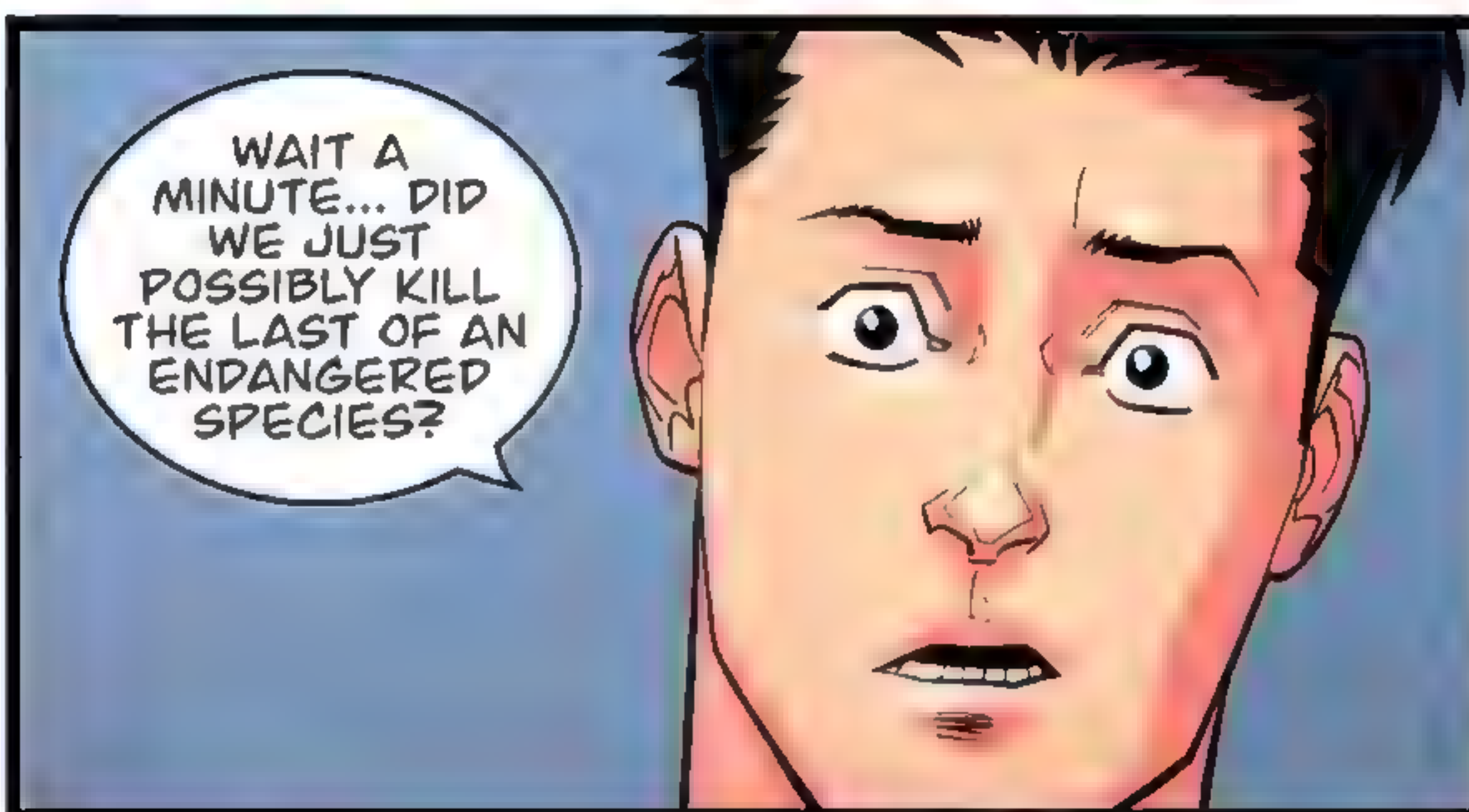
BETTER LUCK NEXT TIME, OLD MAN.

I'M JUST A LITTLE RUSTY.



DON'T FEEL BAD. IF I'D KNOWN THEY HAD A RYNAX... WE DEFINITELY WOULD HAVE CALLED IT IN.

I THOUGHT THOSE THINGS WERE EXTINCT.



WAIT A MINUTE... DID WE JUST POSSIBLY KILL THE LAST OF AN ENDANGERED SPECIES?



HELL YEAH!

WE'LL BE HEROES!

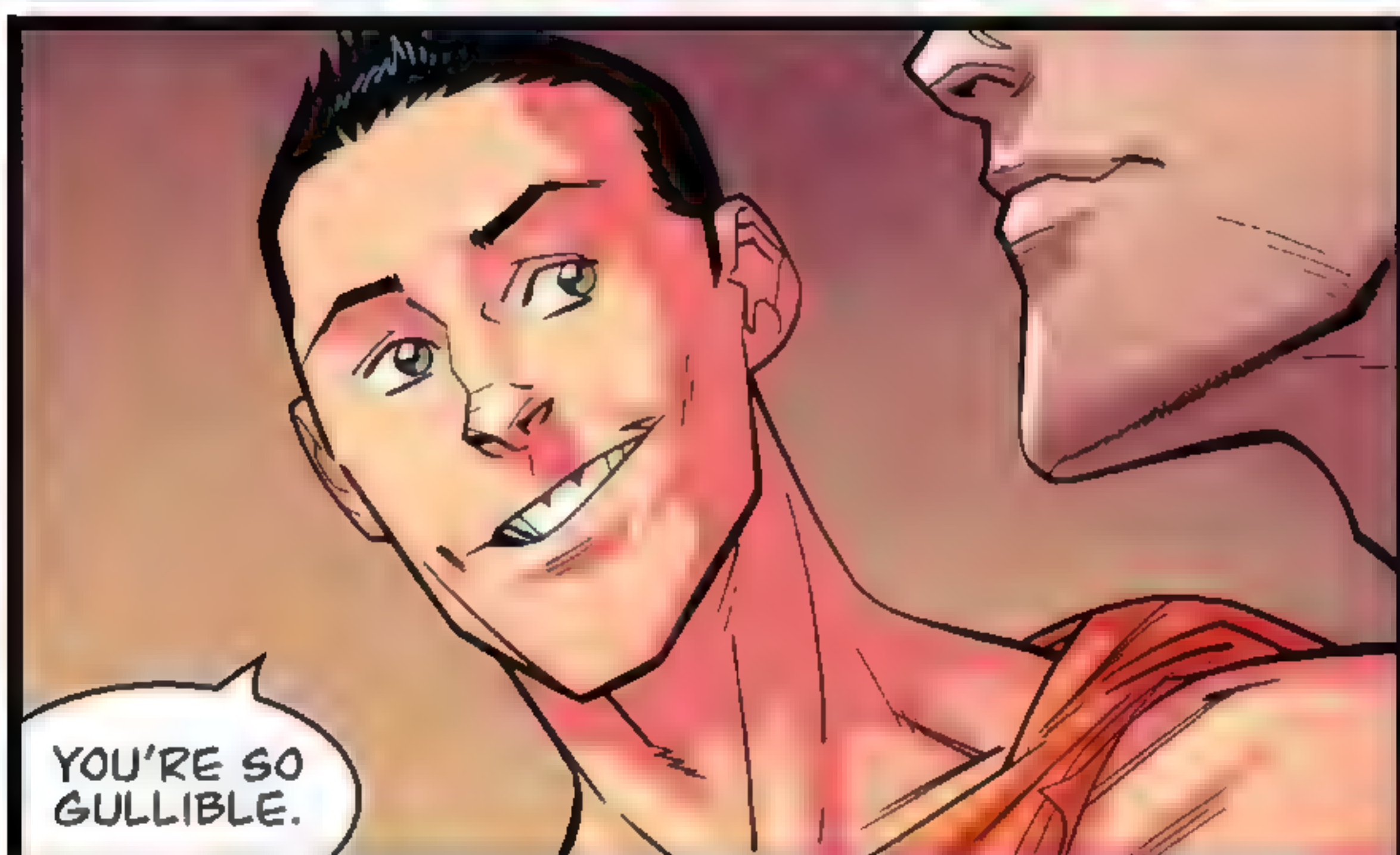




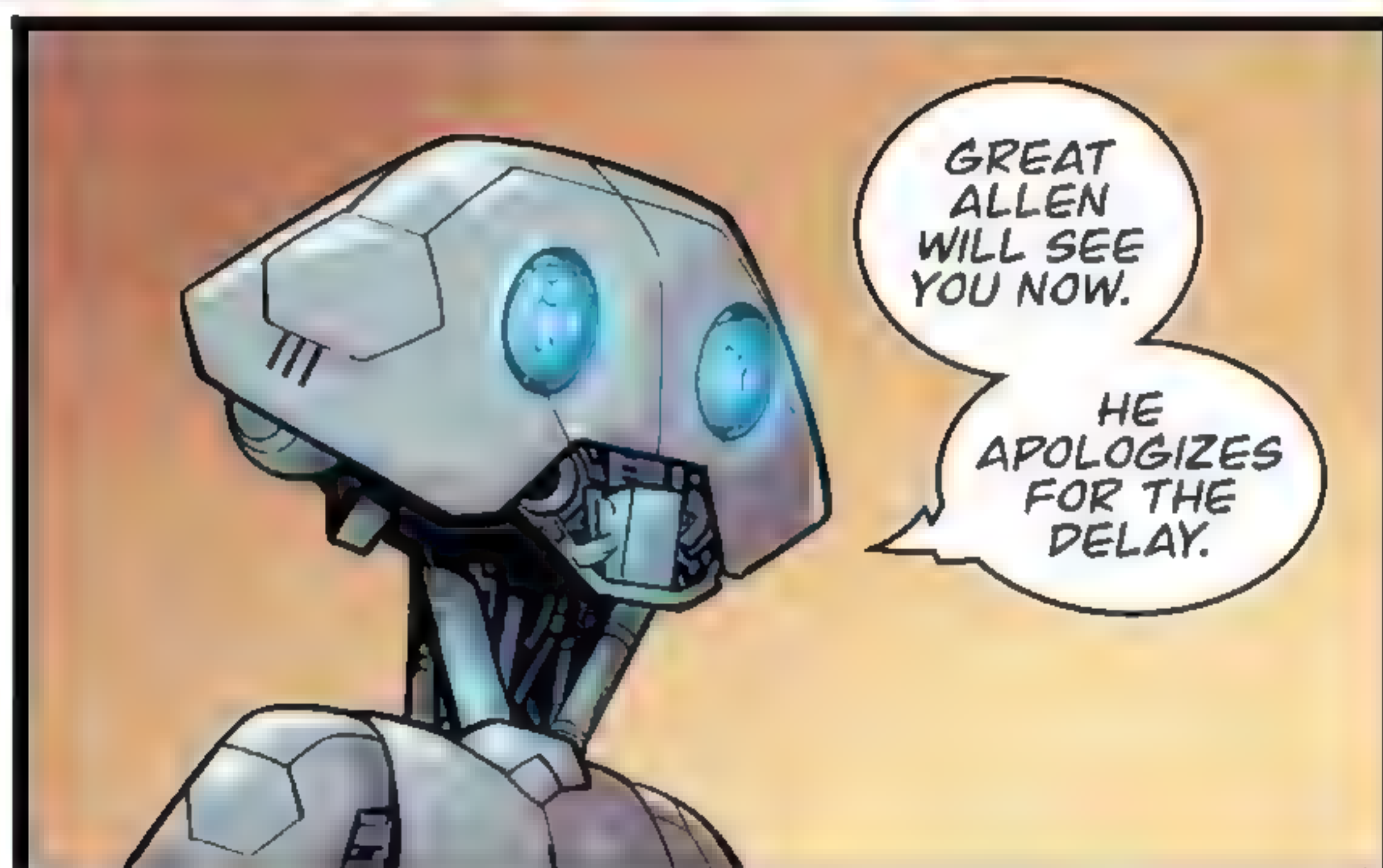
I WAS KIDDING ABOUT THEM BEING EXTINCT, YOU BIG SOFTY.

YOU'RE A JERK.

MAN... EVE WOULD HAVE KILLED ME IF SHE FOUND OUT.

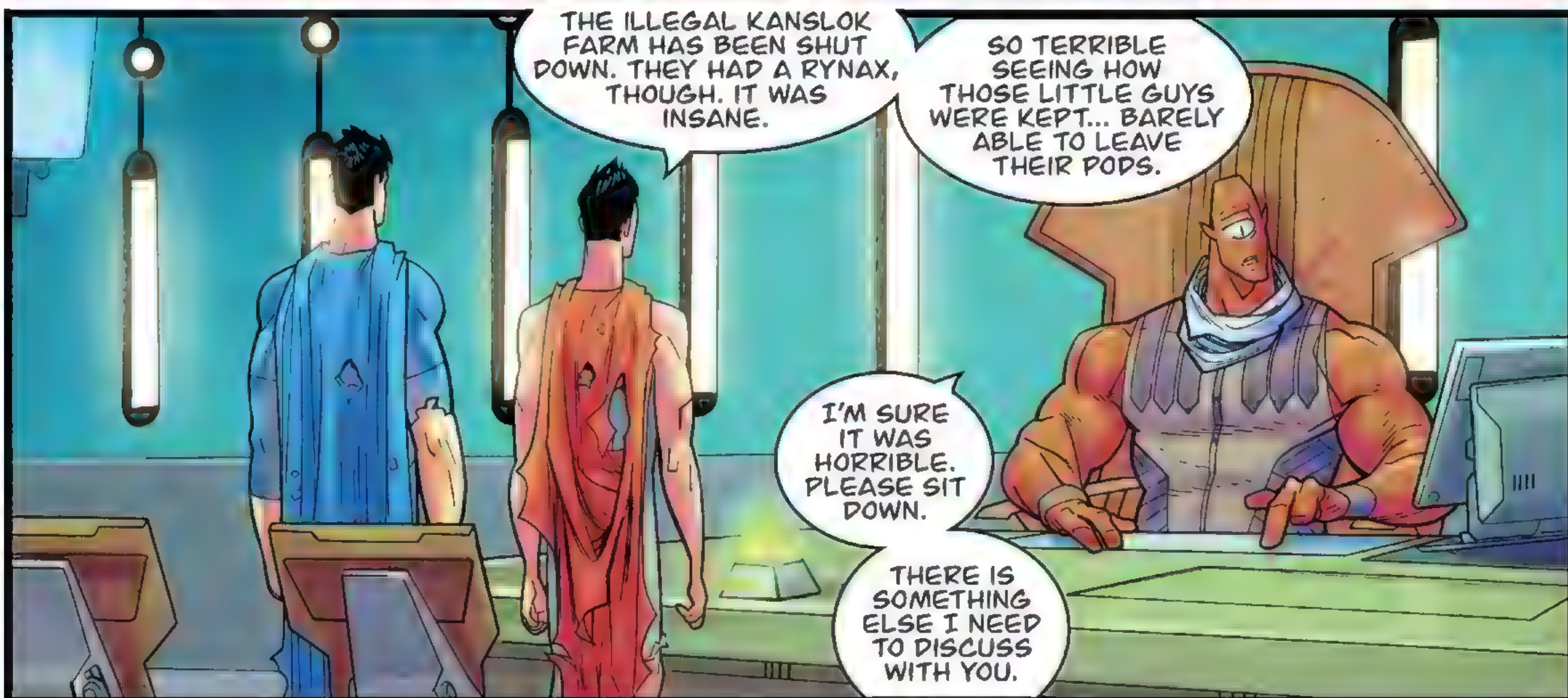


YOU'RE SO GULLIBLE.



GREAT ALLEN WILL SEE YOU NOW.

HE APOLOGIZES FOR THE DELAY.



THE ILLEGAL KANSLOK FARM HAS BEEN SHUT DOWN. THEY HAD A RYNAX, THOUGH. IT WAS INSANE.

SO TERRIBLE SEEING HOW THOSE LITTLE GUYS WERE KEPT... BARELY ABLE TO LEAVE THEIR PODS.

I'M SURE IT WAS HORRIBLE. PLEASE SIT DOWN.

THERE IS SOMETHING ELSE I NEED TO DISCUSS WITH YOU.

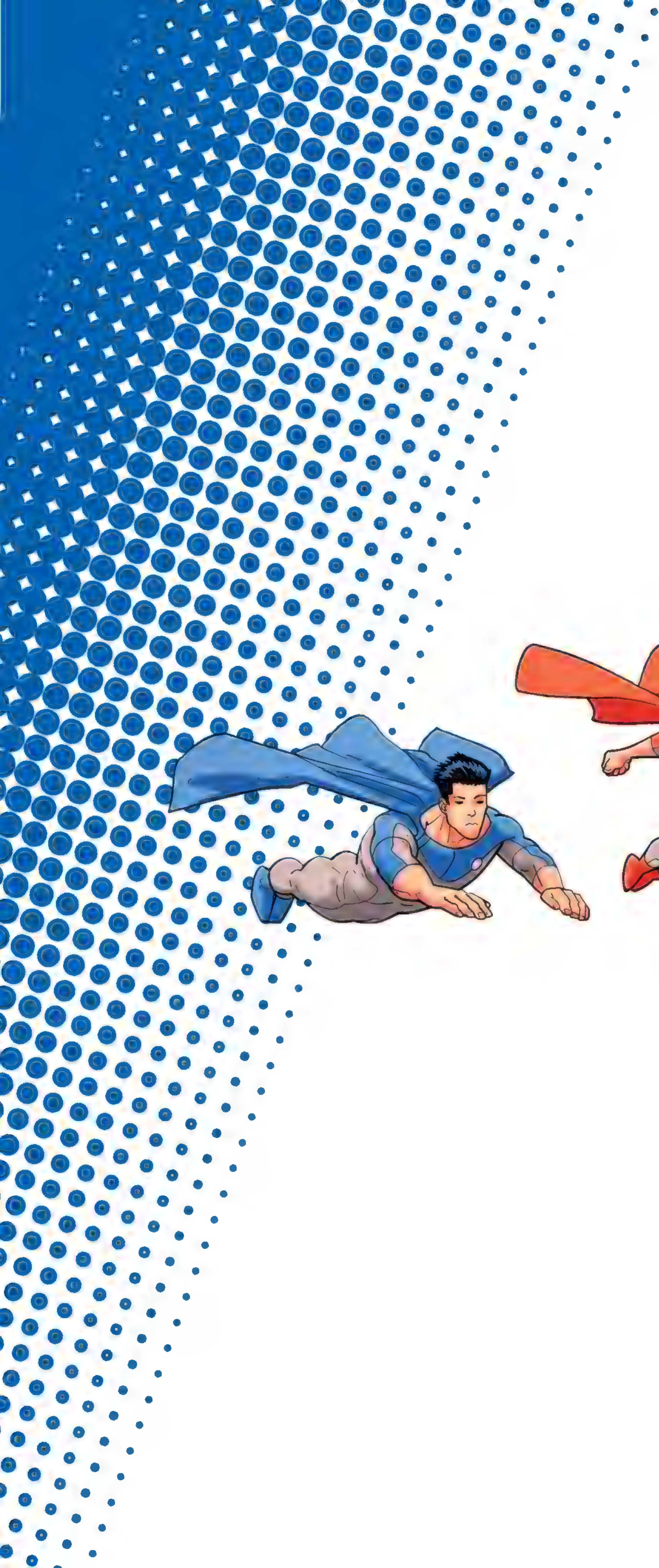


WE'VE LOCATED THRAGG.

SPACE RACER IS INTERCEPTING WITH A TEAM. HE'S BEEN DIRECTED TO MONITOR HIM, WITHOUT GIVING AWAY HIS POSITION. HE'LL KEEP TABS ON HIM... HE'S BEEN ON PLANET FOR A WHILE.

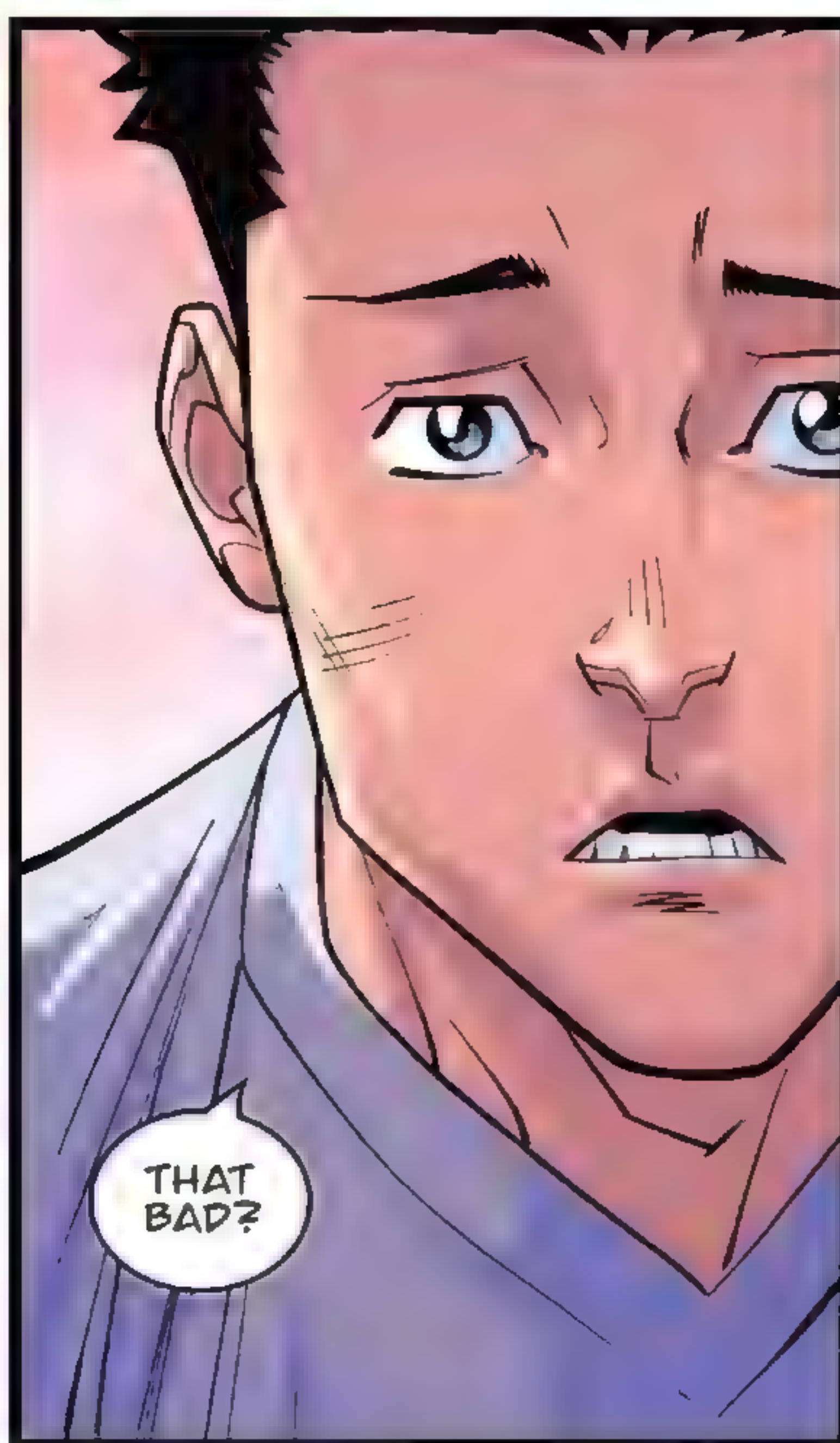
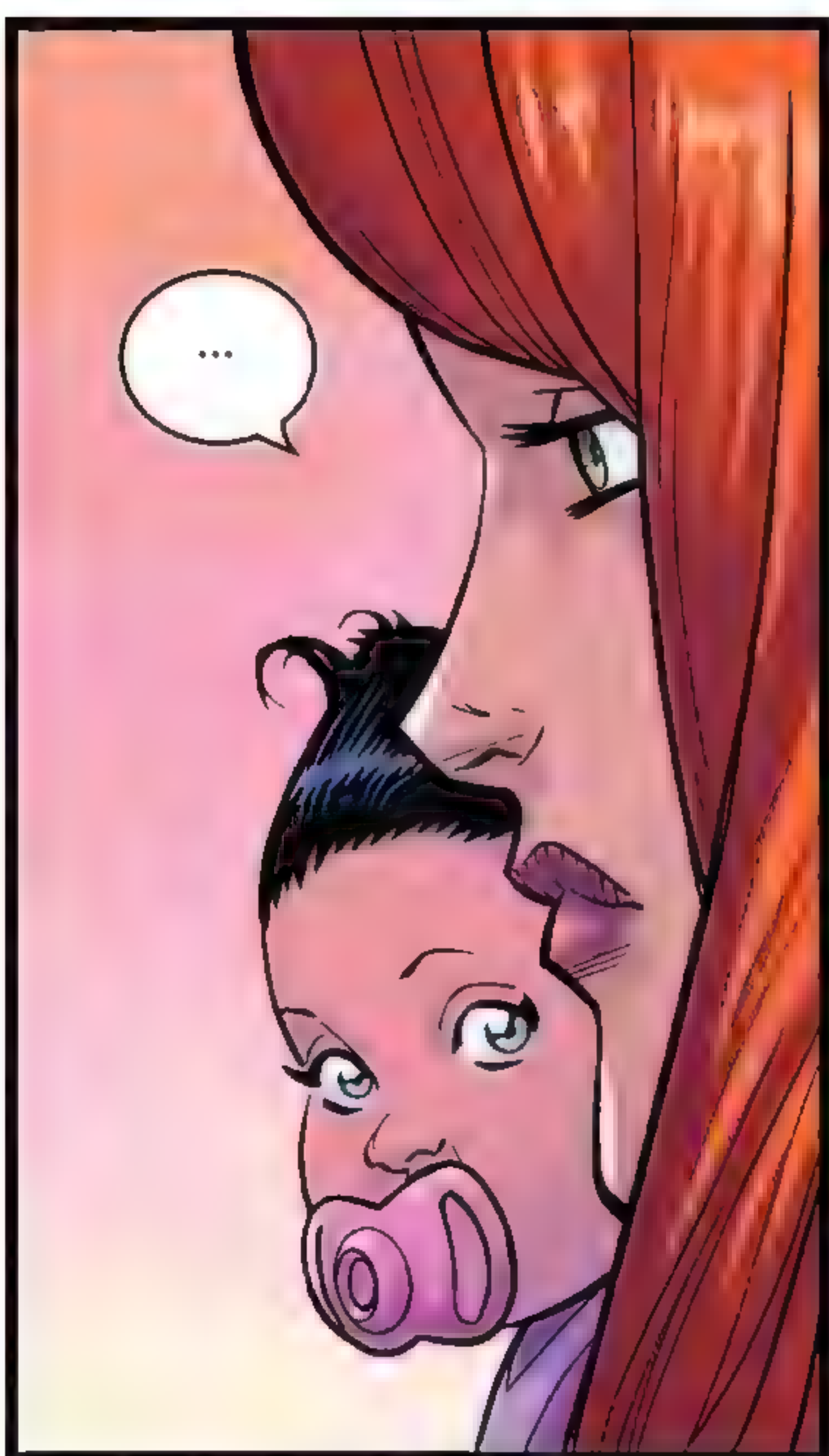
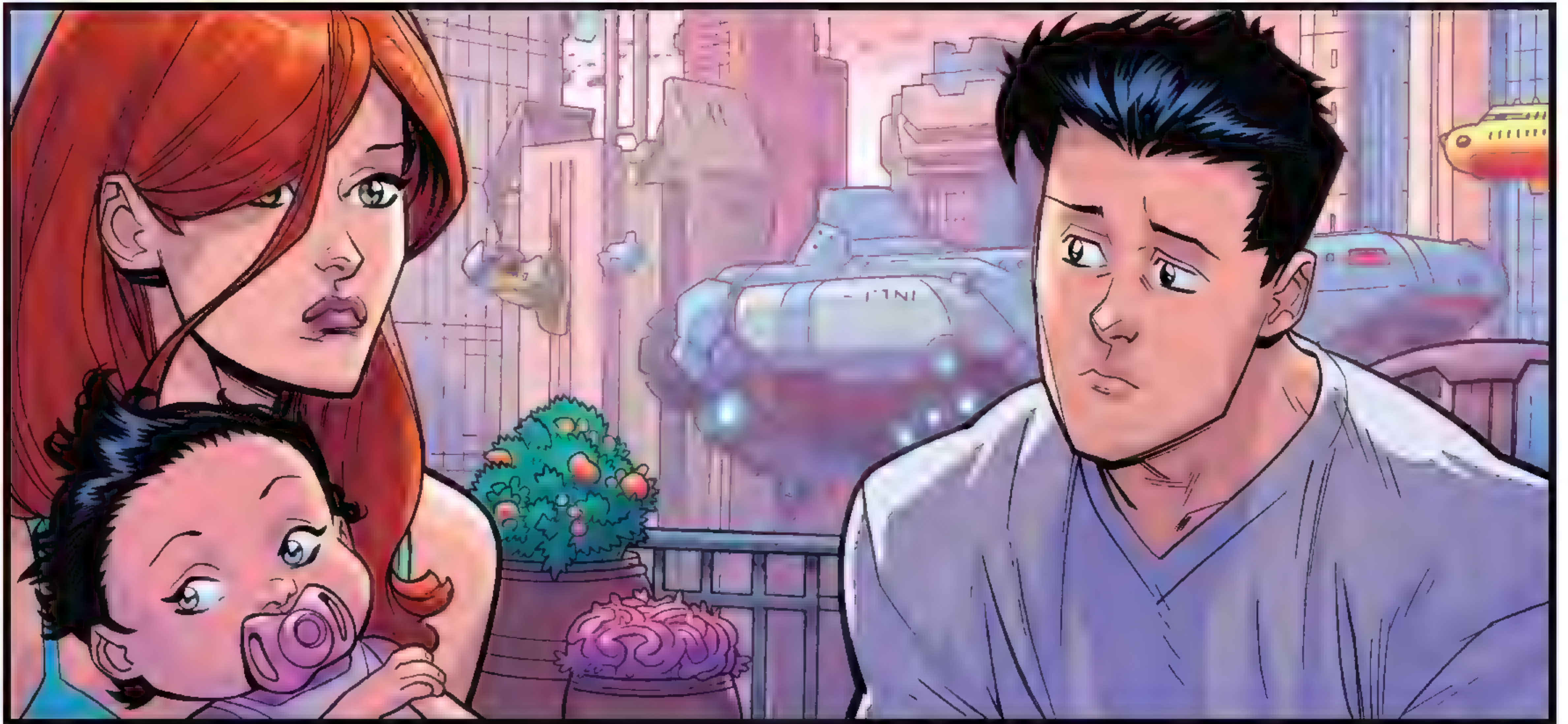
WE'RE HOPING HE REMAINS UNDETECTED.





CHAPTER 123







I'M JUST... I'M LOSING MY MIND HERE. YOU'VE BEEN GOING OFF WITH OLIVER... YOU HAVE THINGS THAT ARE KEEPING YOU BUSY.

I'M JUST... HERE.

I LOVE OUR DAUGHTER. BUT I'M STUCK HERE WITH HER AND I DON'T HAVE A TV OR THE INTERNET OR EVEN A NEWSPAPER THAT MAKES ANY SENSE TO ME.

THERE'S NOTHING TO DO... I MEAN, IT'S AN ALIEN PLANET... THERE'S PLENTY TO DO... BUT I'M CHAINED TO THIS BABY AND I'M GOING CRAZY.

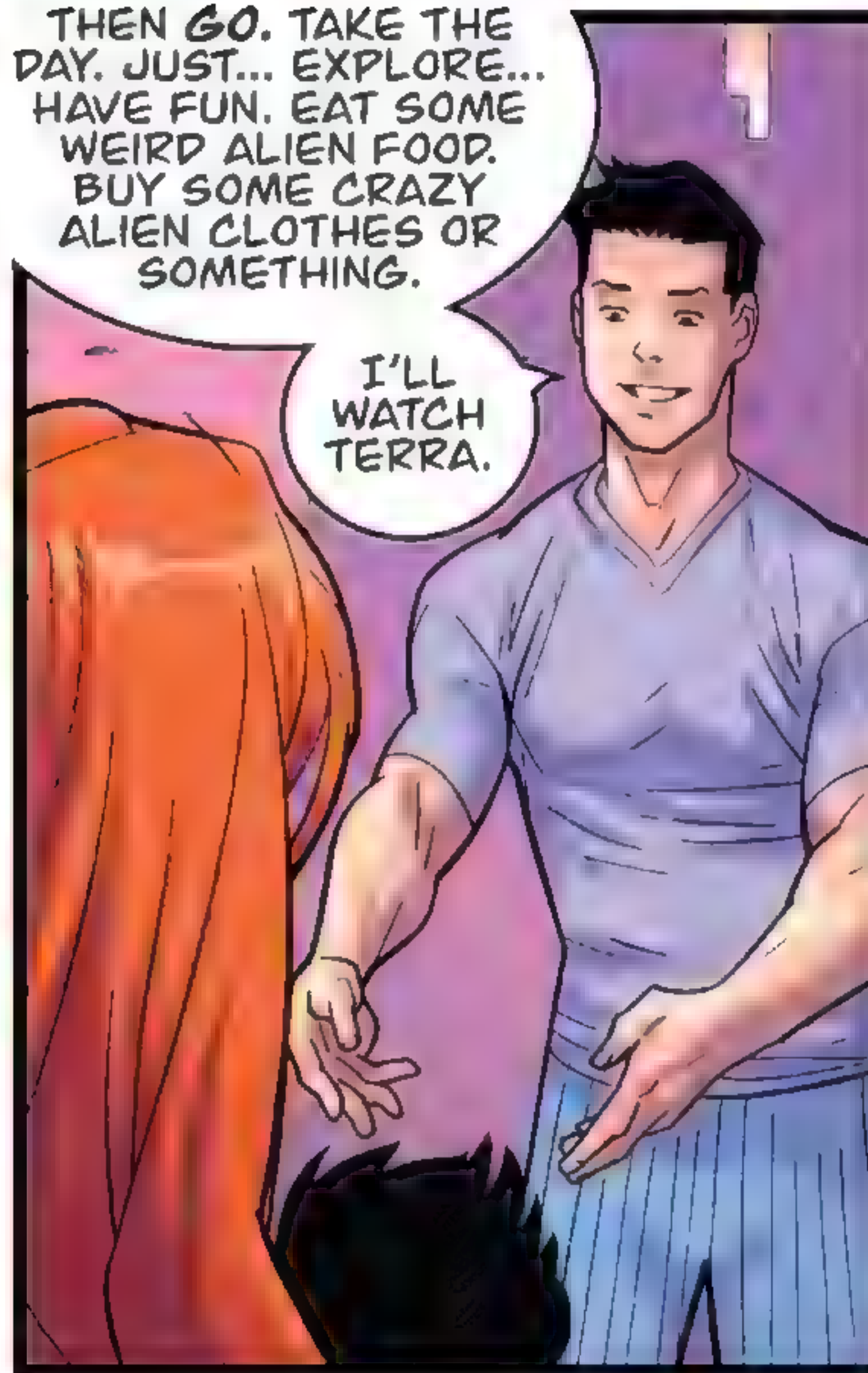


I KNOW... I'M SORRY. WITH EVERYTHING HAPPENING SO QUICK... WE HAVEN'T REALLY HAD TIME TO SETTLE IN HERE.

AND EVERY TIME WE TAKE TERRA OUT... WE ACCIDENTALLY PUT HER IN SOME KIND OF DANGER...



I'M GETTING A BAD CASE OF ALIEN PLANET CABIN FEVER HERE, MARK.



THEN GO. TAKE THE DAY. JUST... EXPLORE... HAVE FUN. EAT SOME WEIRD ALIEN FOOD. BUY SOME CRAZY ALIEN CLOTHES OR SOMETHING.

I'LL WATCH TERRA.



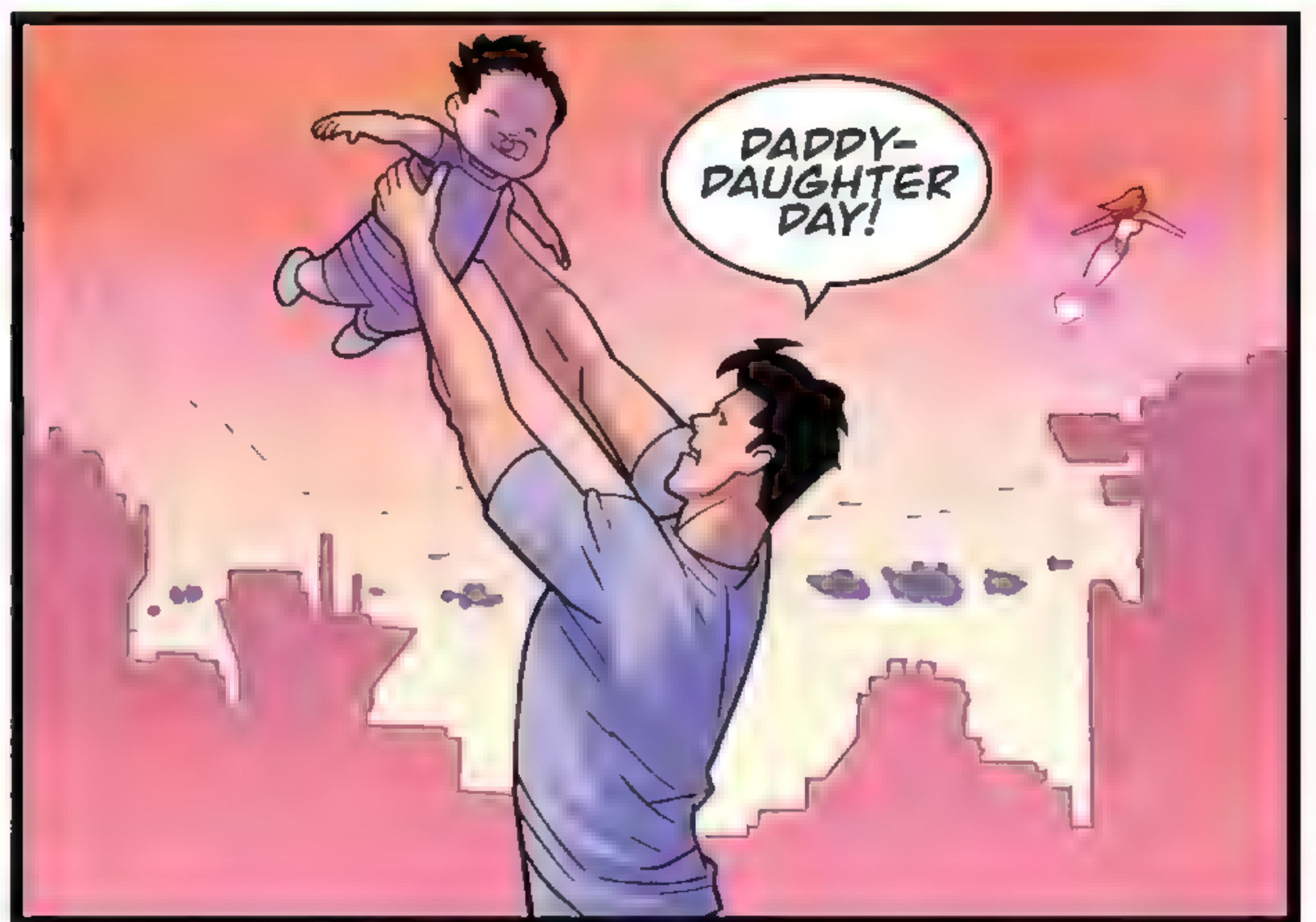
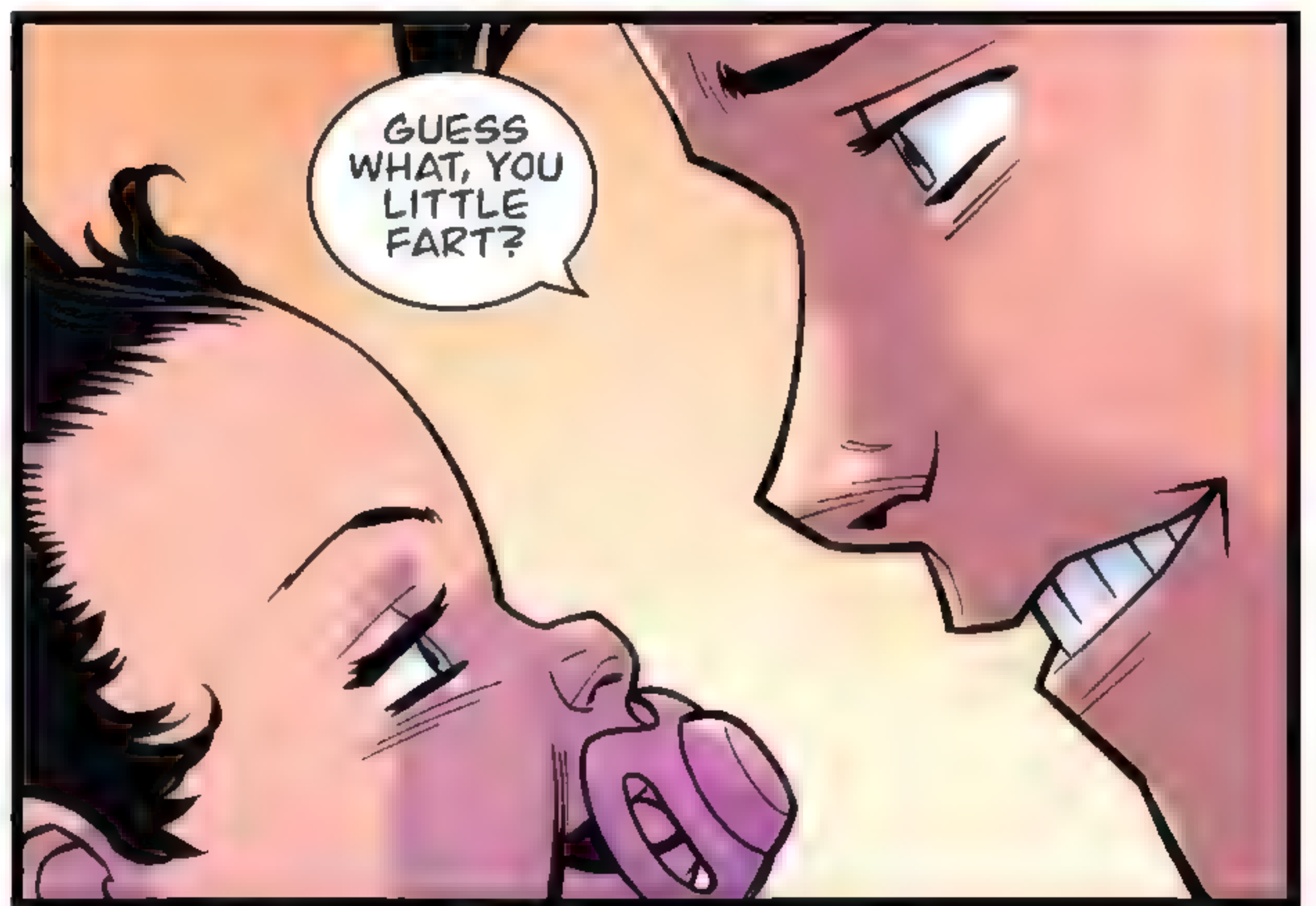
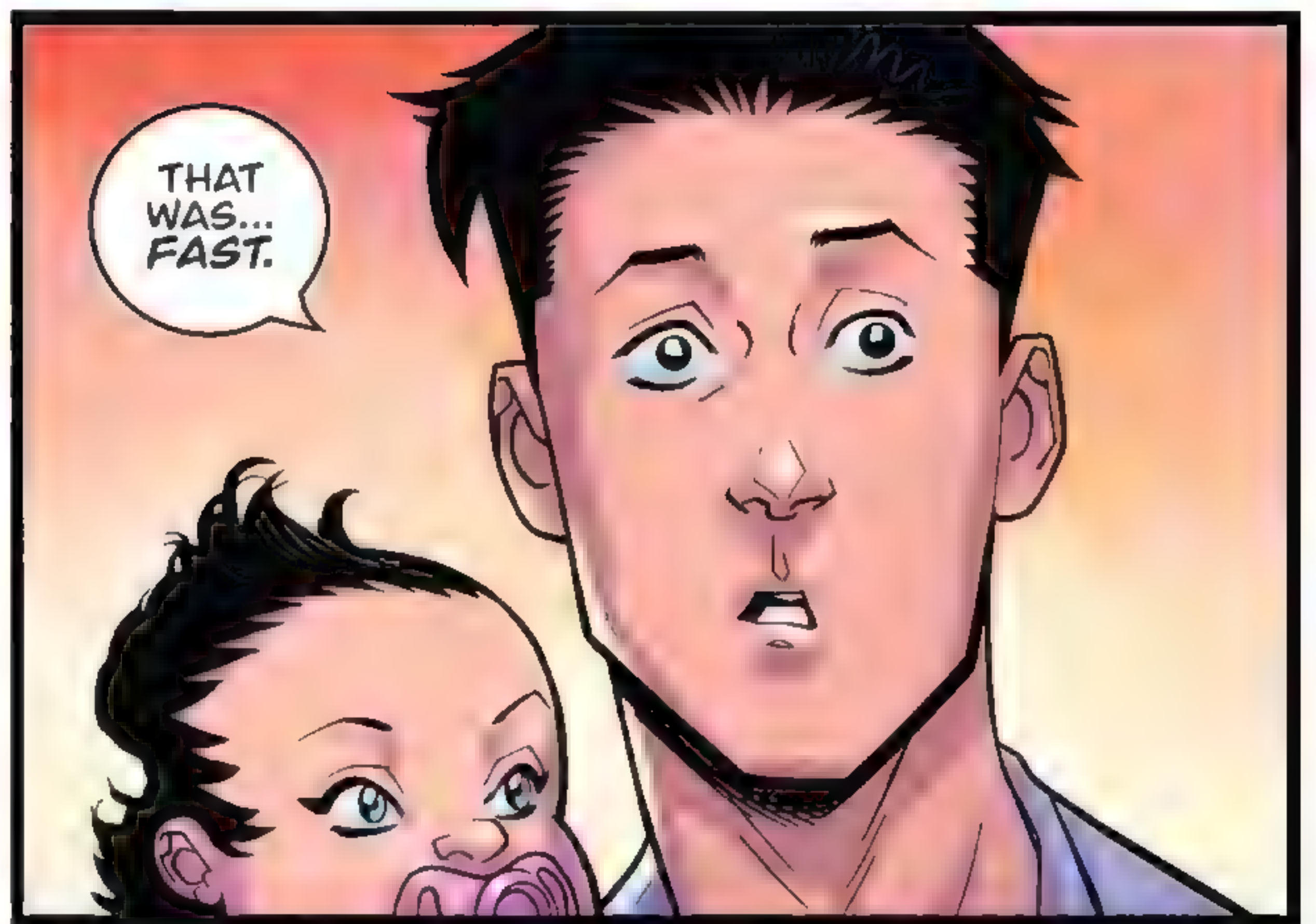
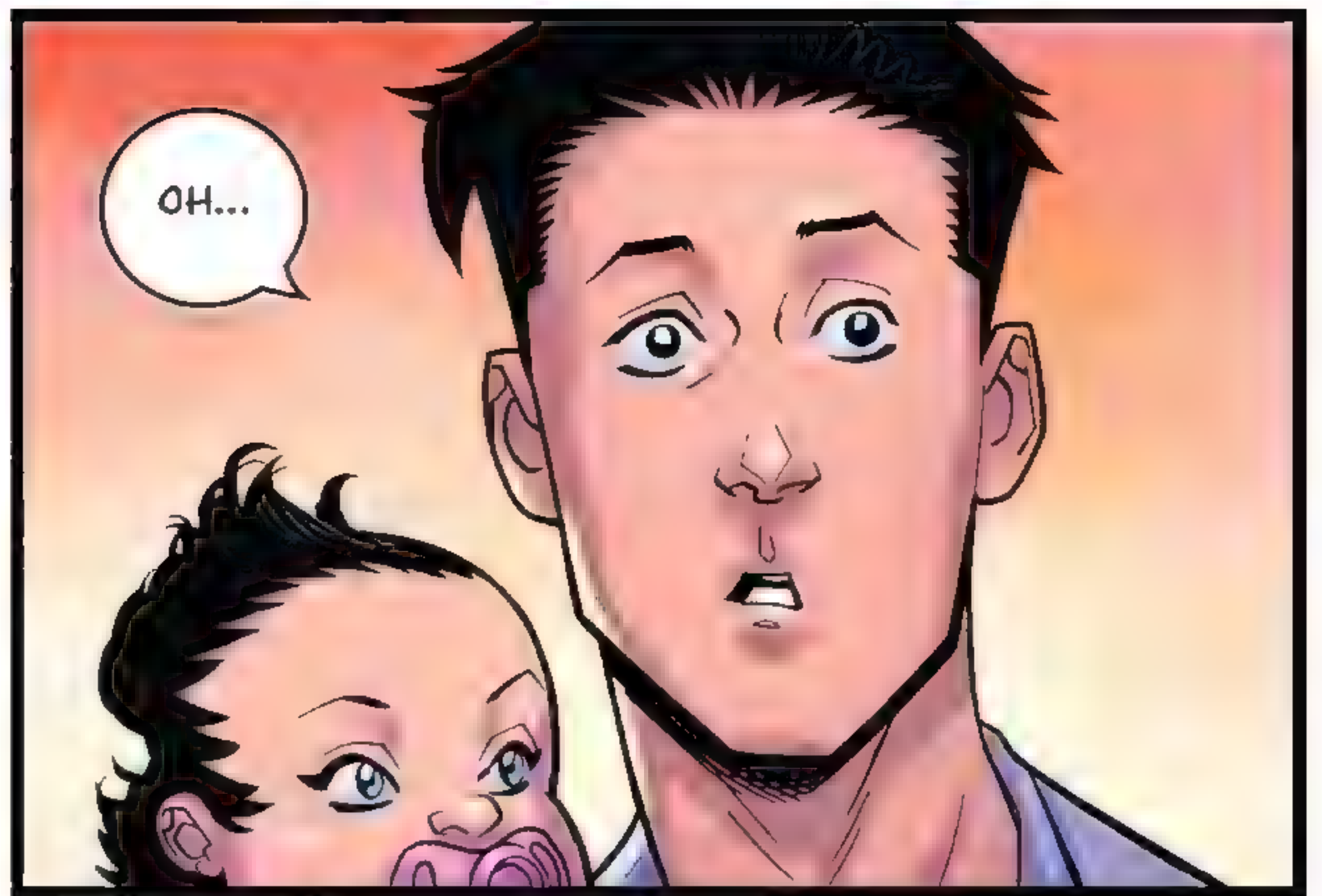
MARK.

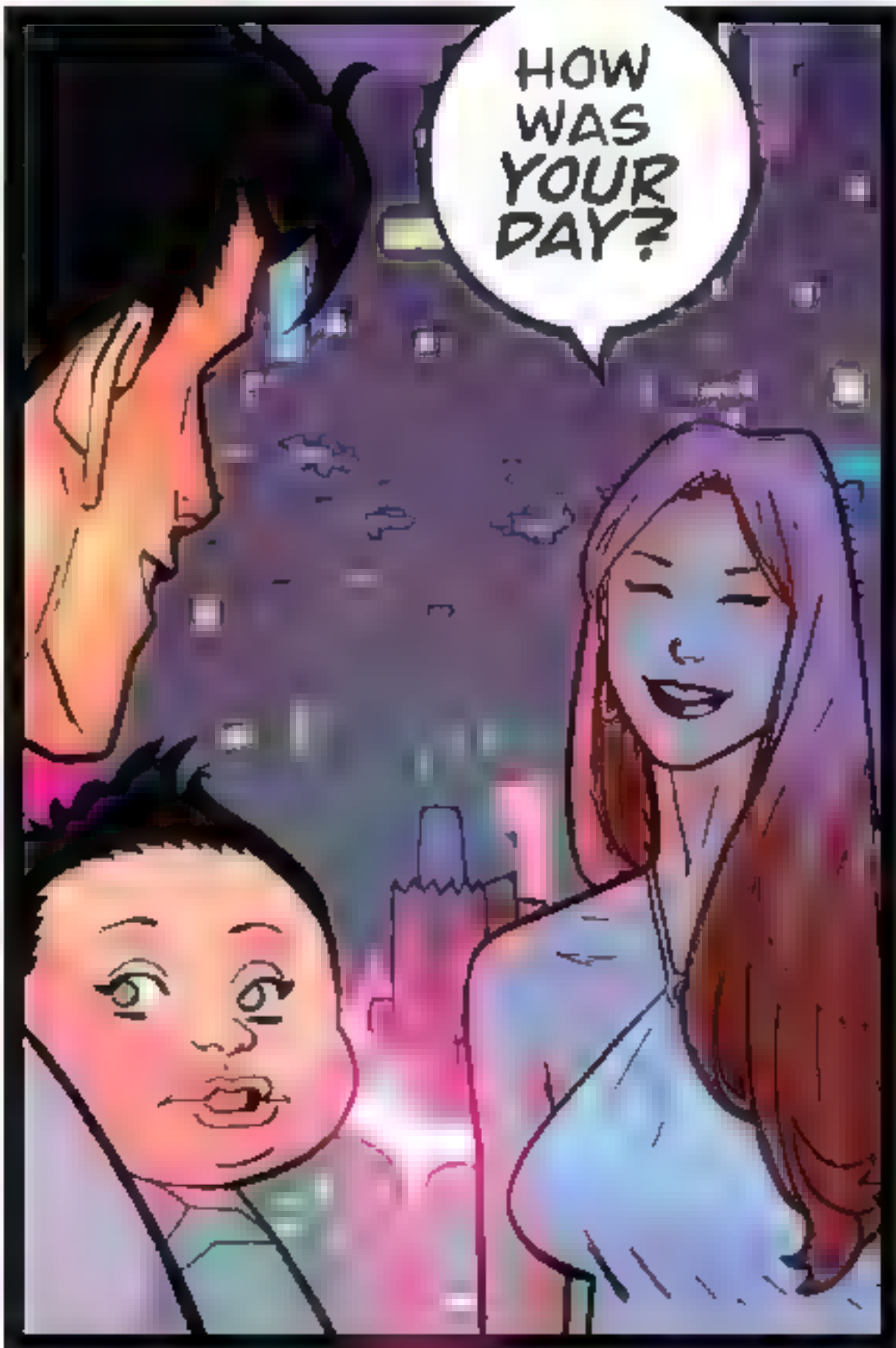
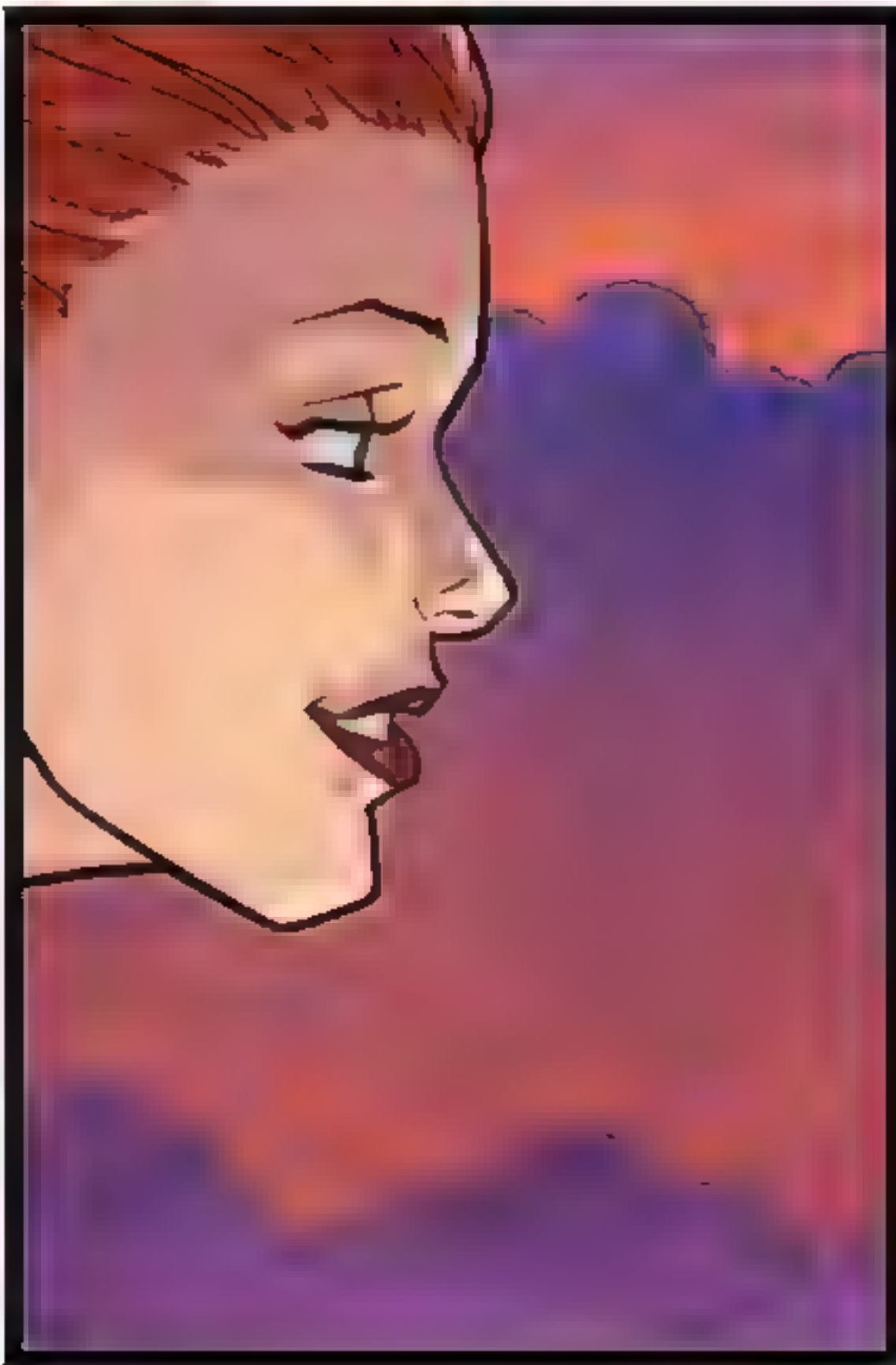
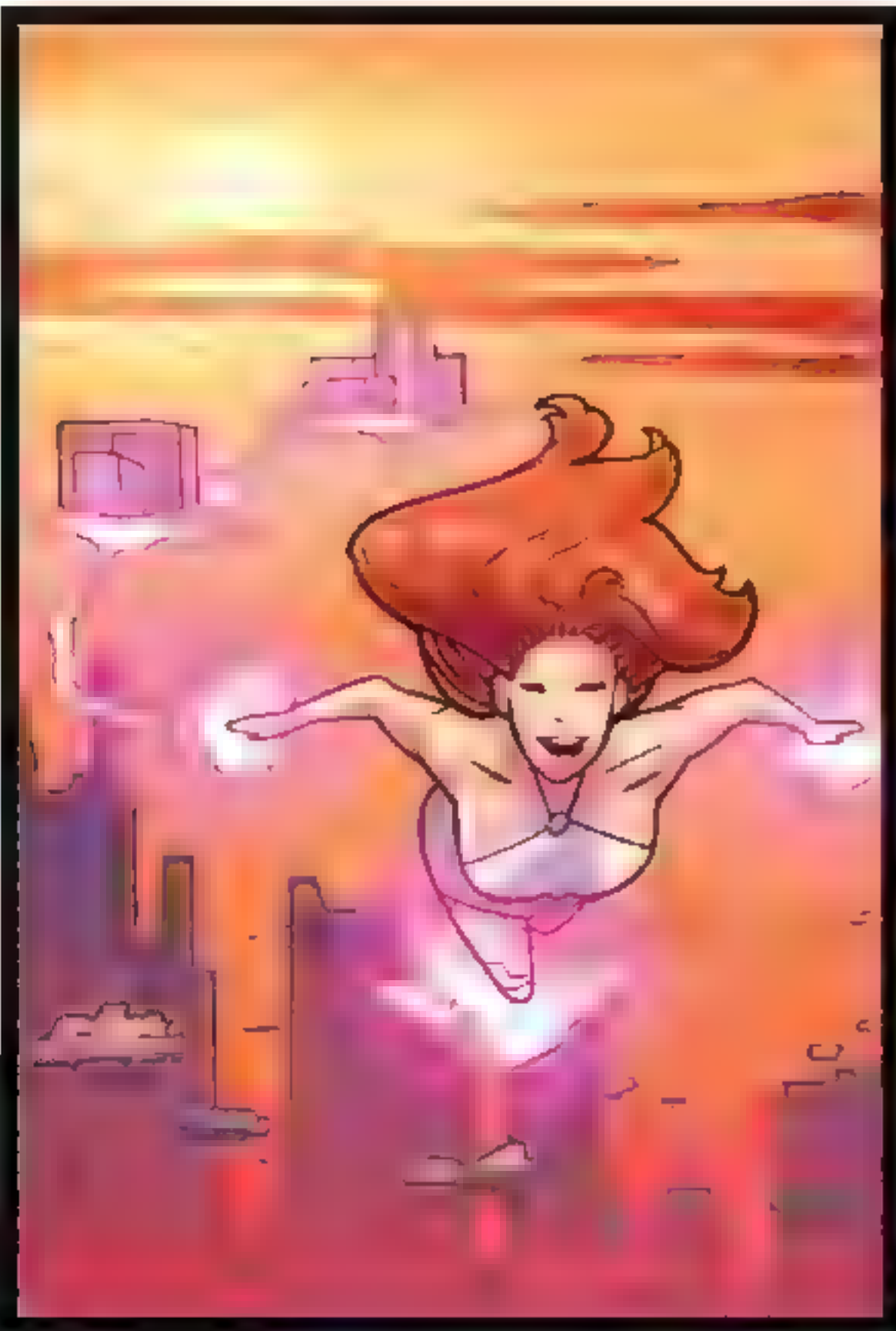
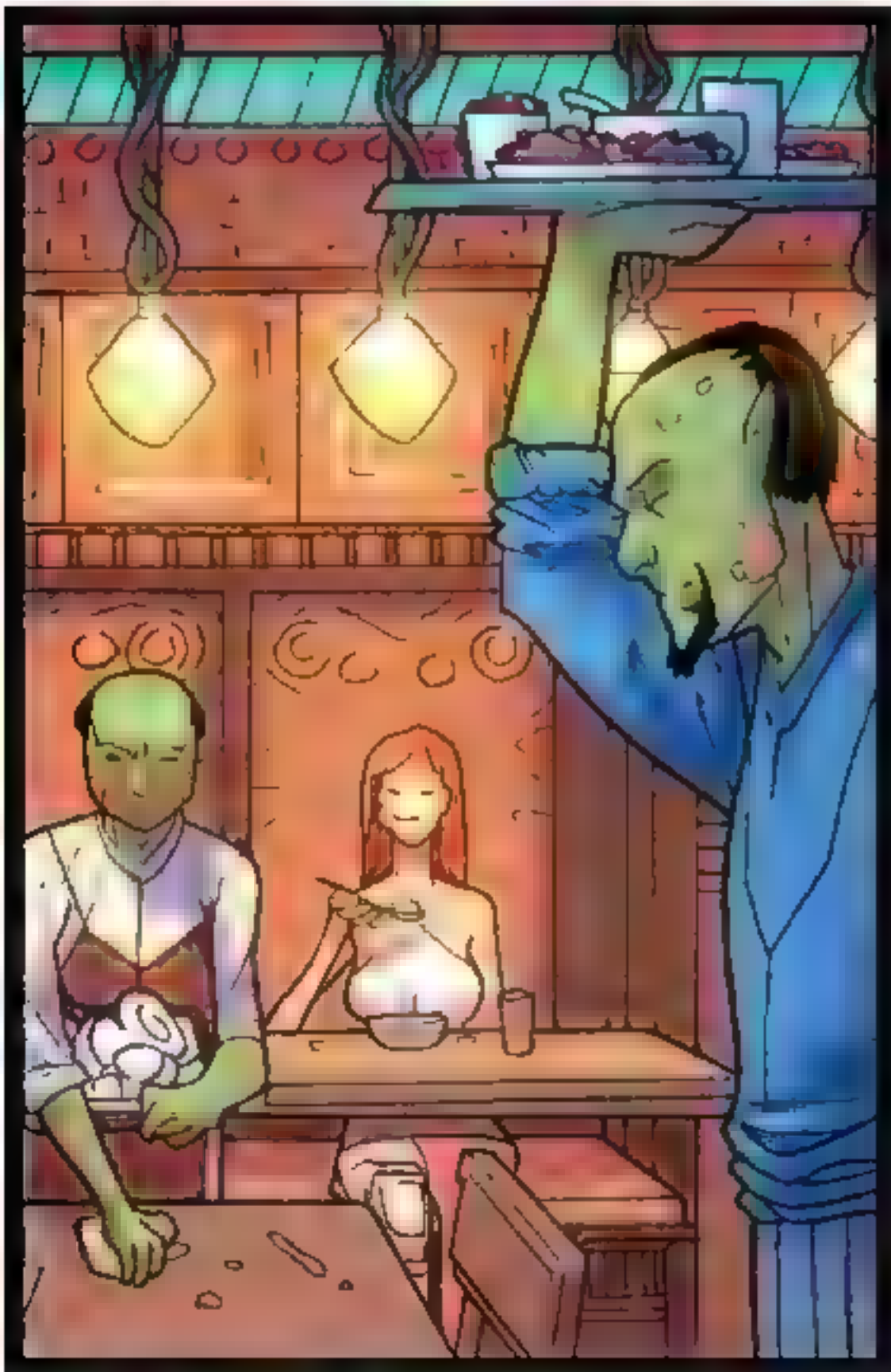
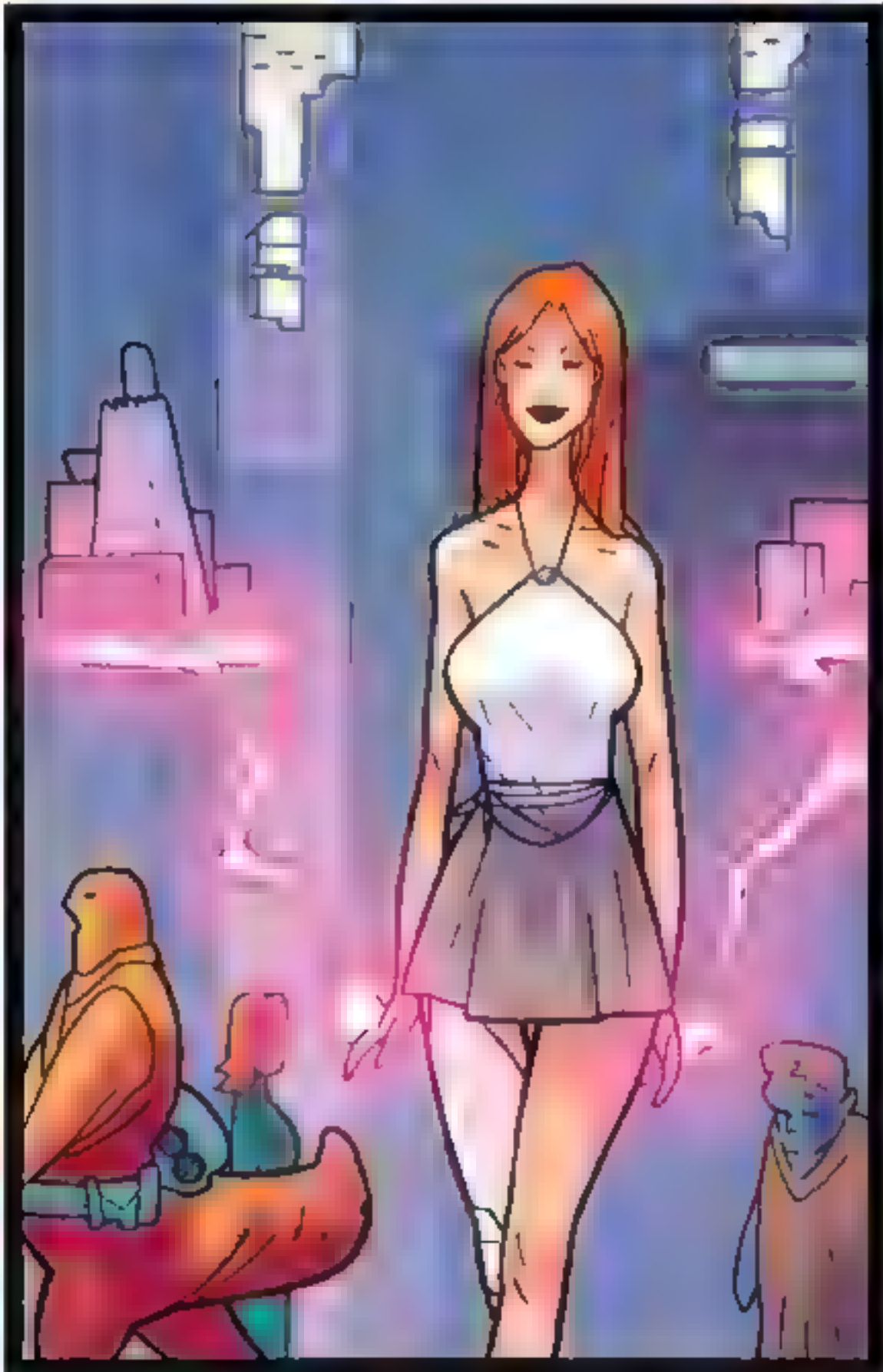
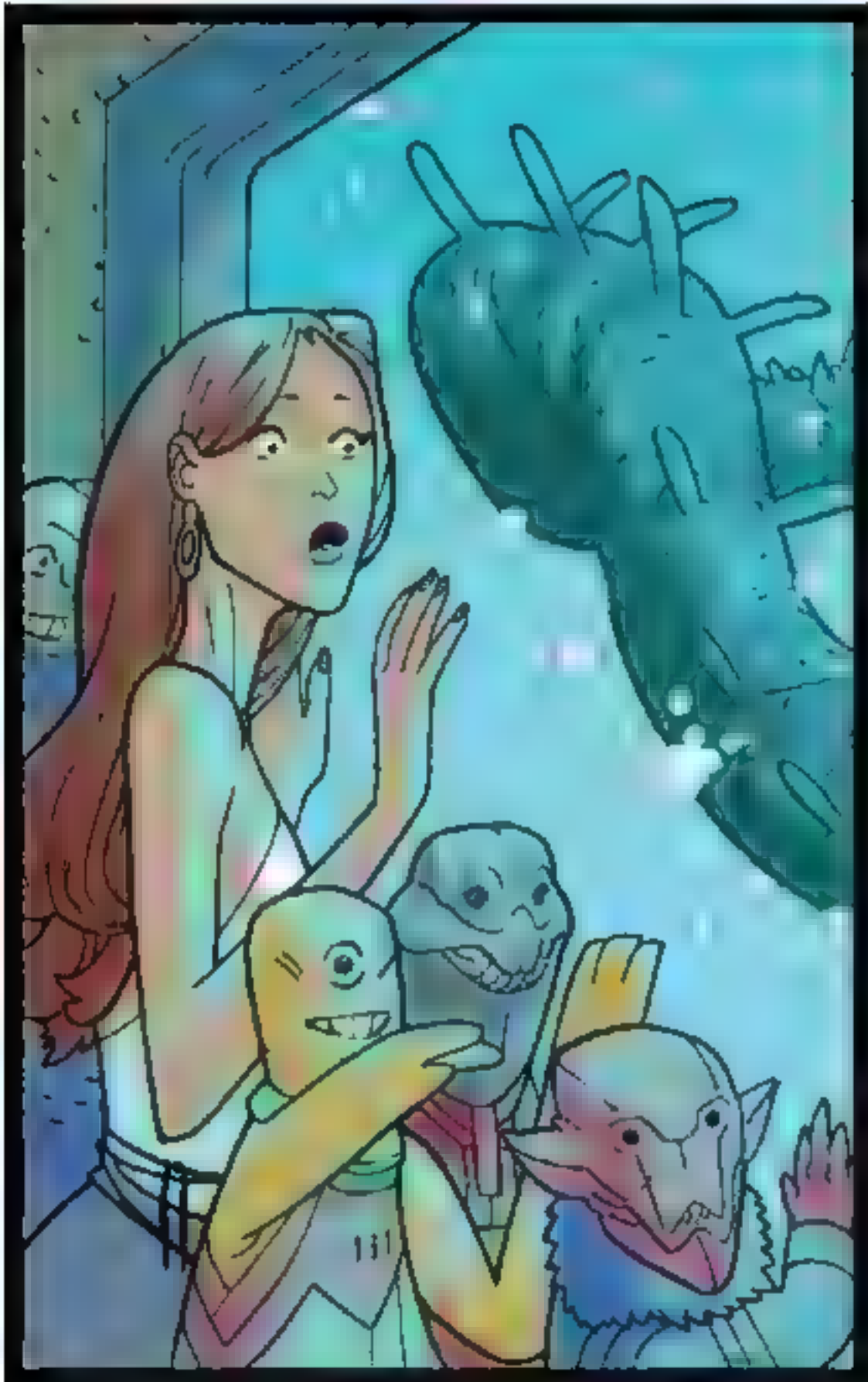
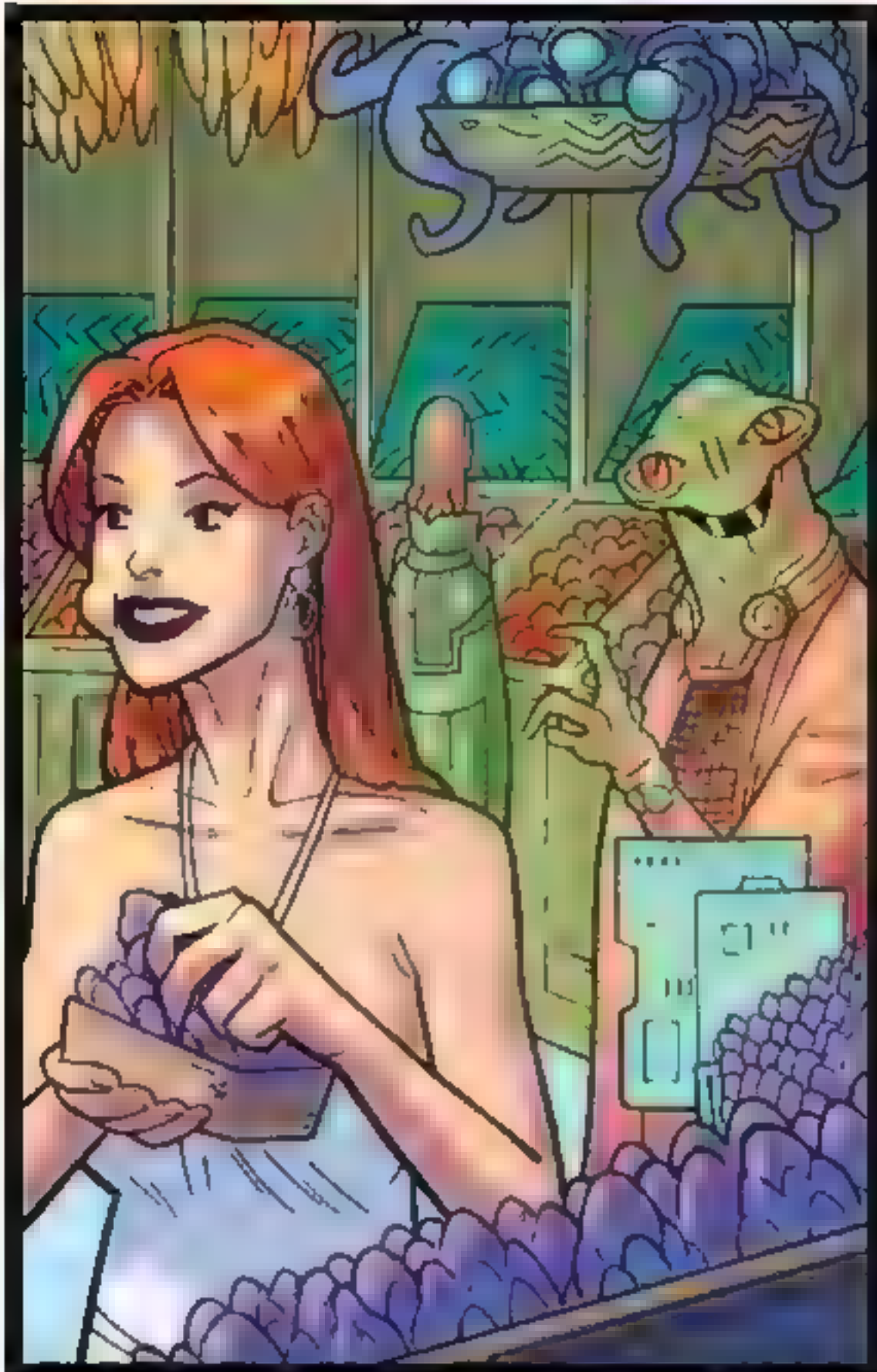
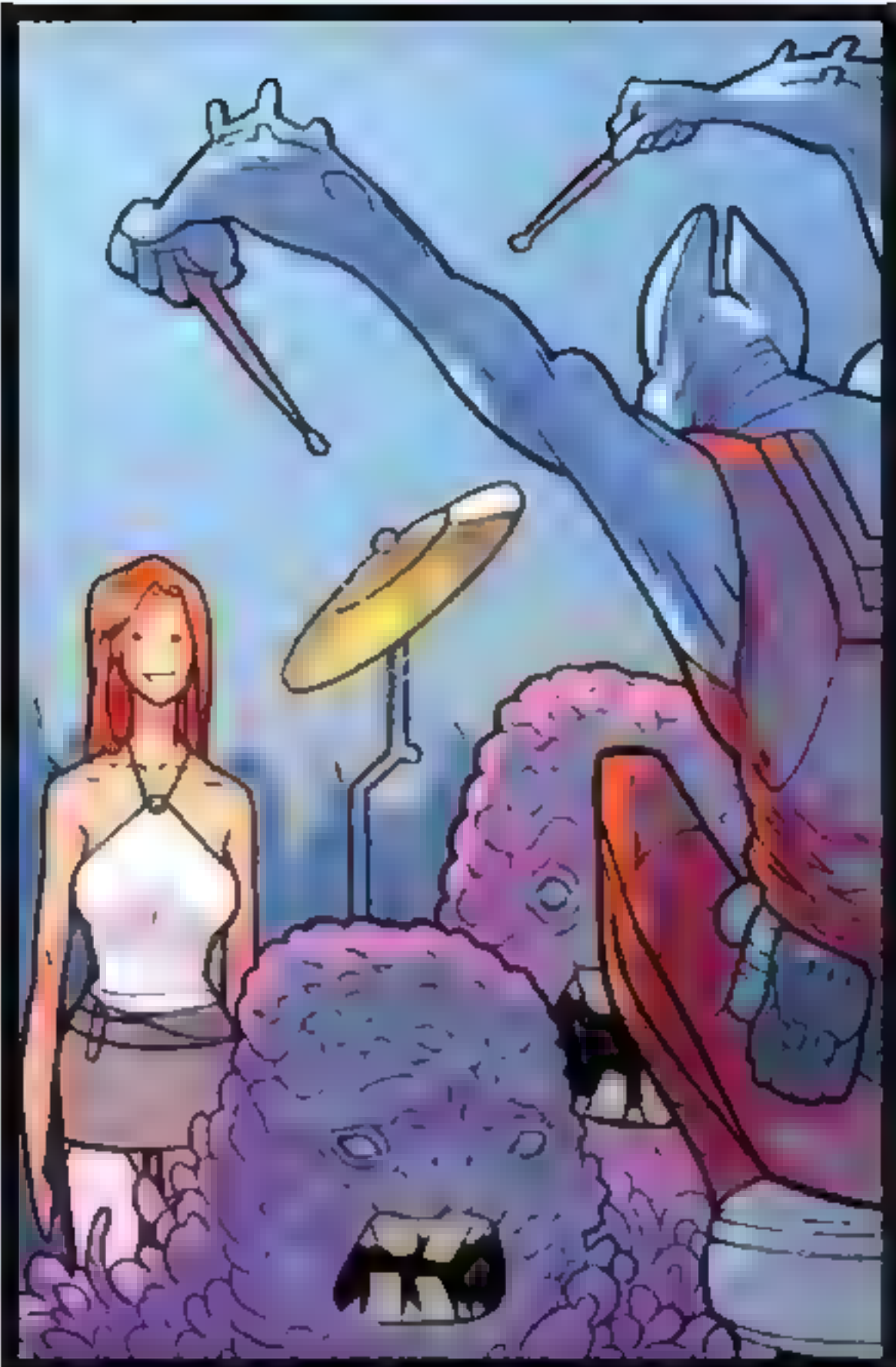
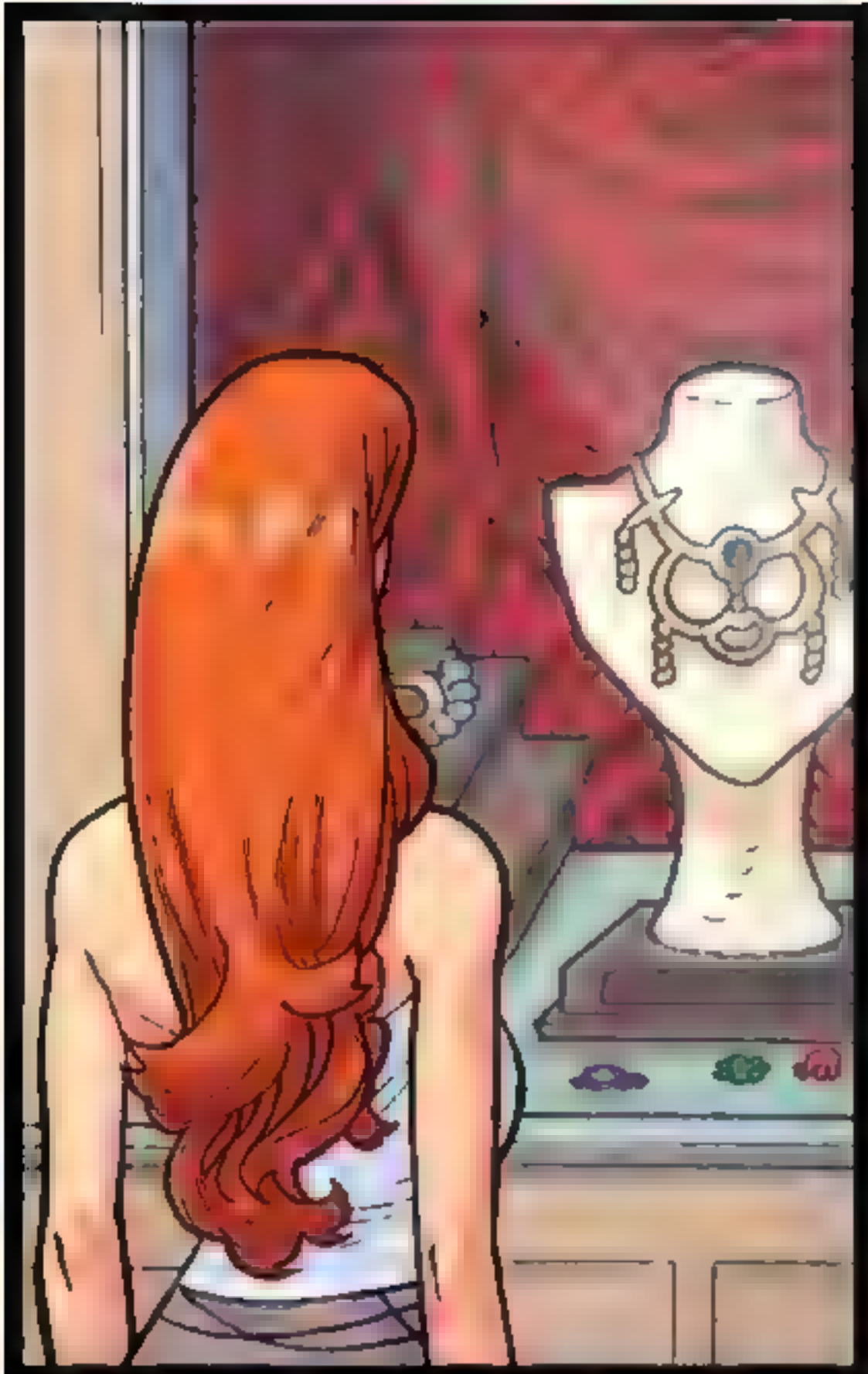
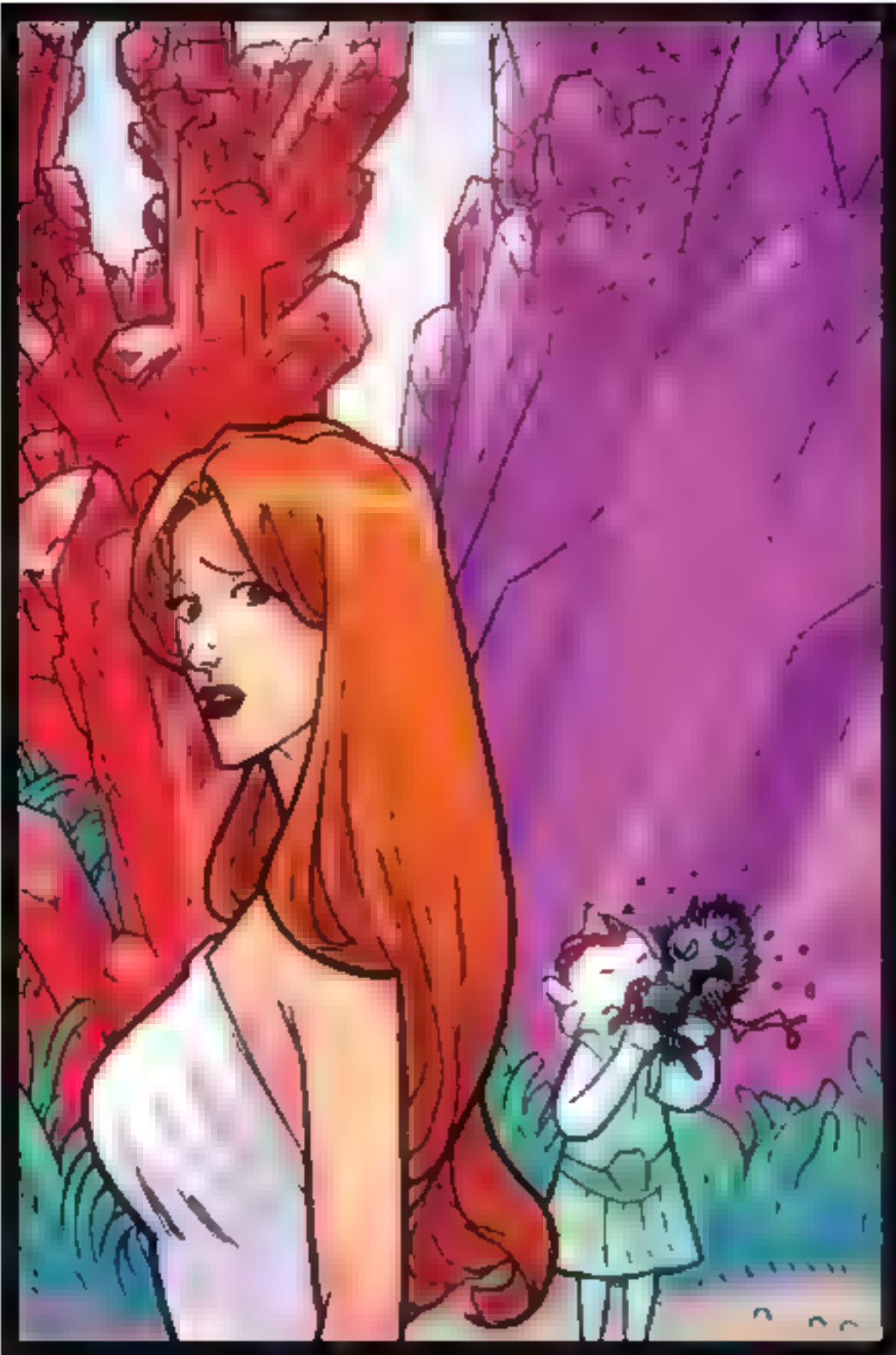
YOU HAVE TO GO FIGHT THRAGG.

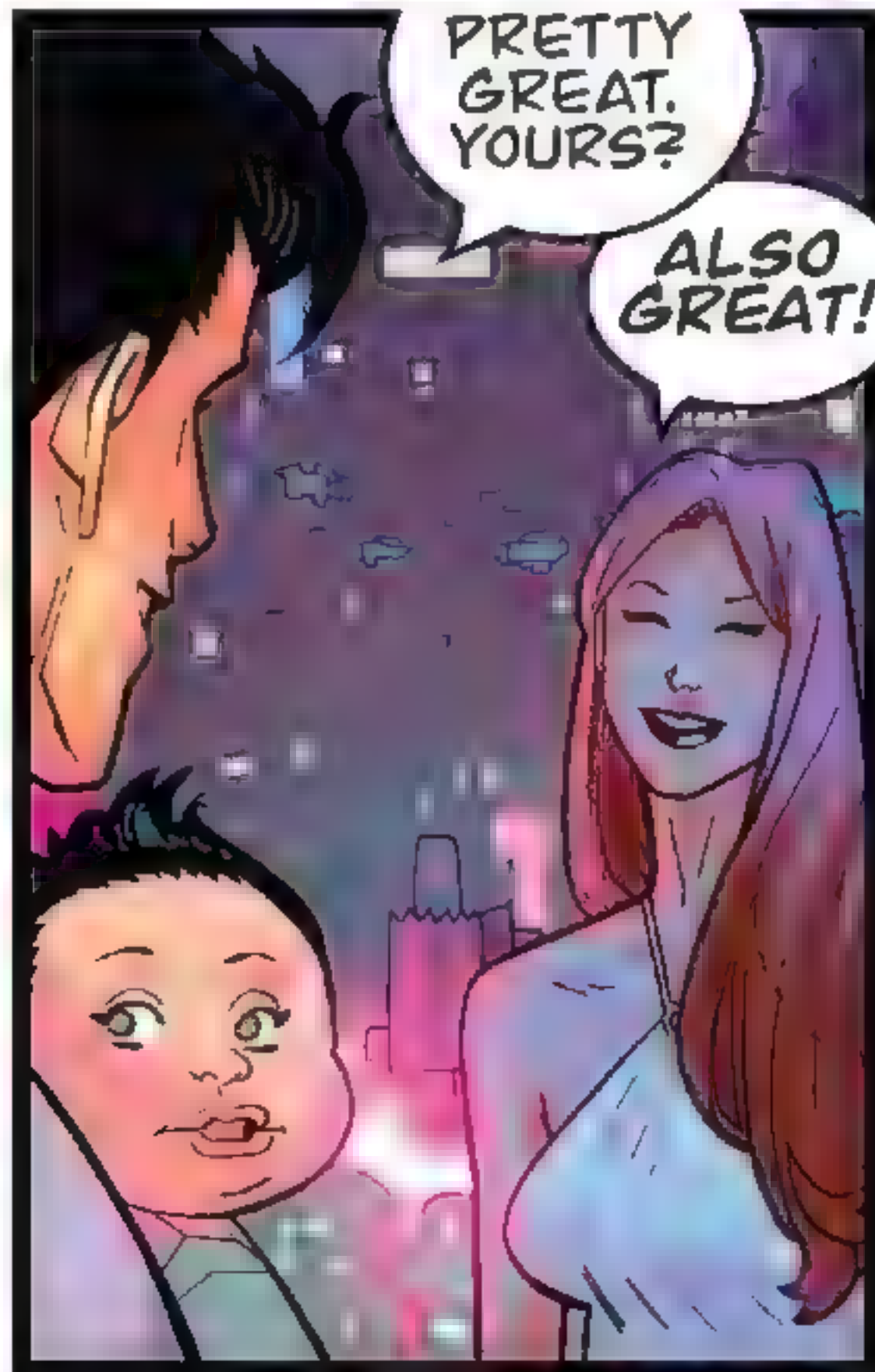
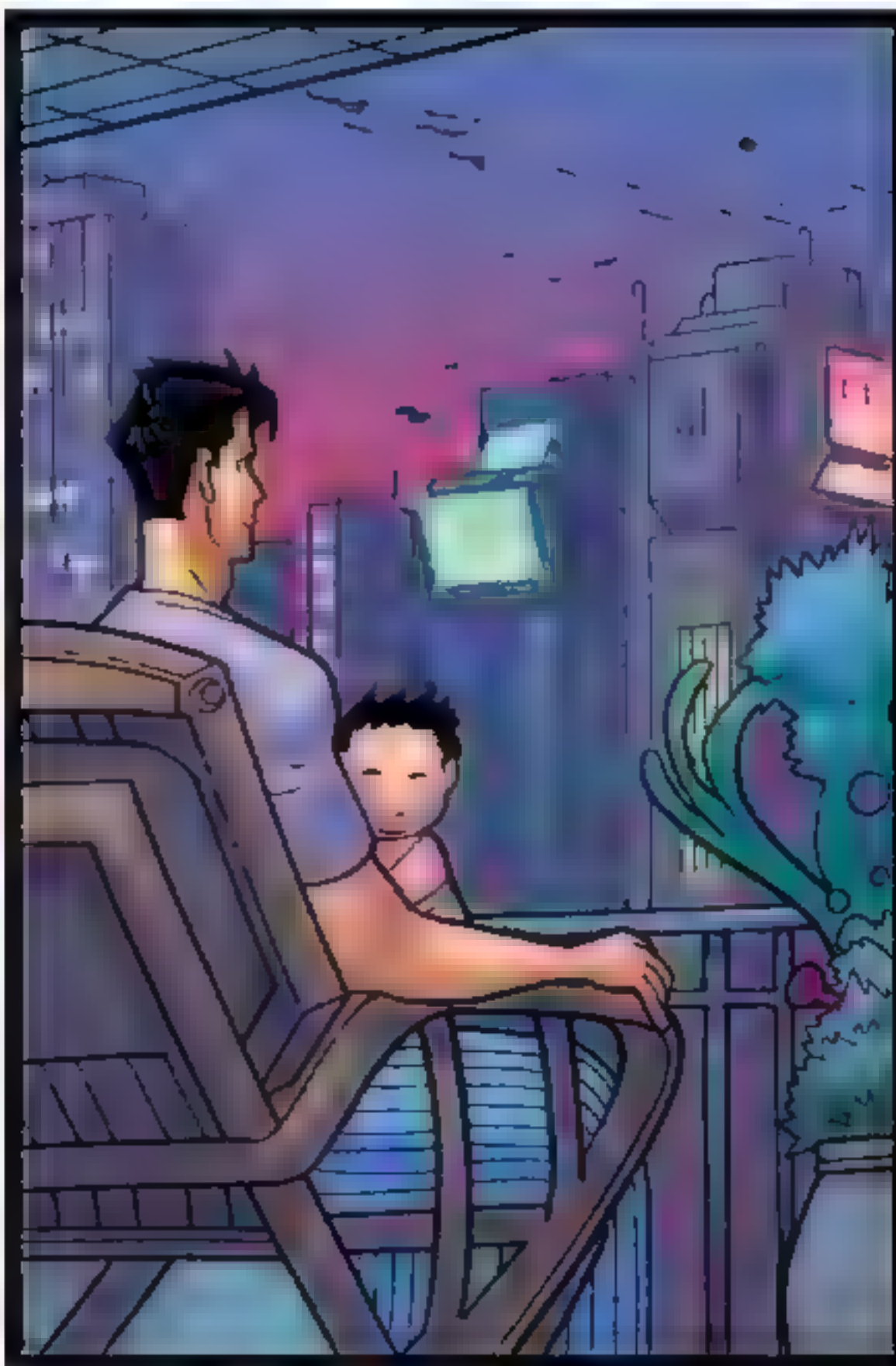
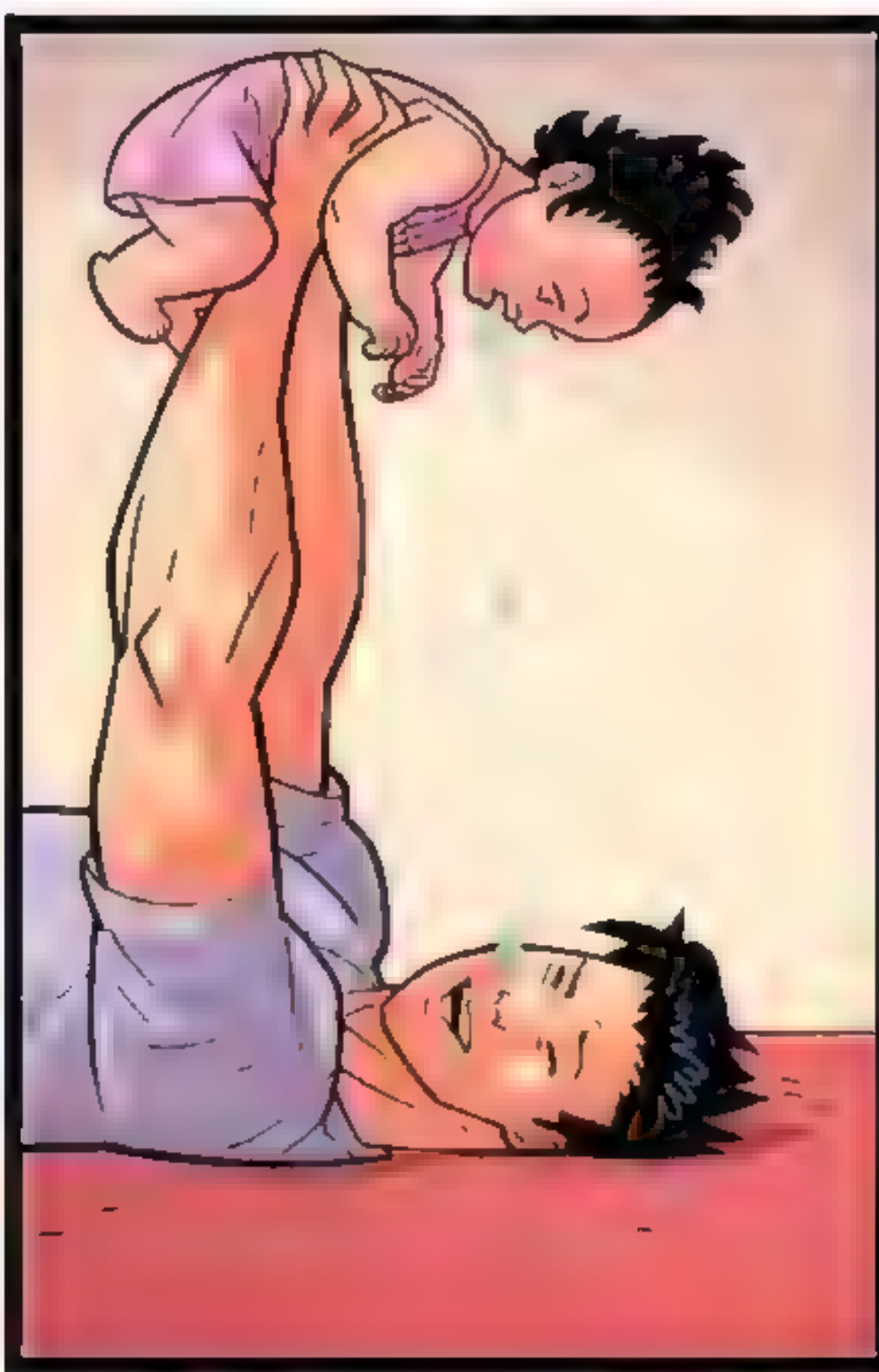
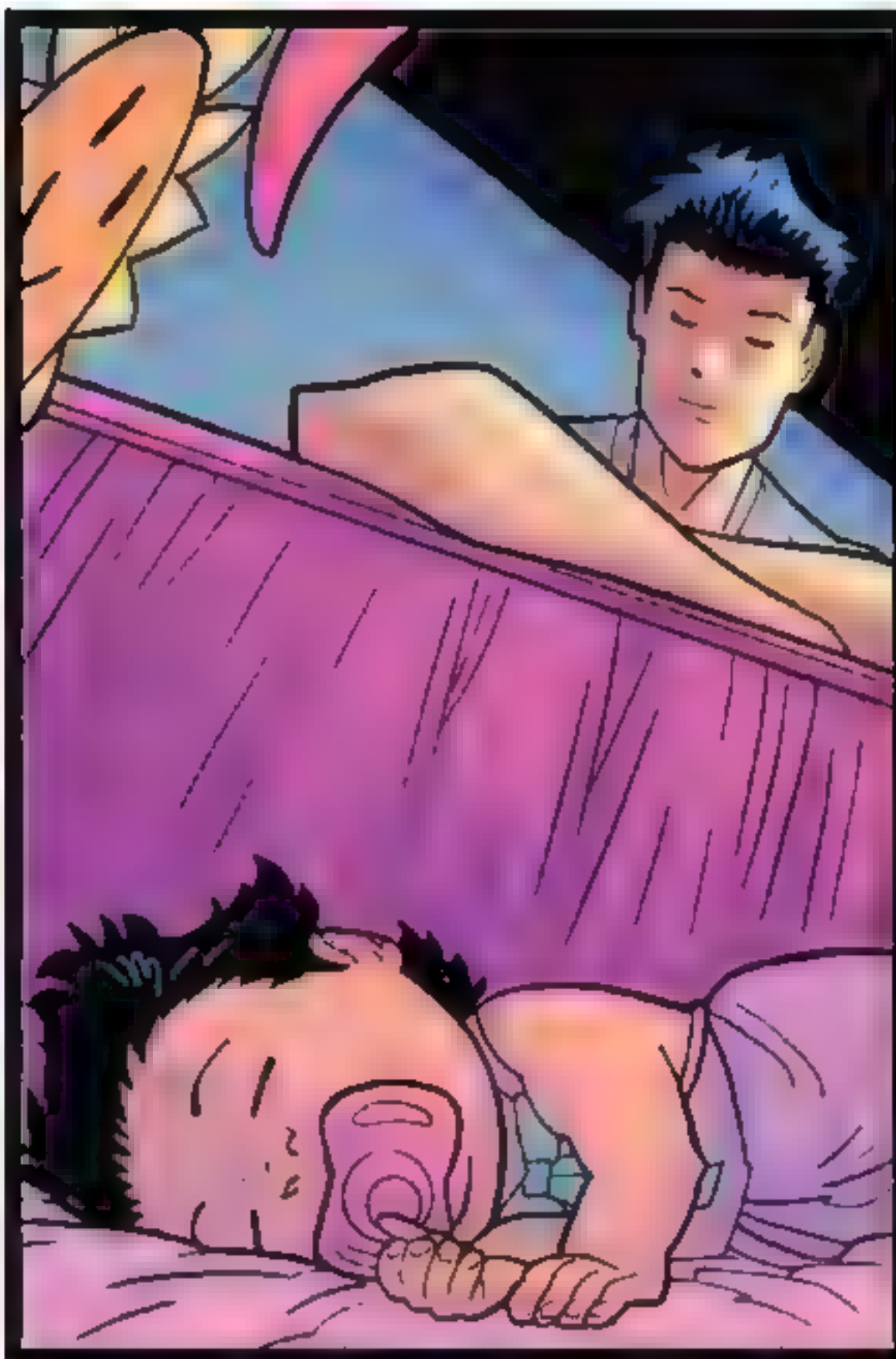
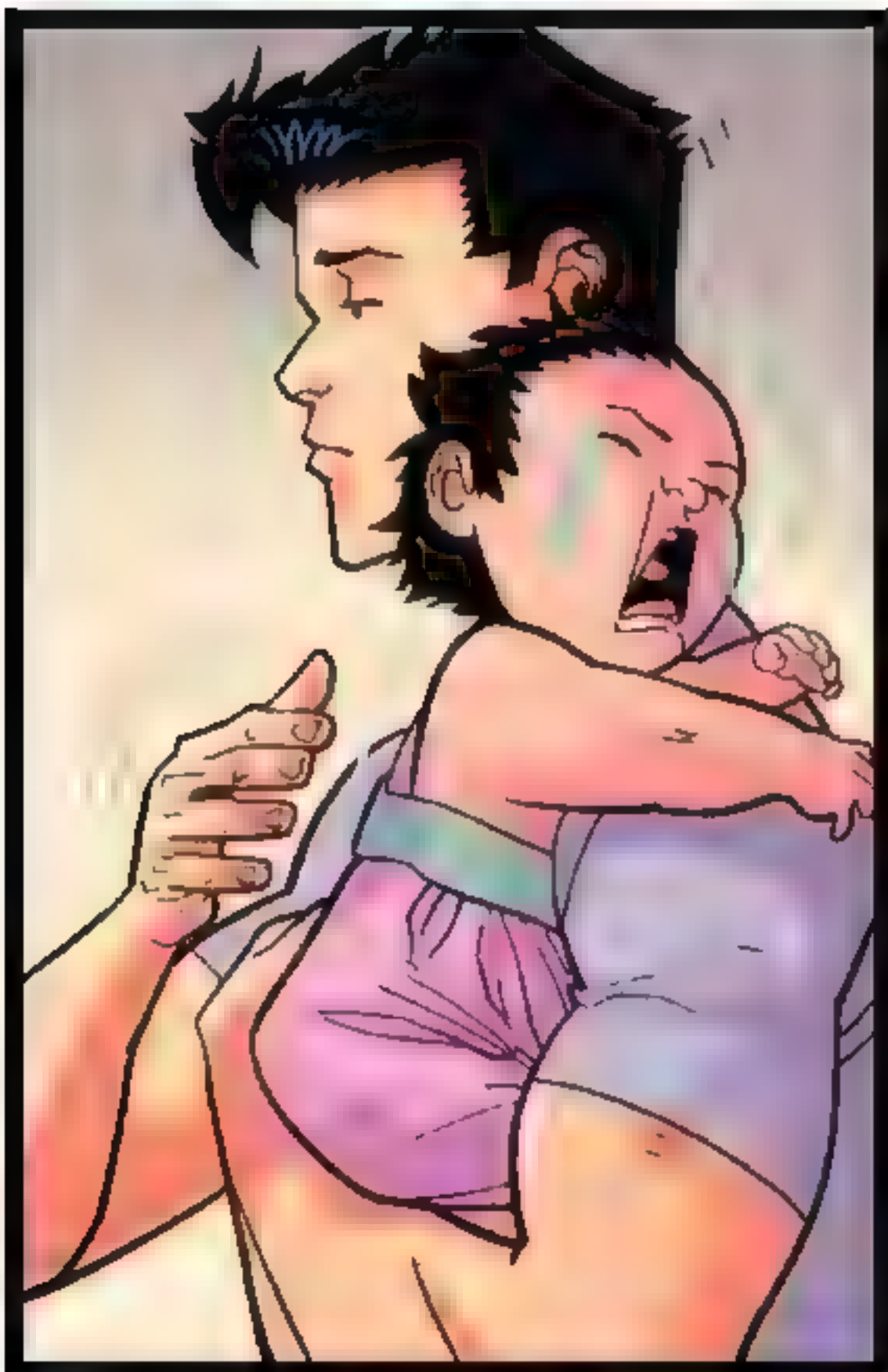
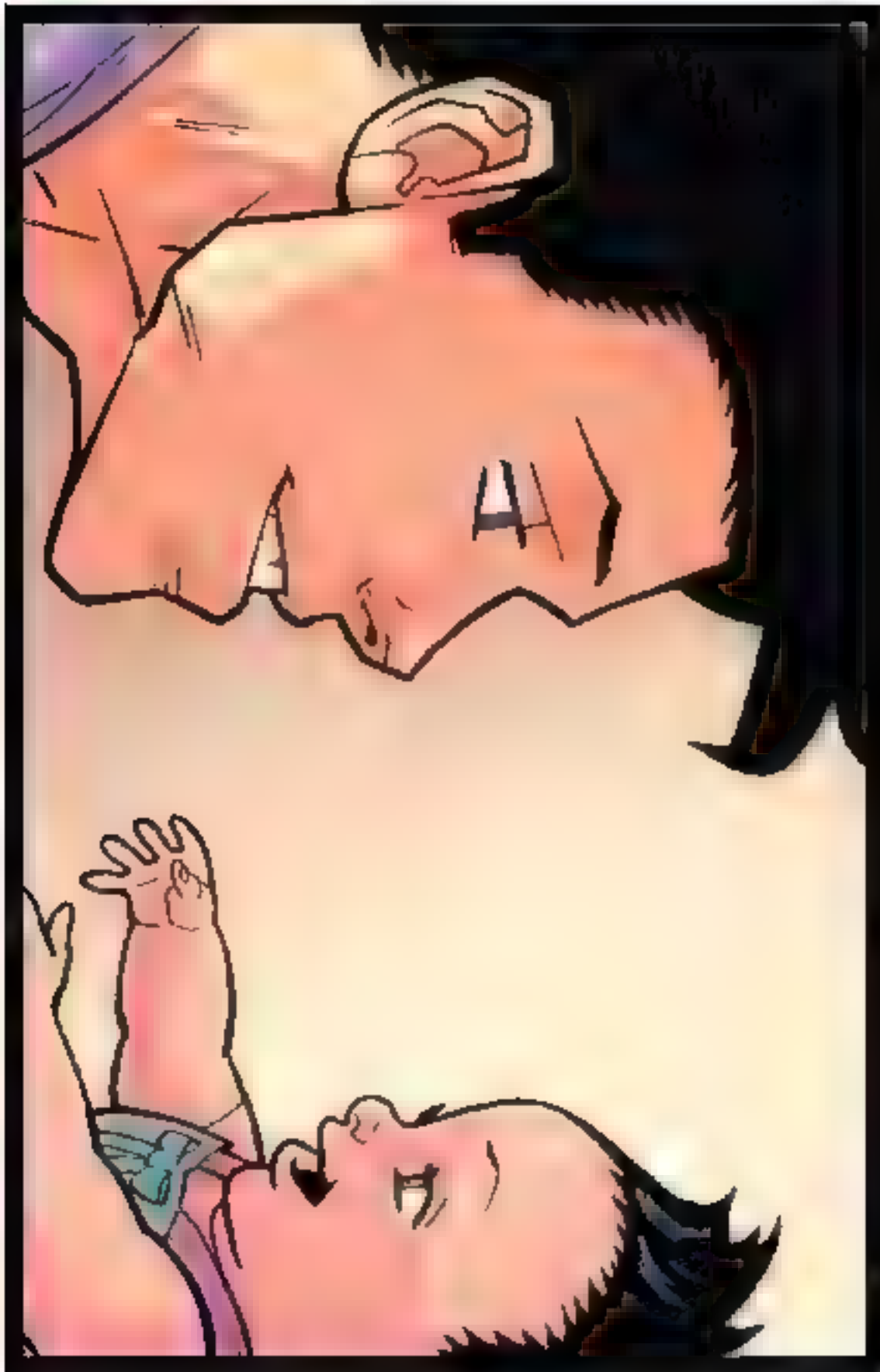


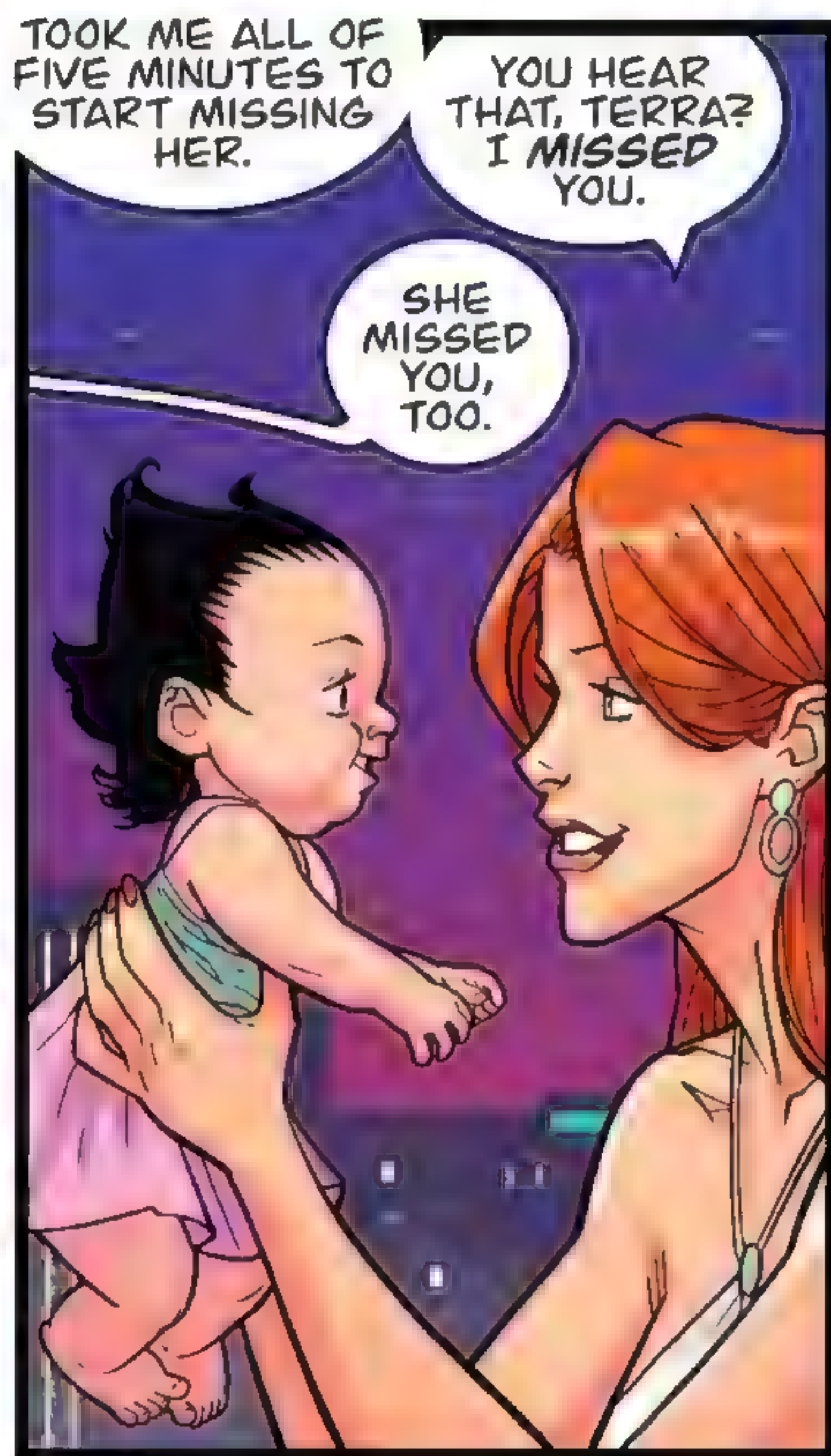
THEY'RE DOING MISSION PREP TODAY. SPACE RACER IS WATCHING HIM, LYING LOW. WE DON'T LEAVE UNTIL LATE TONIGHT.

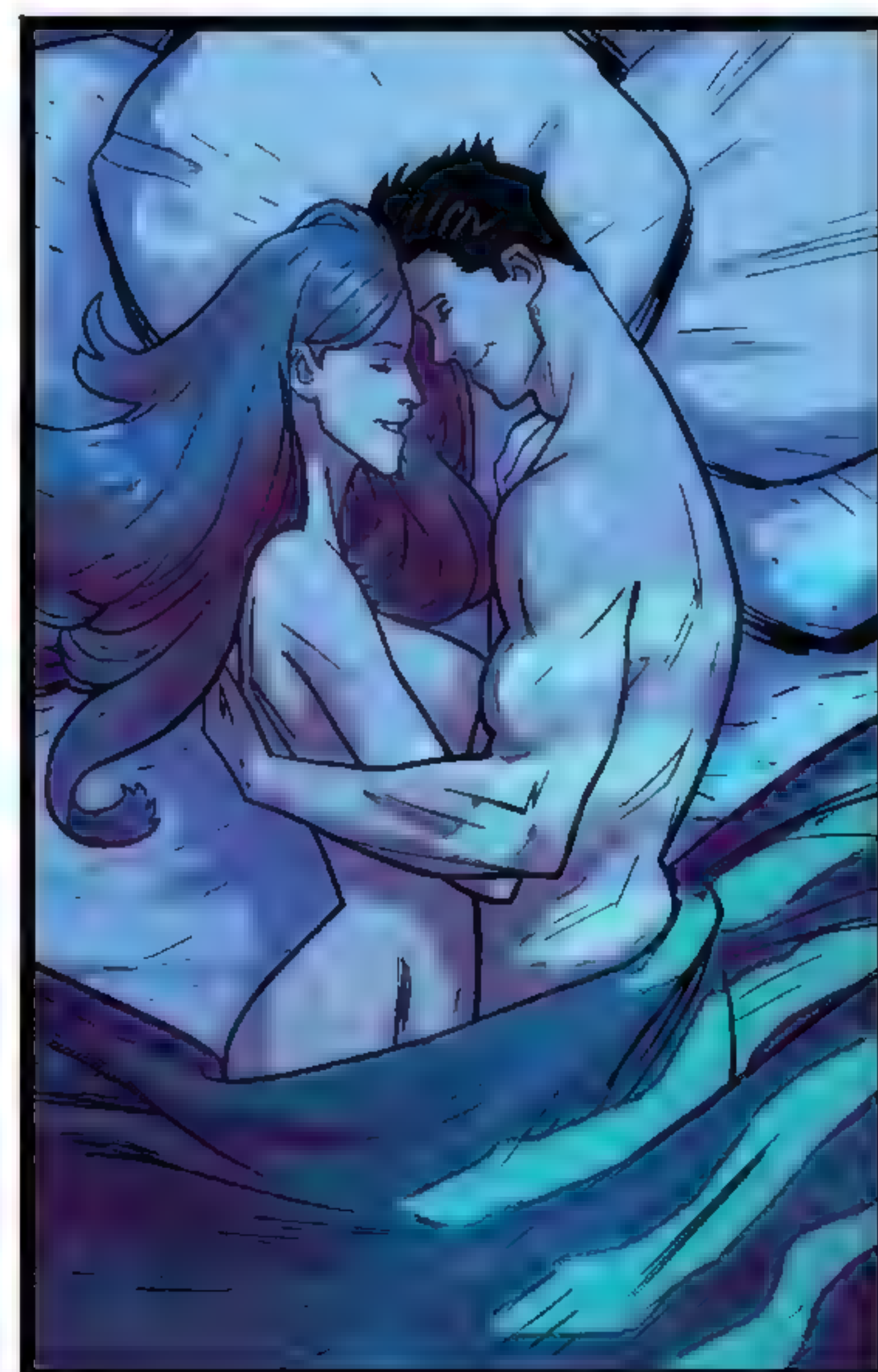
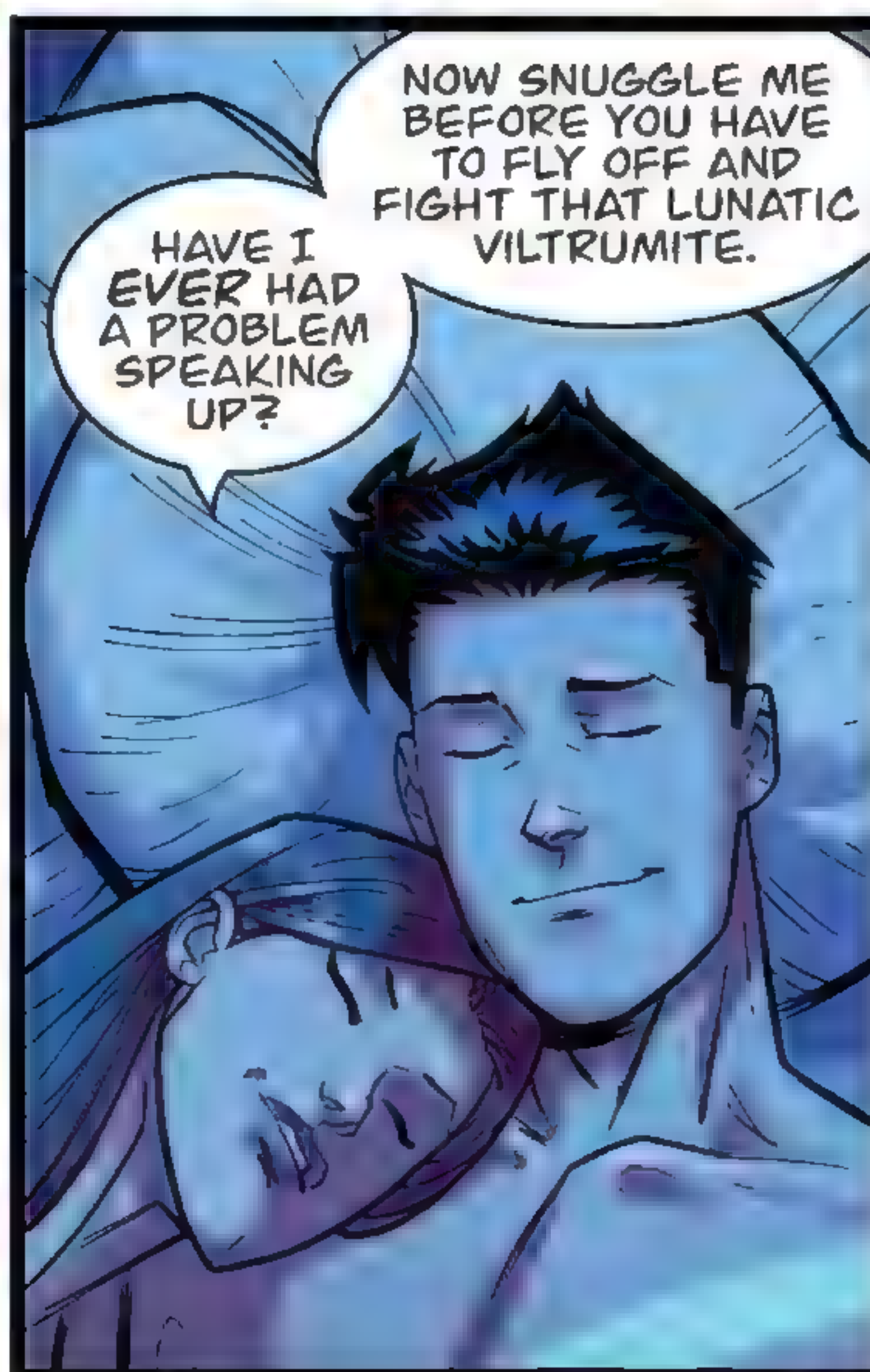
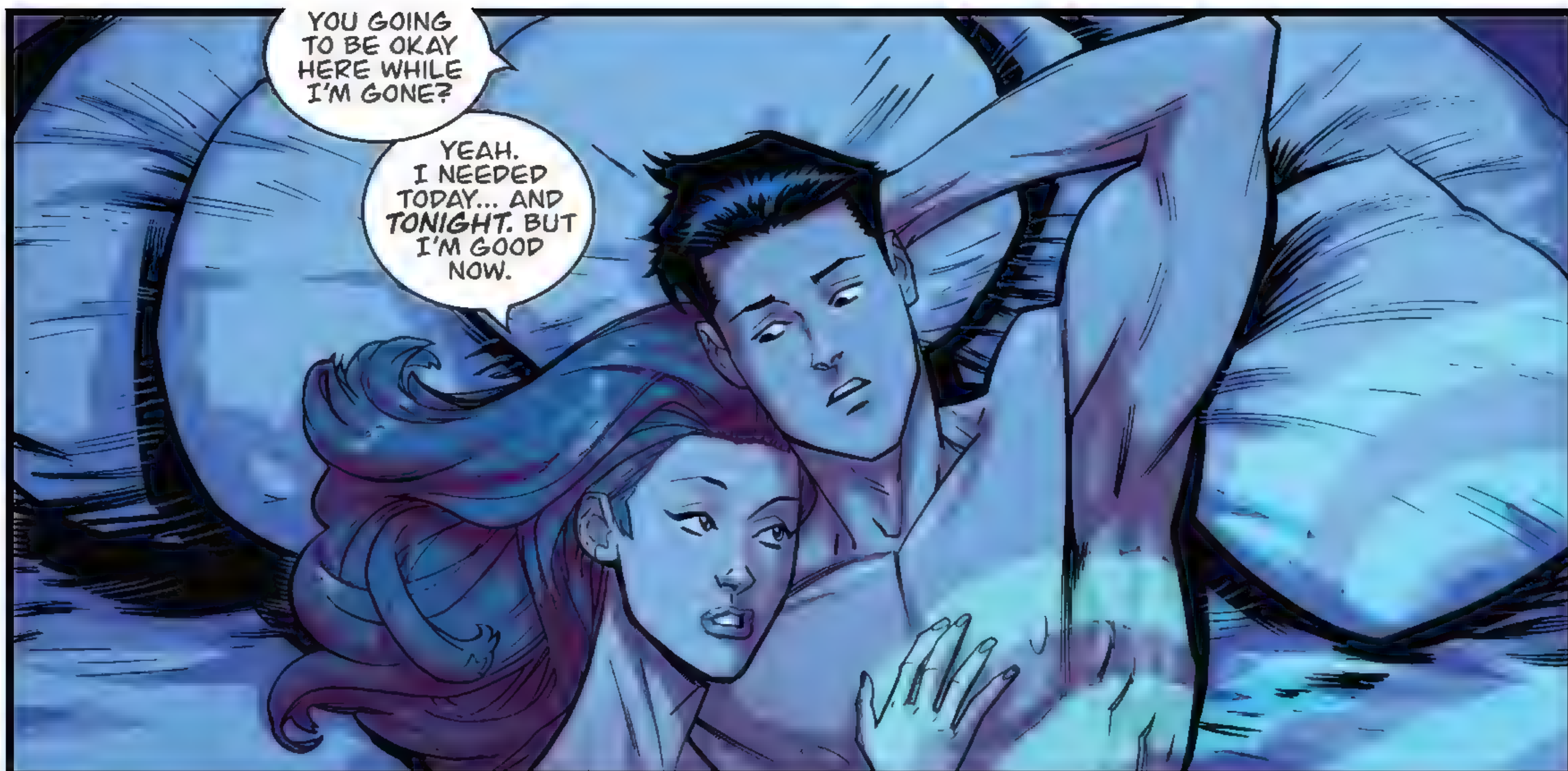
GO!

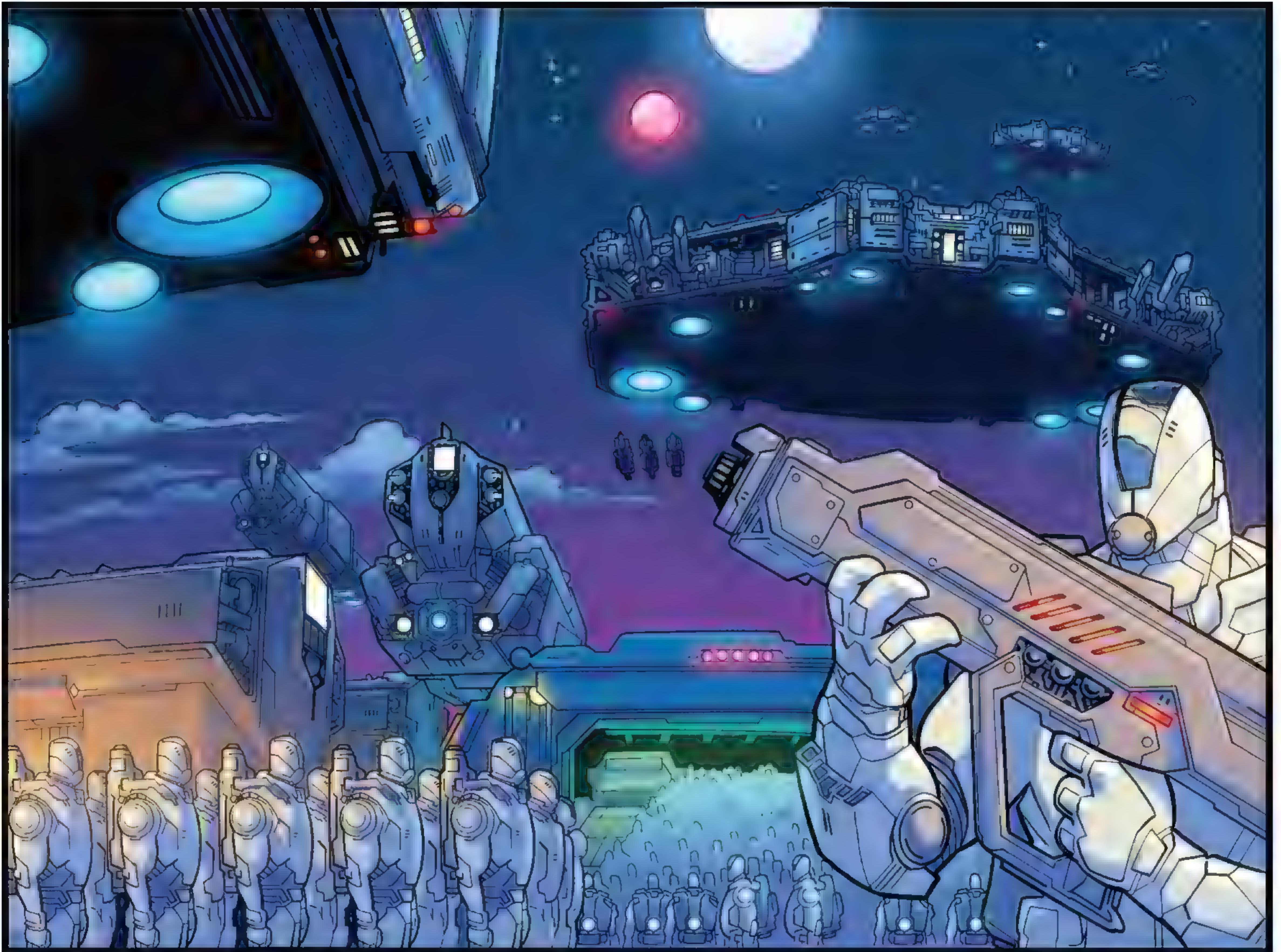












I CAN SEE WHY
THIS TOOK... A
WHOLE DAY
TO PUT
TOGETHER.



YEAH...
ALLEN ISN'T
TAKING ANY
CHANCES
HERE.

I SHOULD...
I GUESS
I SHOULD
LOAD UP.

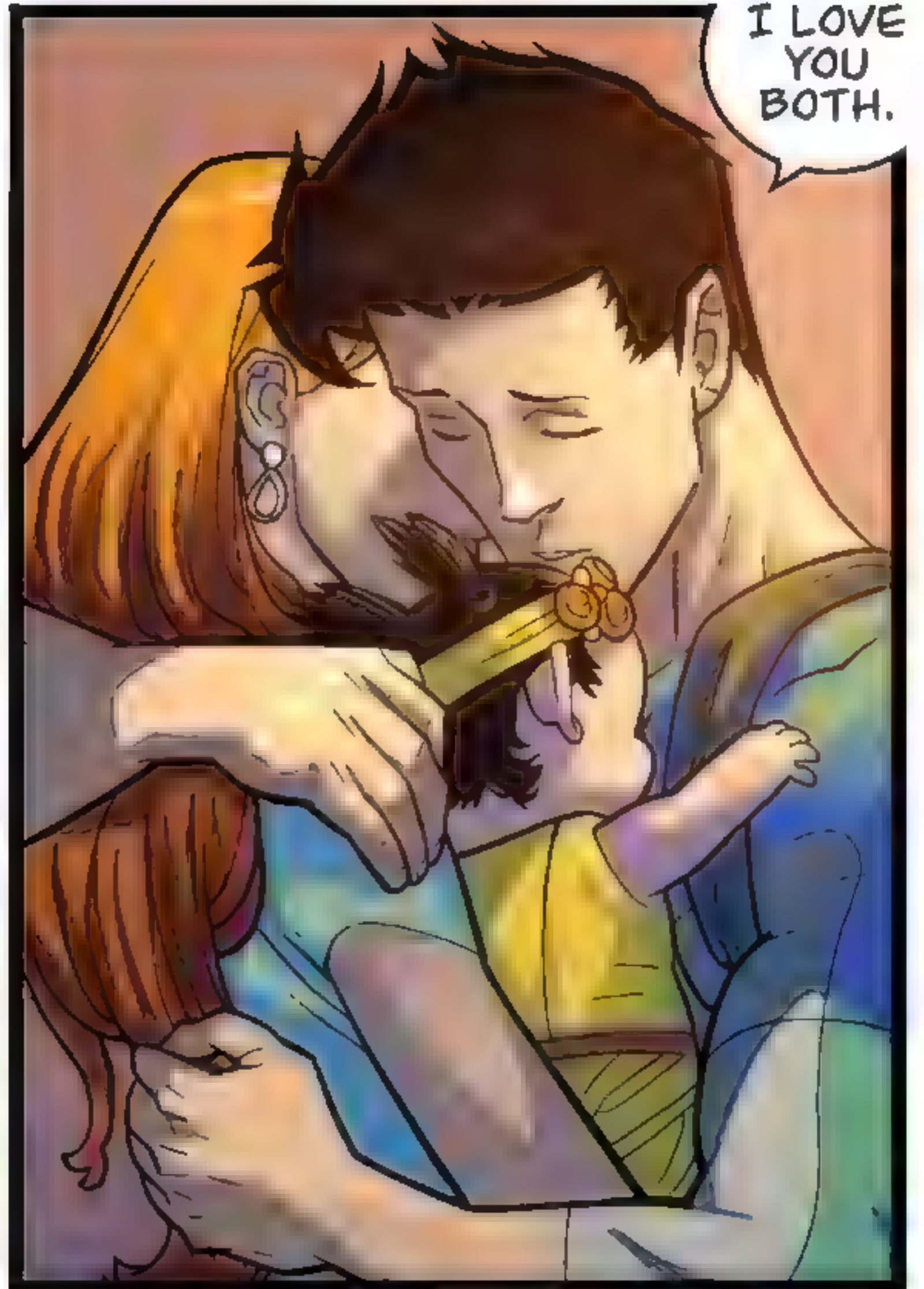


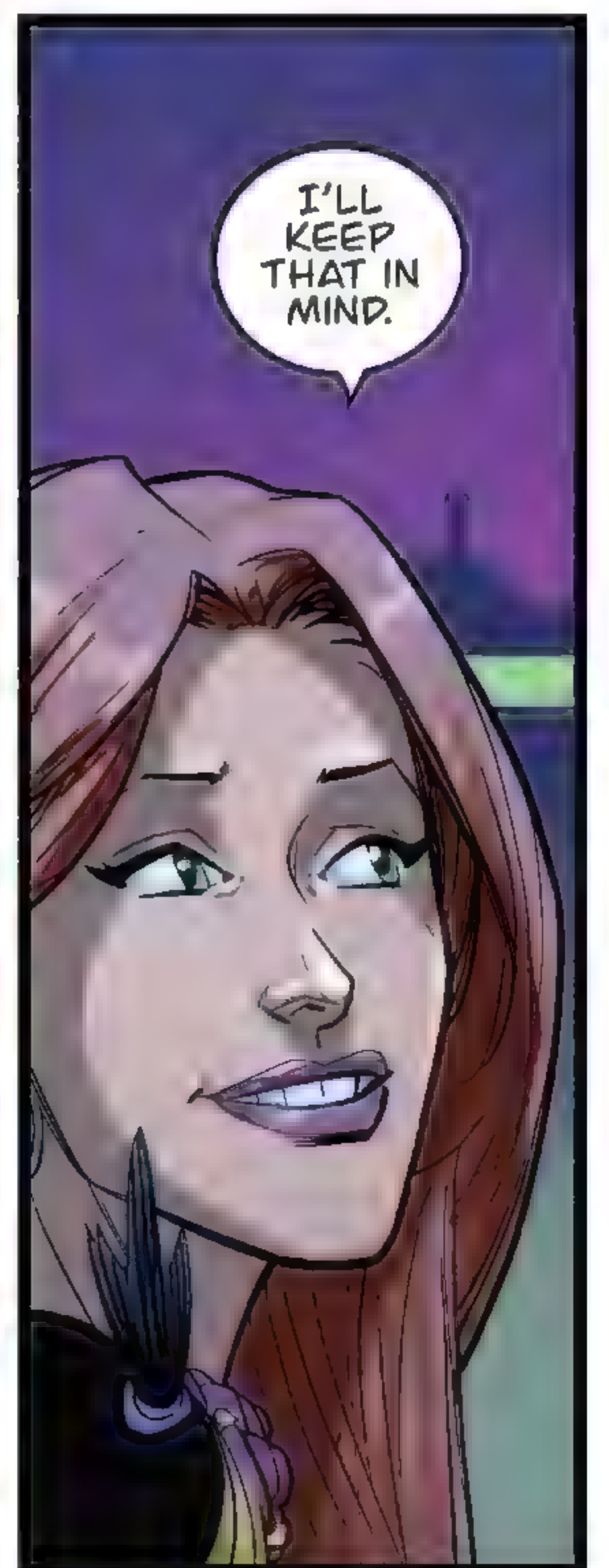
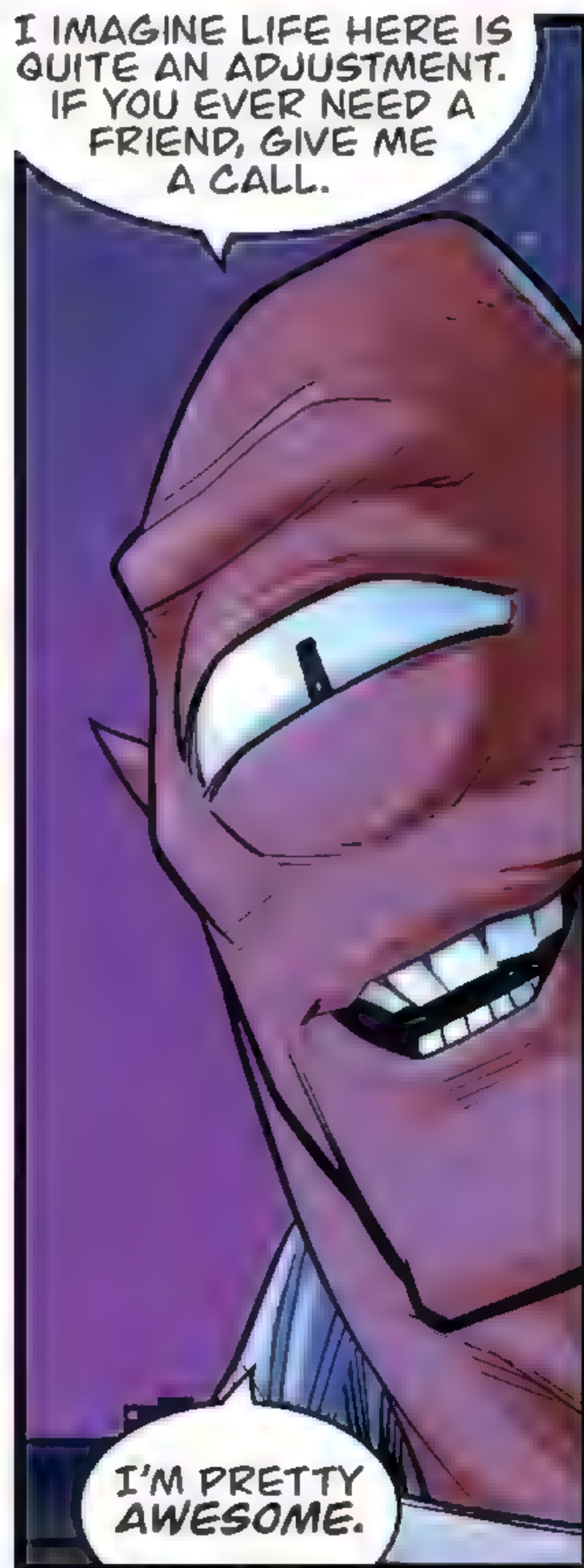
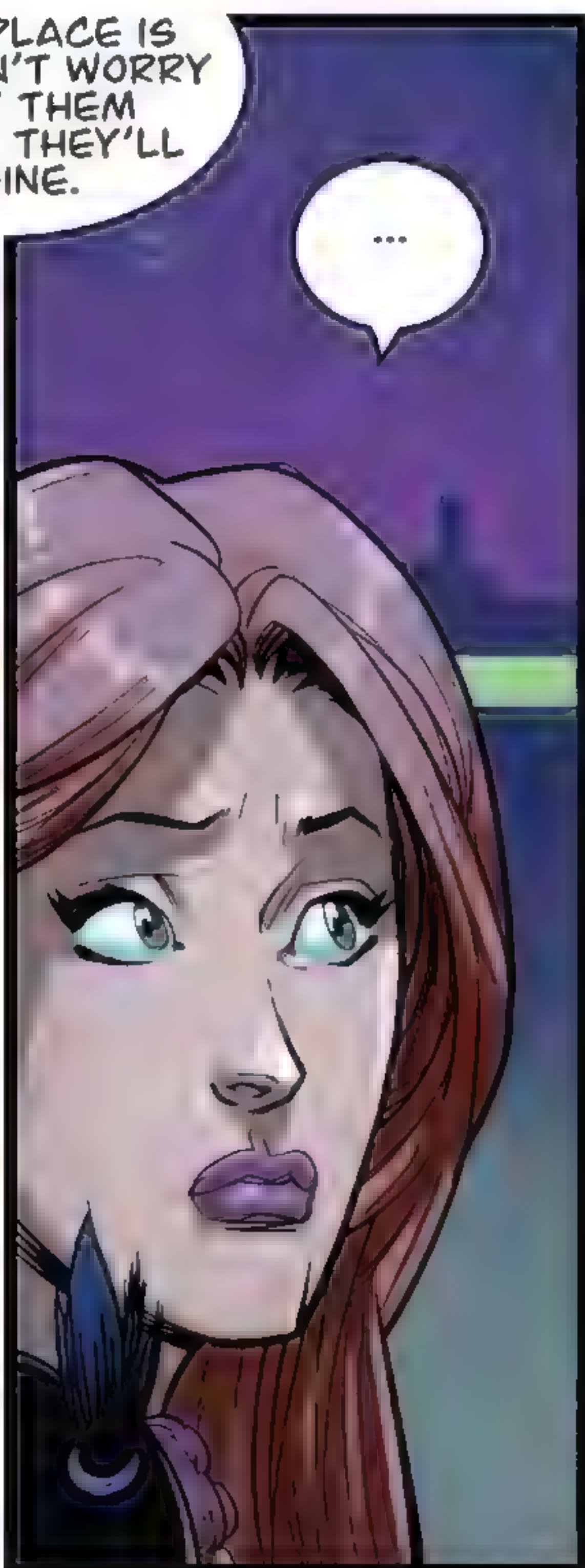
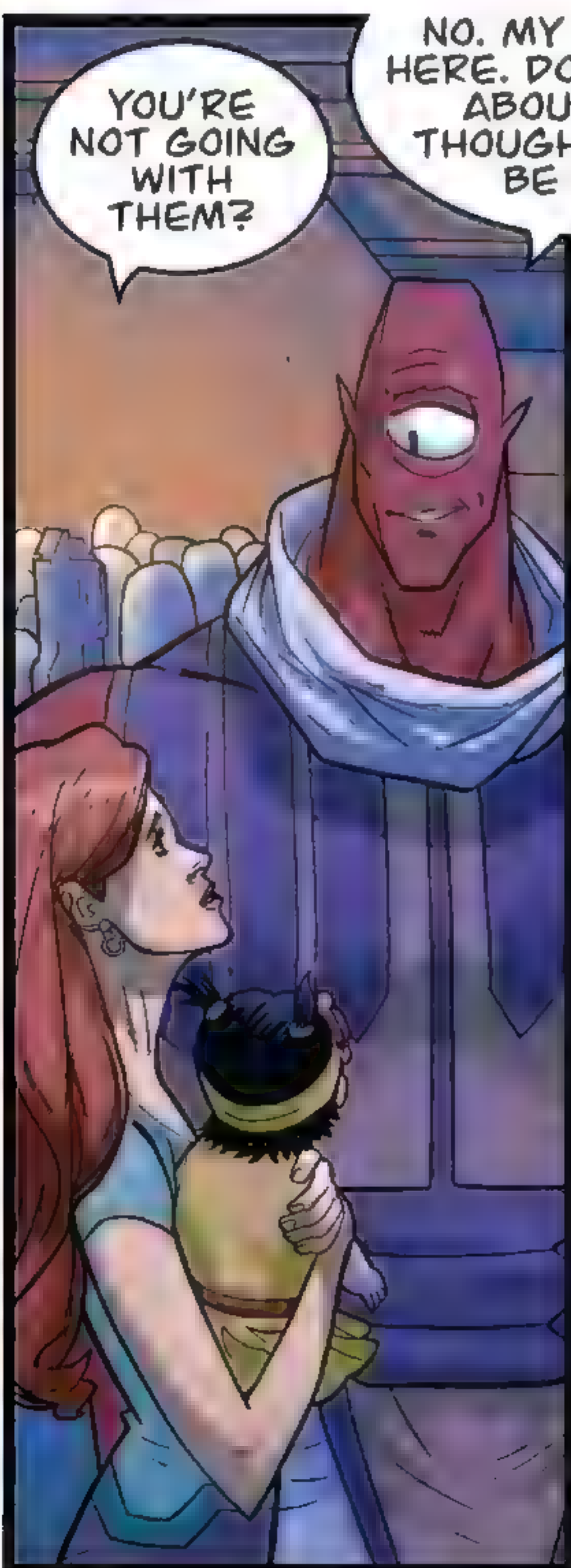
YEAH.
OKAY.

GOOD-
BYE,
TERRA.
I LOVE
YOU.

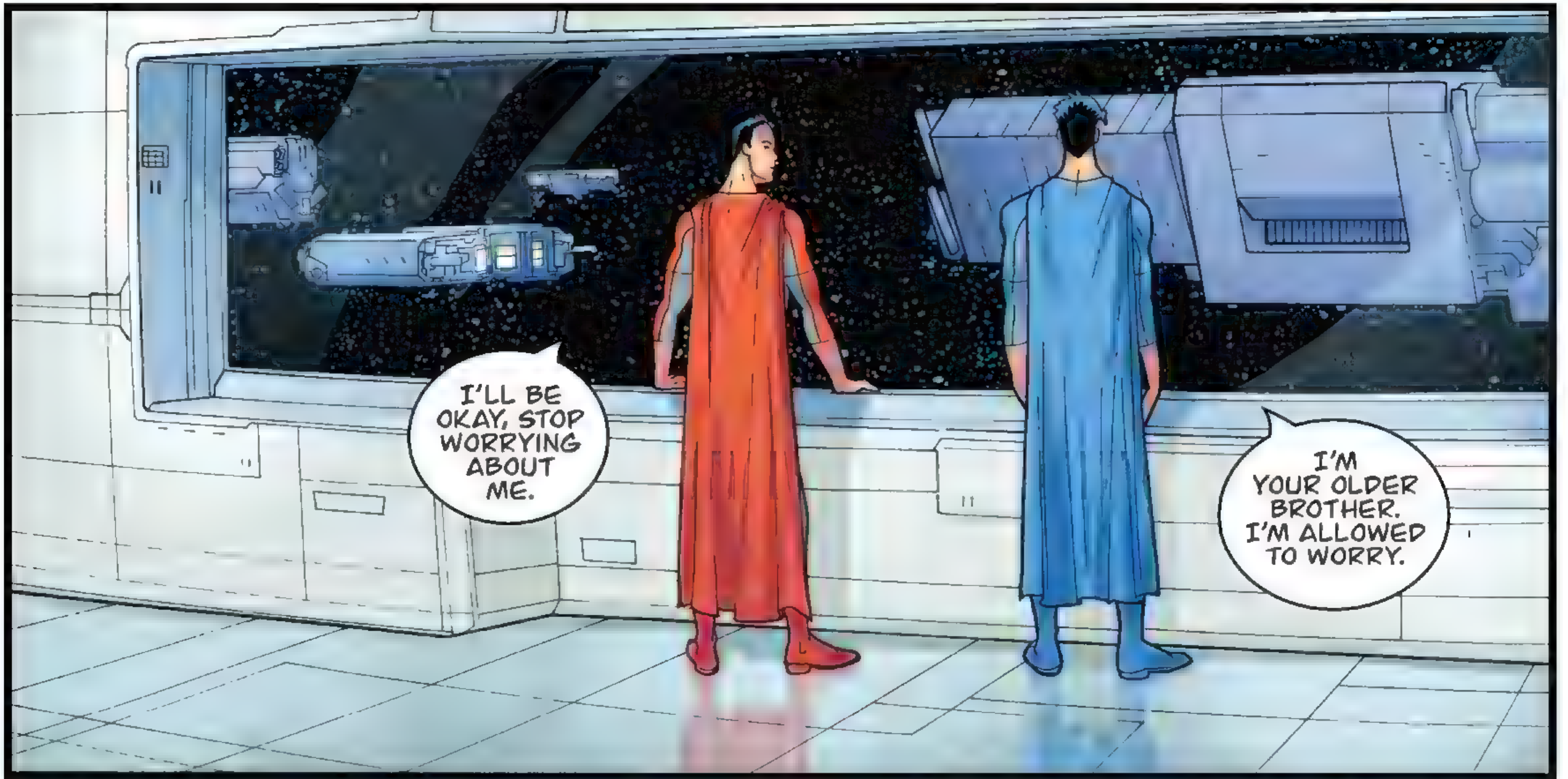


I LOVE
YOU
BOTH.









I'LL BE
OKAY, STOP
WORRYING
ABOUT
ME.

I'M
YOUR OLDER
BROTHER.
I'M ALLOWED
TO WORRY.

I JUST... IT MAKES ME FEEL LIKE I'M
JUST SOME STUPID KID. I KNOW I
WAS RECKLESS... AND I KNOW I WAS
A LITTLE CRAZY WHEN I
WAS YOUNGER.



I'M NOT LIKE
THAT ANYMORE. I'M
OLDER... I'VE DONE
A LOT SINCE I
CAME TO TALESCRIA.

I KNOW
YOU HAVE.
I KNOW.

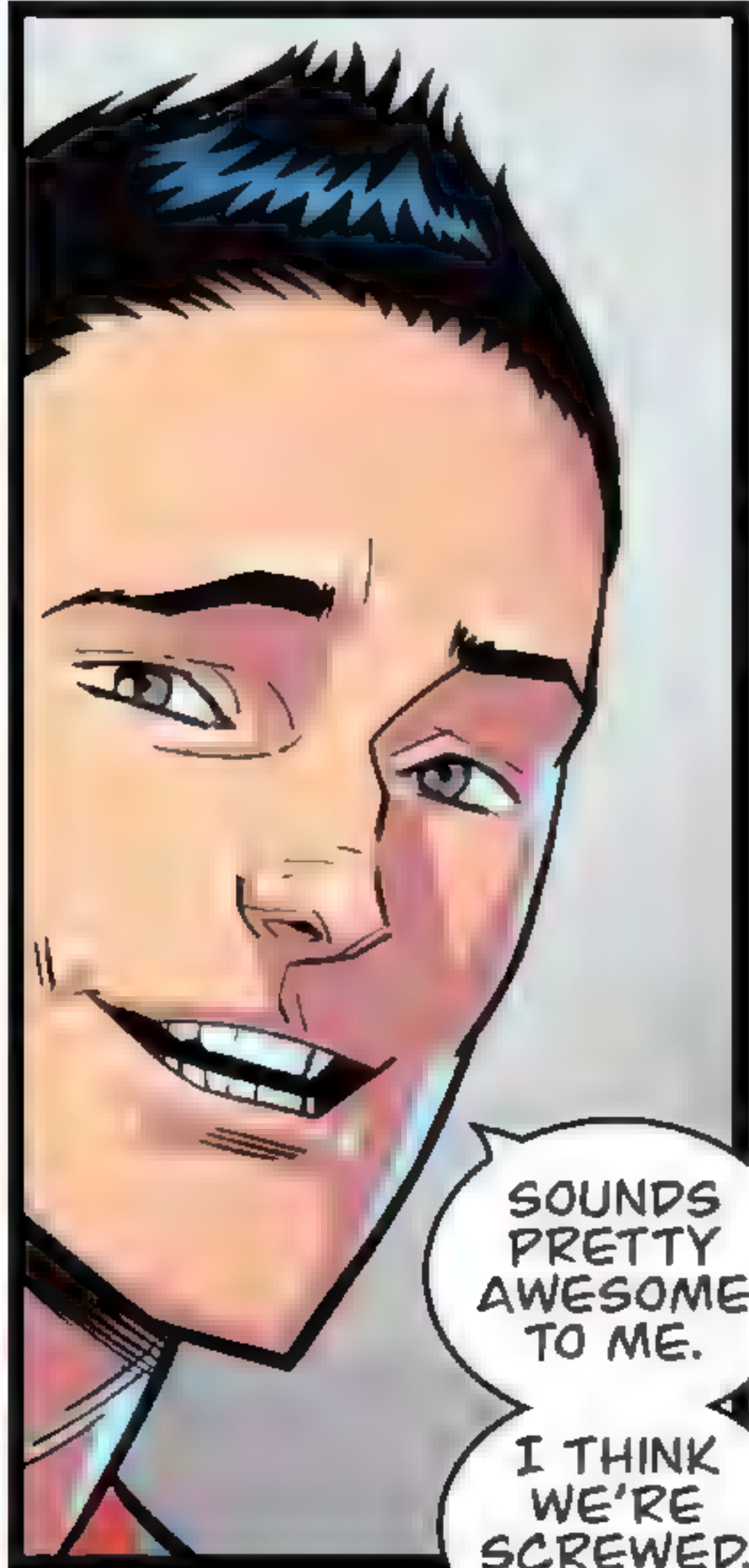


I LOVE YOU, OLIVER. I
SHOULD BE ABLE TO WORRY
ABOUT YOU WITHOUT THAT
INSULTING YOU. I'M NOT
CONCERNED BECAUSE
I THINK YOU'RE
INCAPABLE.



HELL, THIS
WHOLE ARMADA IS
HERE JUST IN CASE
THRAGG HAS
SUCCEEDED IN
BUILDING AN
ARMY OF... YOURS.

AN ARMY
OF OLIVERS...
CAN YOU
IMAGINE?



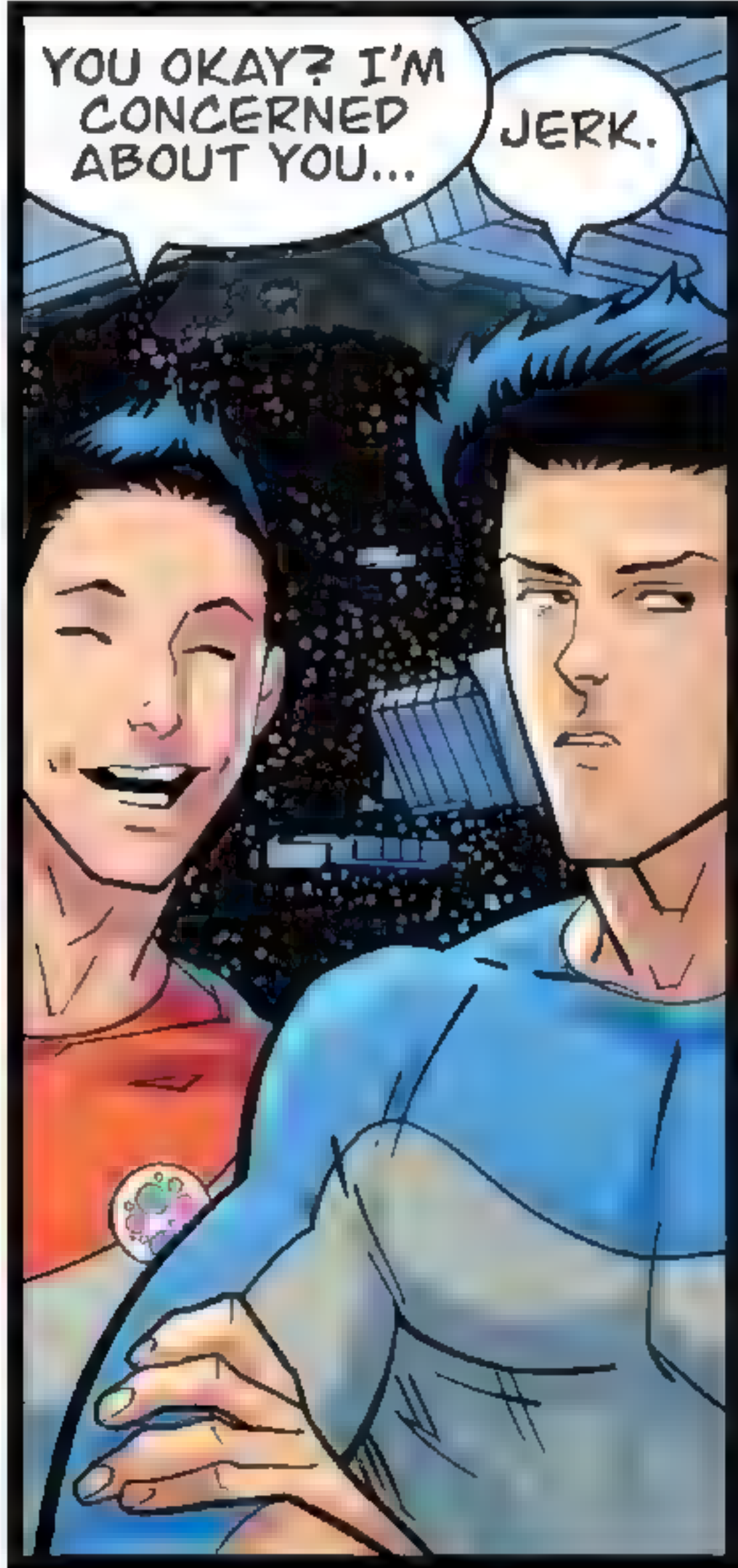
SOUNDS
PRETTY
AWESOME
TO ME.
I THINK
WE'RE
SCREWED.



HA! HA!
TOTALLY!



UH...



YOU OKAY? I'M
CONCERNED
ABOUT YOU...

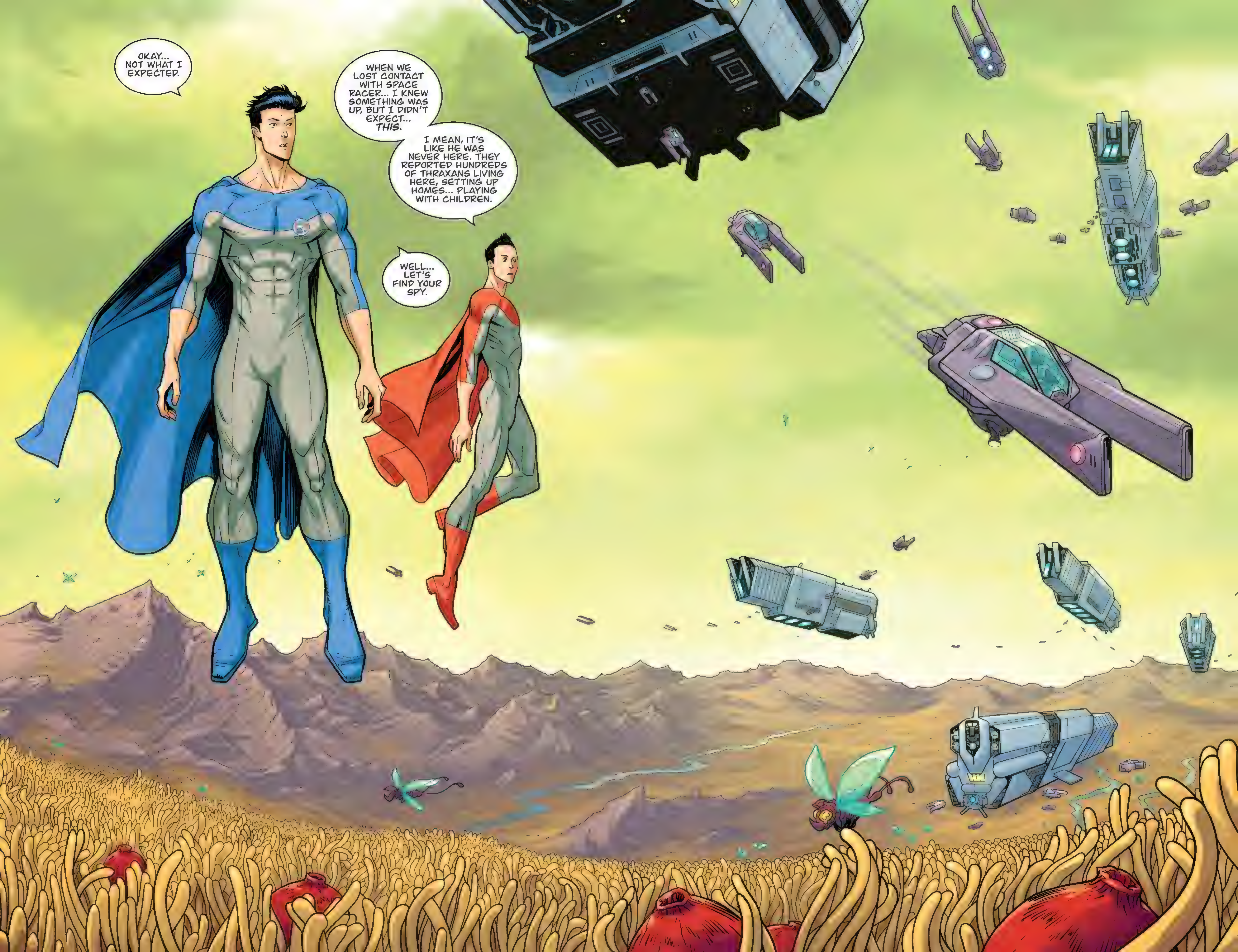
JERK.

OKAY...
NOT WHAT I
EXPECTED.

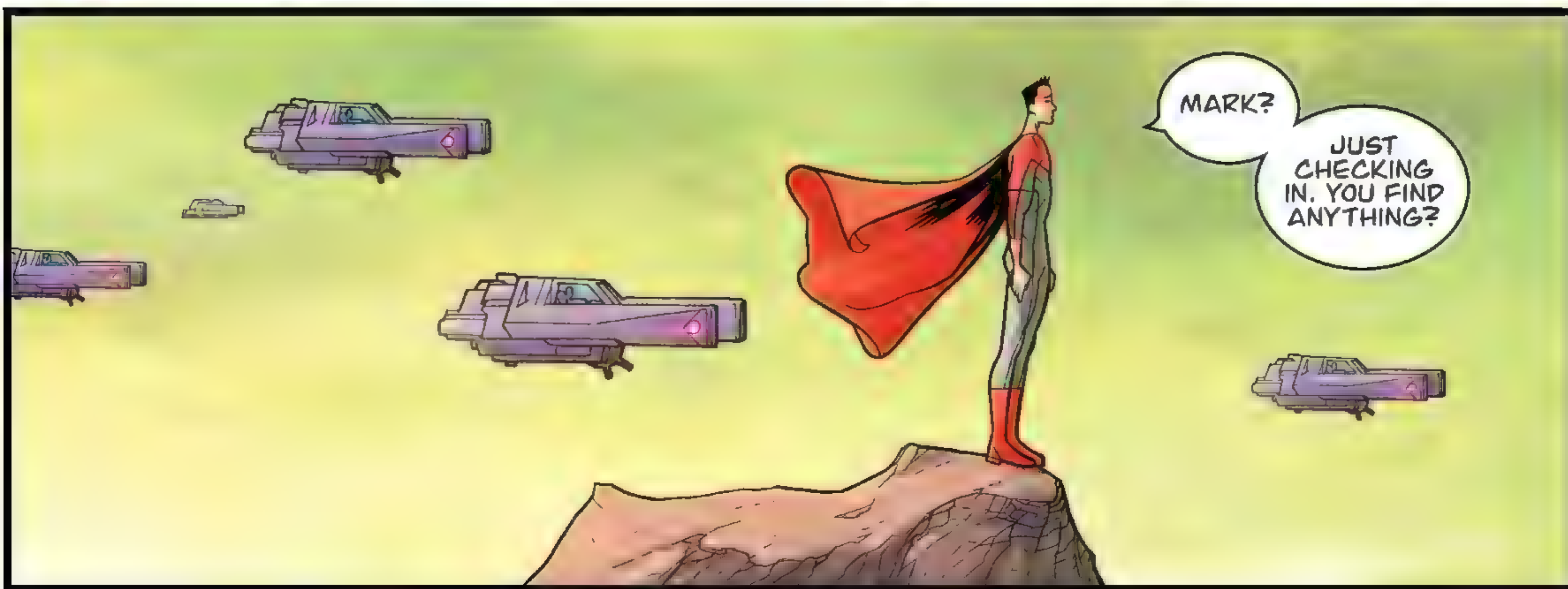
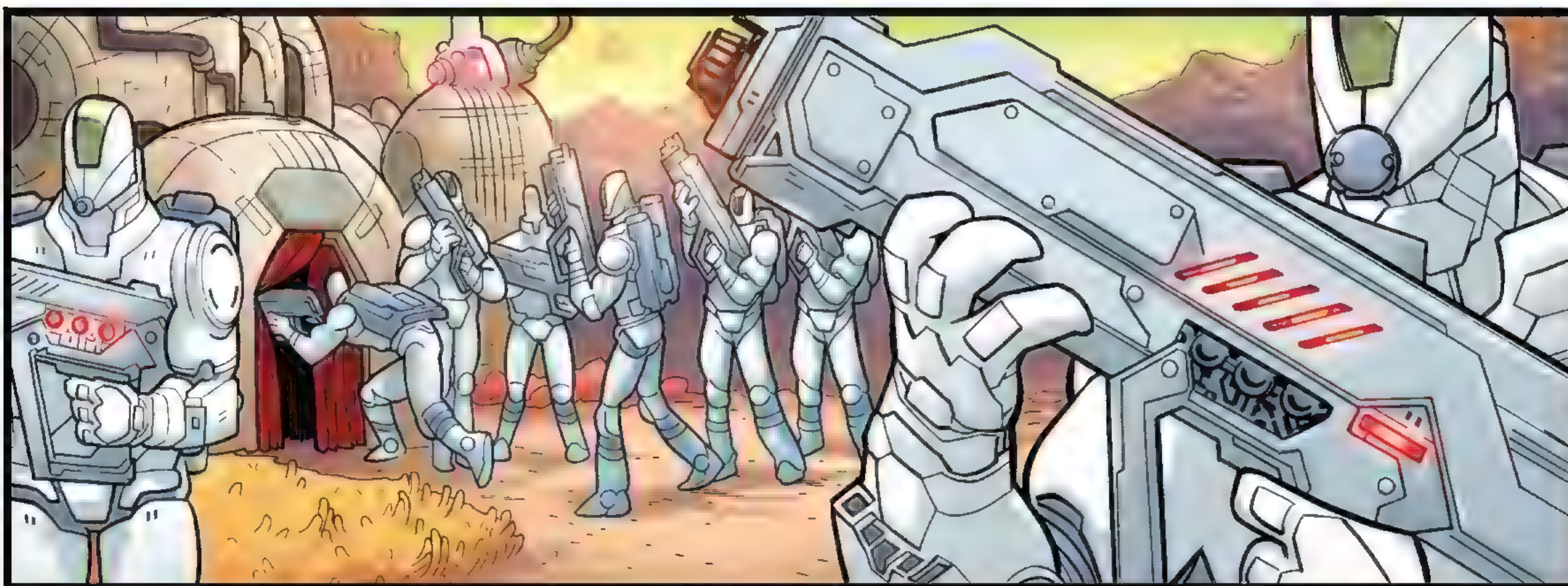
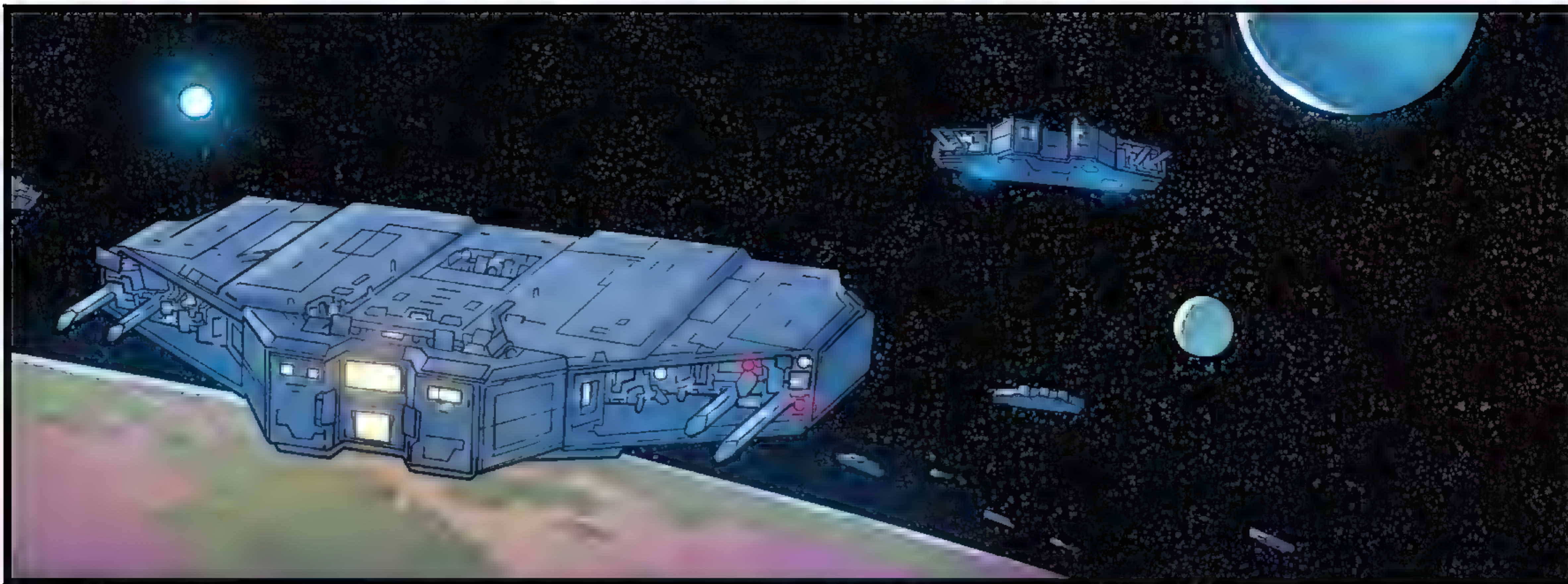
WHEN WE
LOST CONTACT
WITH SPACE
RACER... I KNEW
SOMETHING WAS
UP, BUT I DIDN'T
EXPECT...
THIS.

I MEAN, IT'S
LIKE HE WAS
NEVER HERE. THEY
REPORTED HUNDREDS
OF THRAXANS LIVING
HERE, SETTING UP
HOMES... PLAYING
WITH CHILDREN.

WELL...
LET'S
FIND YOUR
SPY.





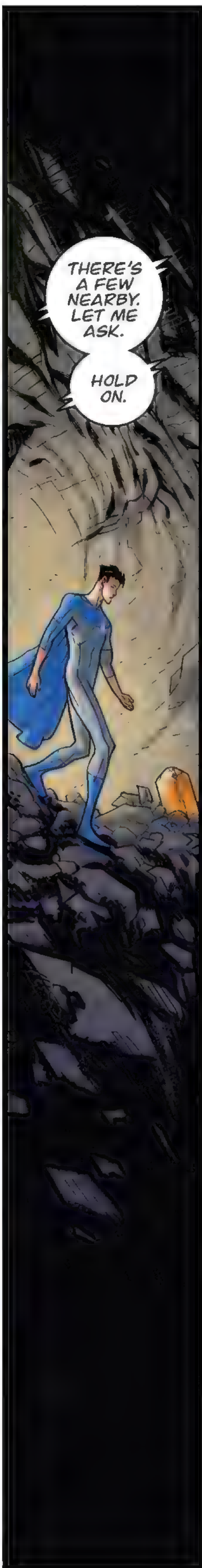




NOTHING.

NO SIGN OF ANYONE. I'M IN A CAVE THOUGH... DON'T KNOW HOW DEEP IT GOES. YOU TALK TO ANY OF THE LOCALS?

YOU THINK THEY COULD BE HIDING UNDERGROUND?

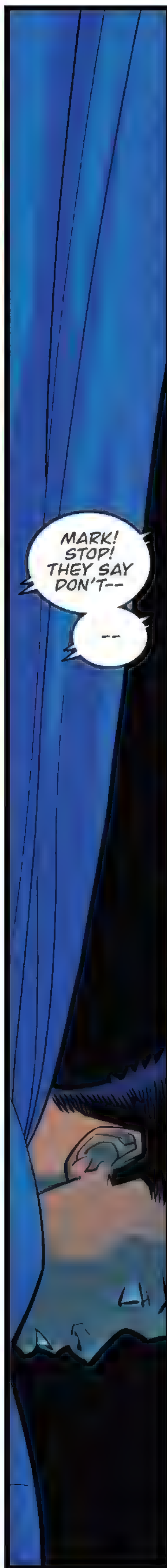


THERE'S A FEW NEARBY. LET ME ASK.

HOLD ON.

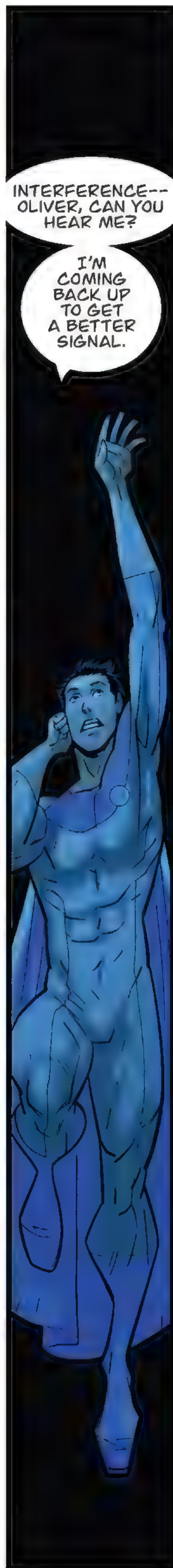


THIS CAVE GOES DEEP INTO THE PLANET... THIS IS CRAZY.



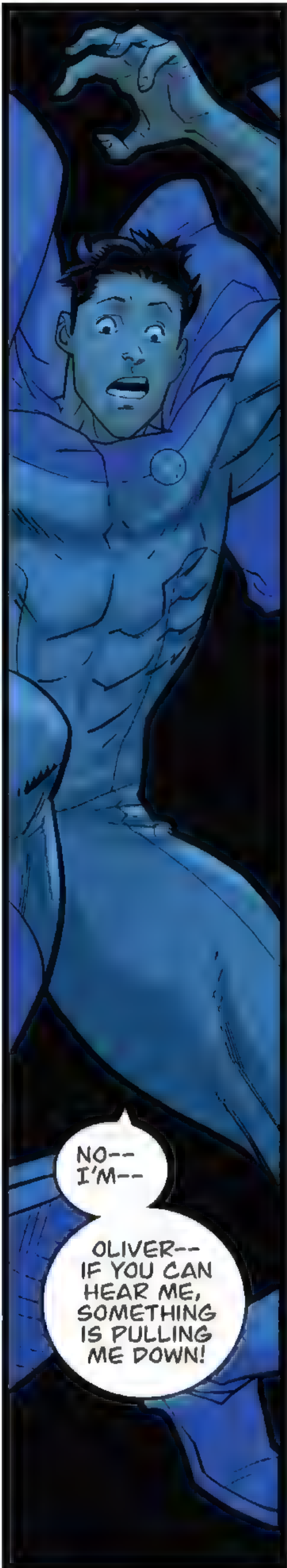
MARK! STOP! THEY SAY DON'T--

--



INTERFERENCE-- OLIVER, CAN YOU HEAR ME?

I'M COMING BACK UP TO GET A BETTER SIGNAL.

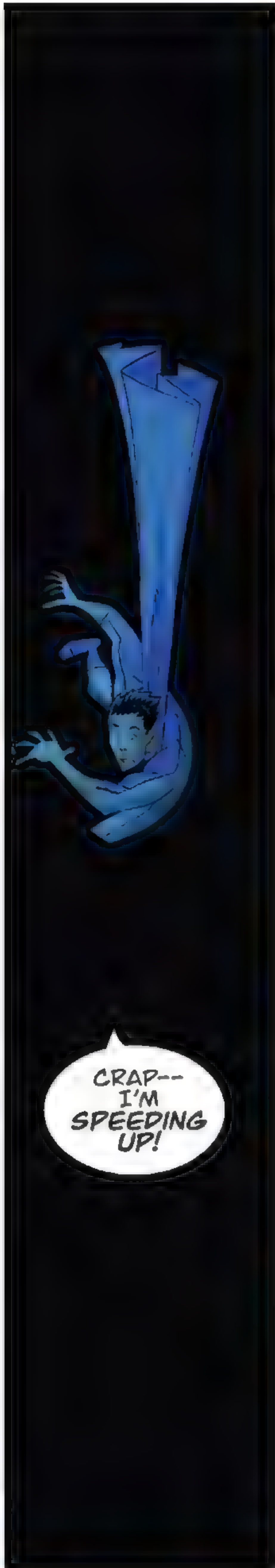


NO--
I'M--

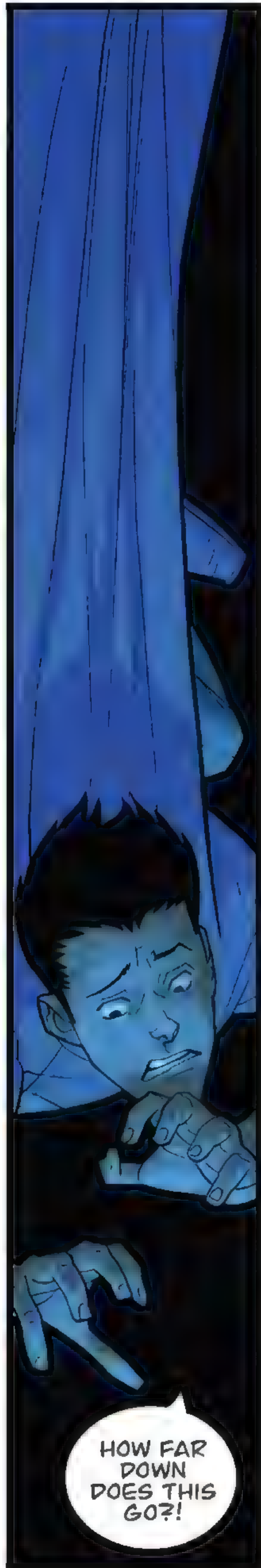
OLIVER--
IF YOU CAN
HEAR ME,
SOMETHING
IS PULLING
ME DOWN!



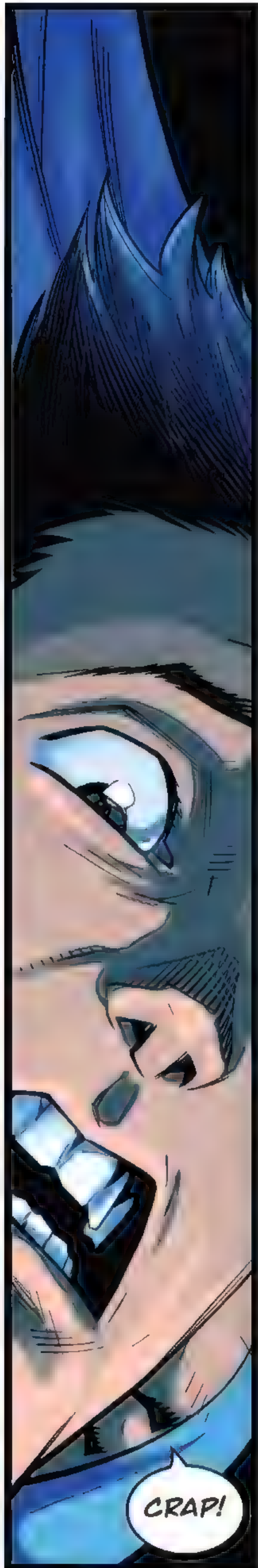
I DON'T
KNOW
WHAT THIS
IS!



CRAP--
I'M
SPEEDING
UP!

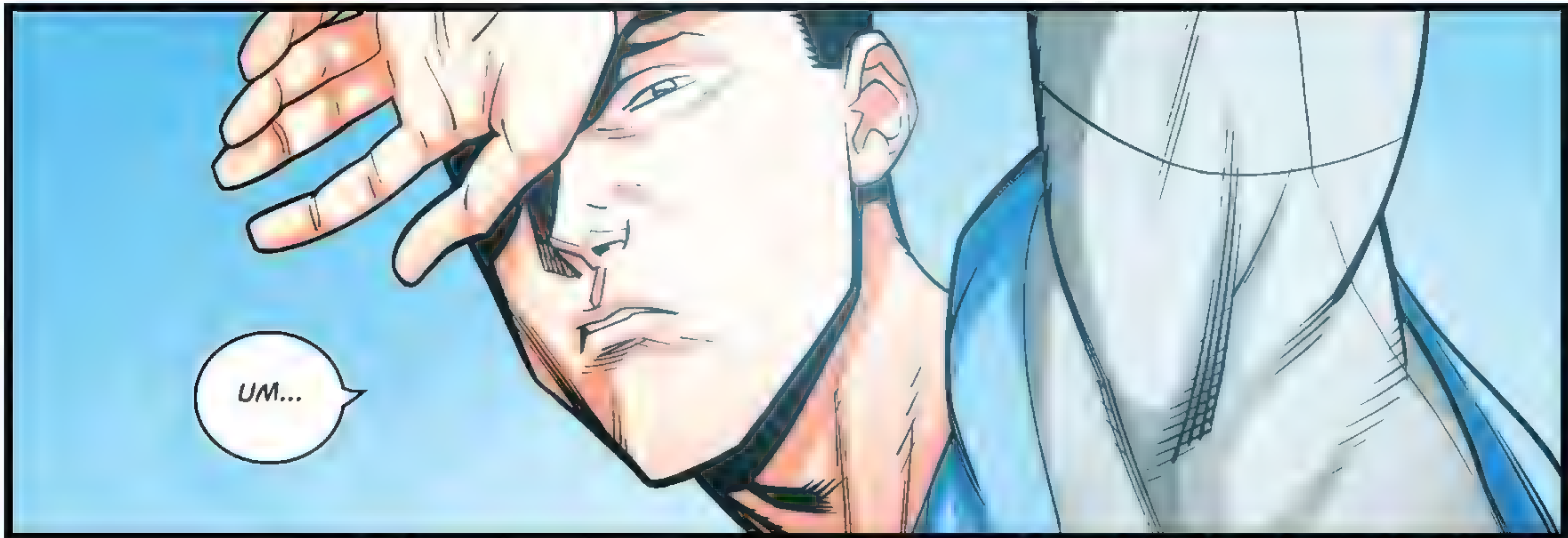


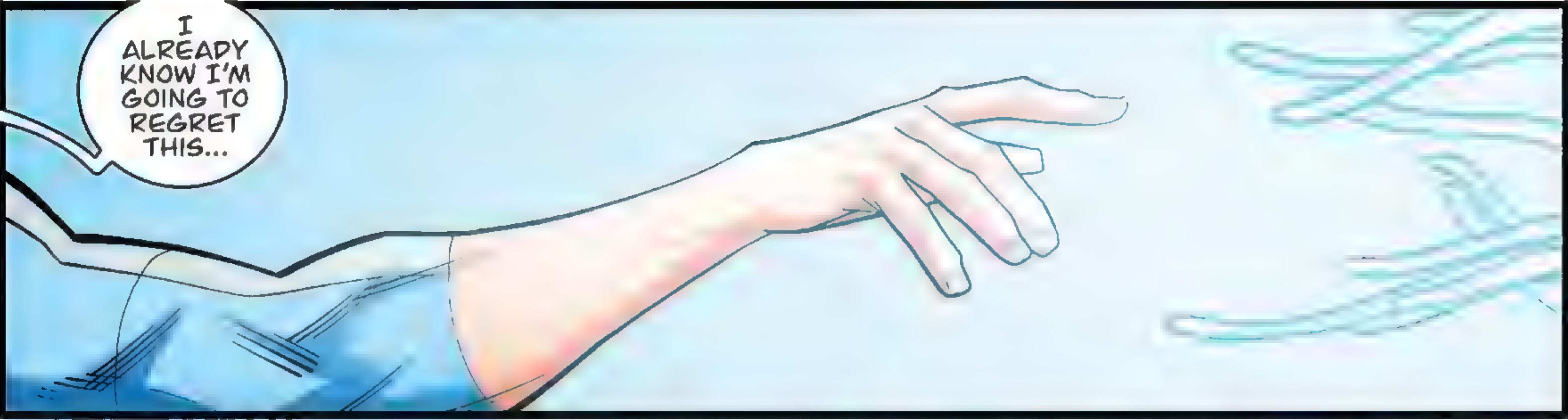
HOW FAR
DOWN
DOES THIS
GO?!

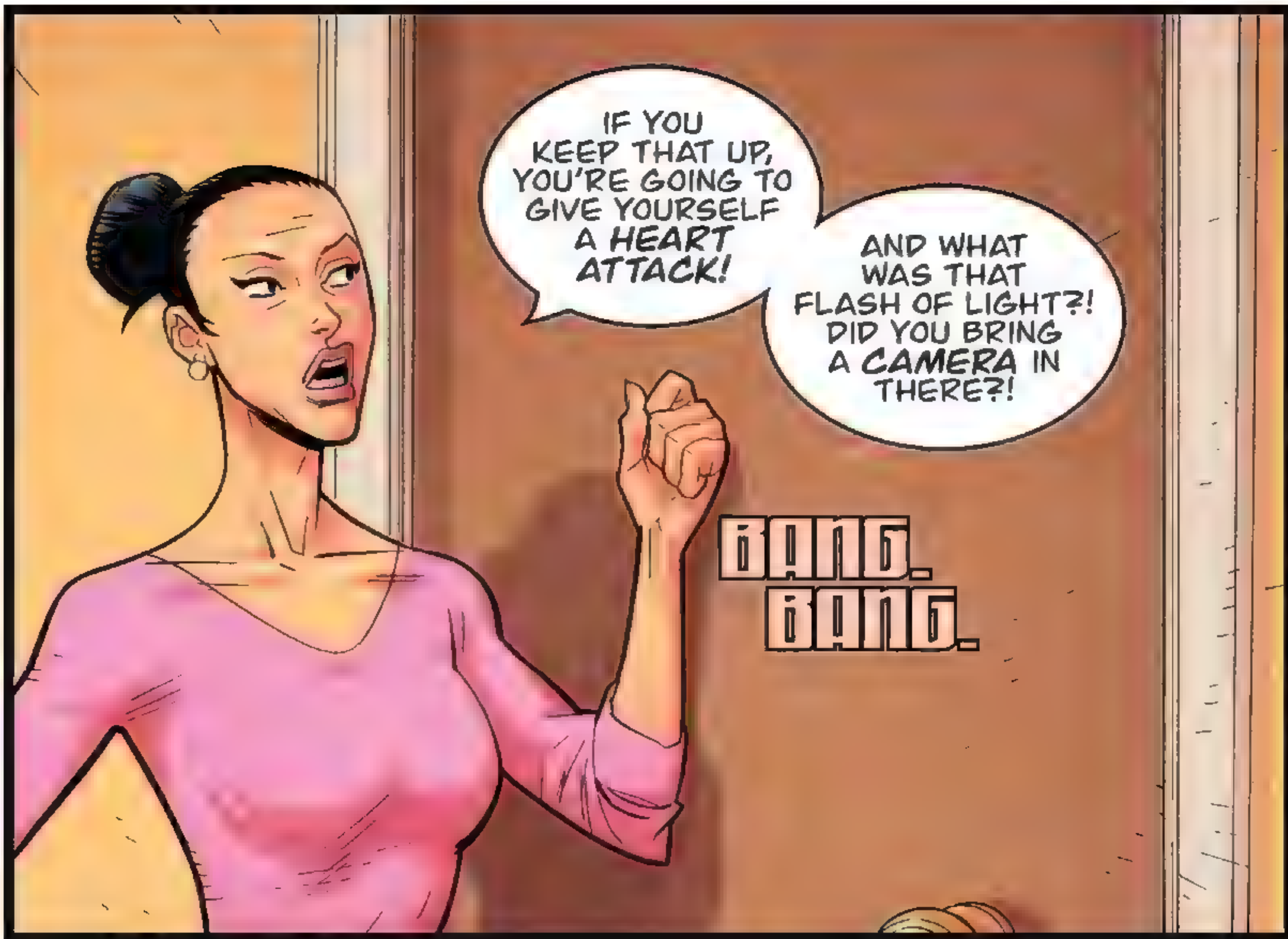
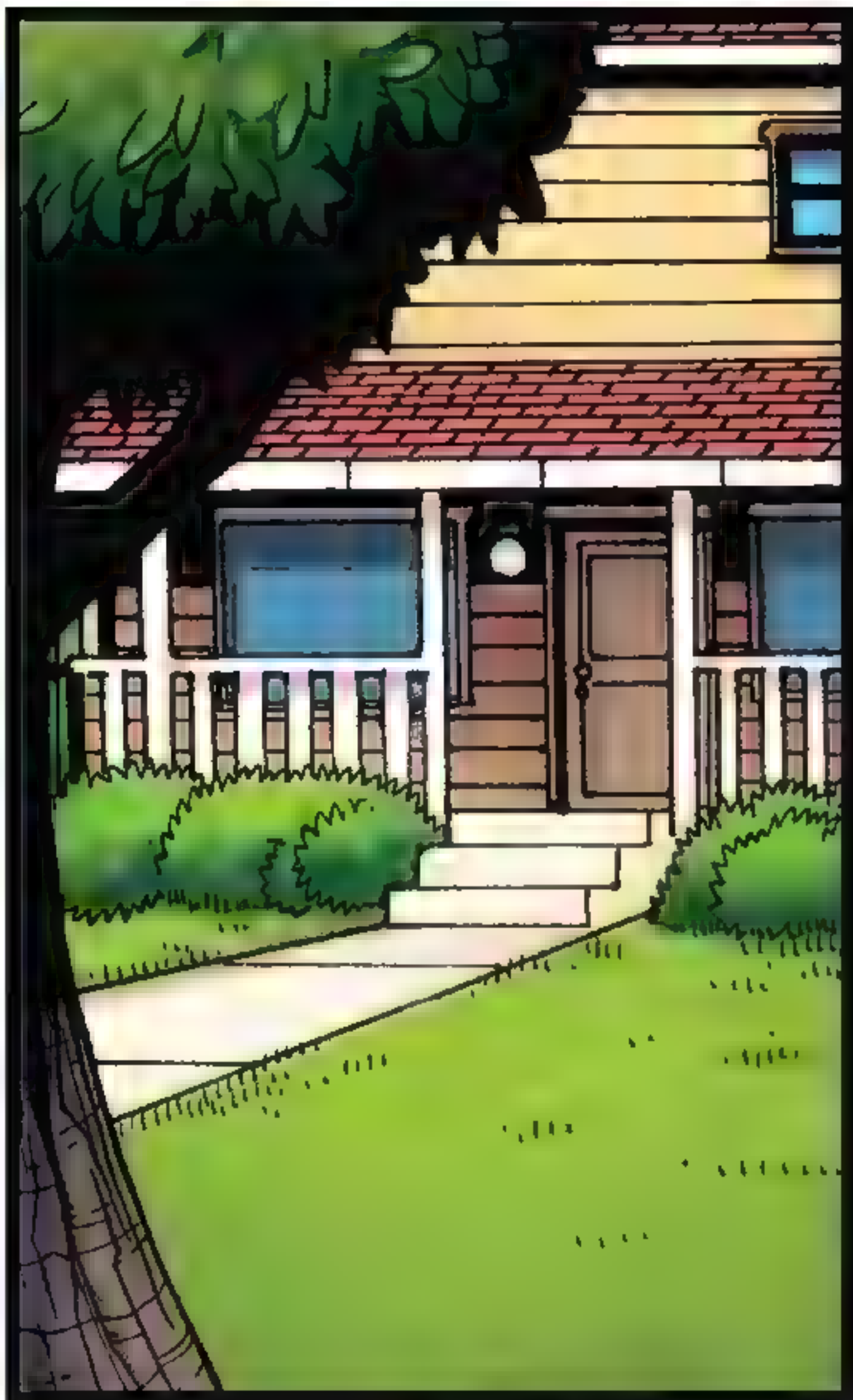


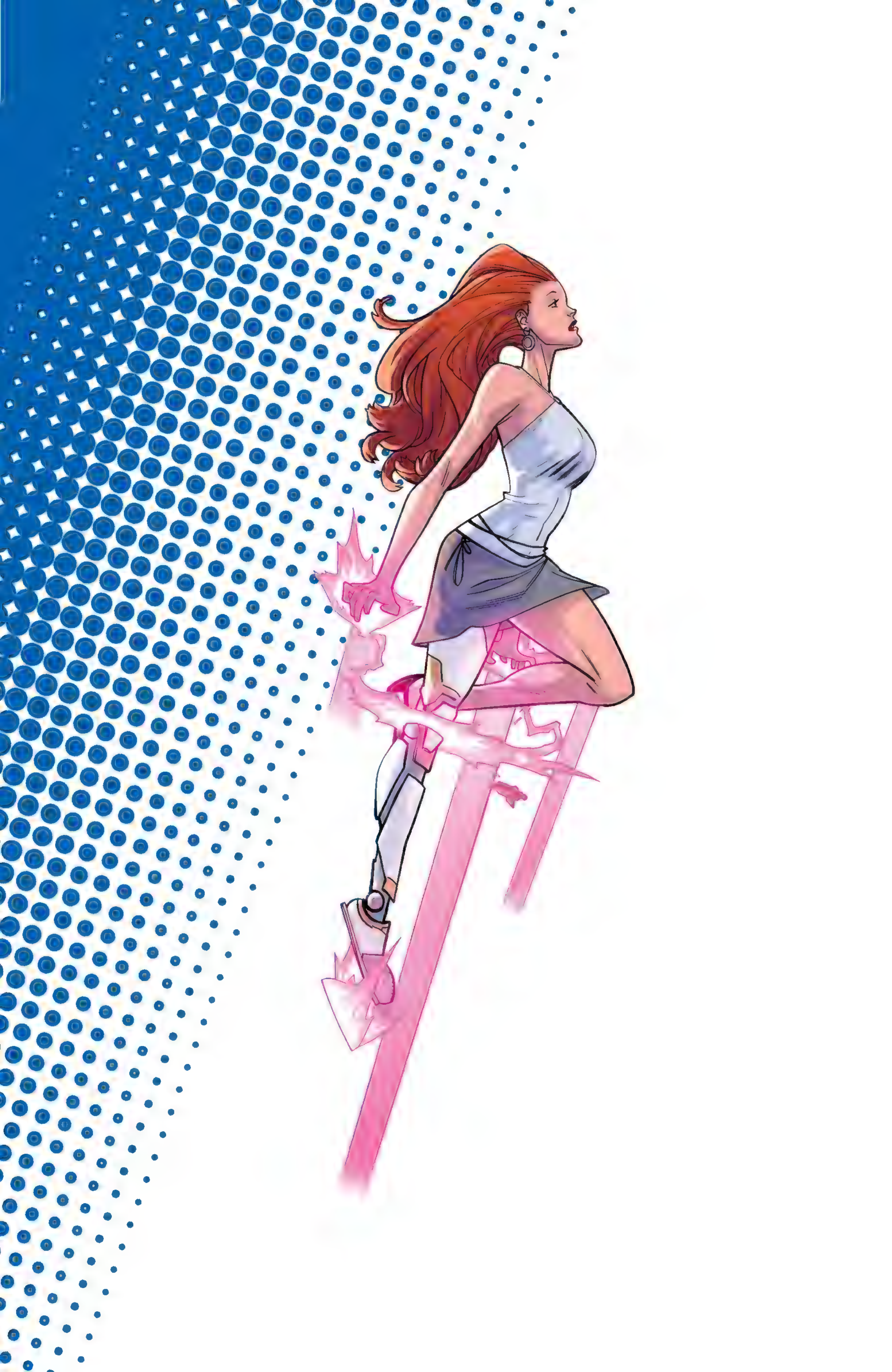
CRAP!







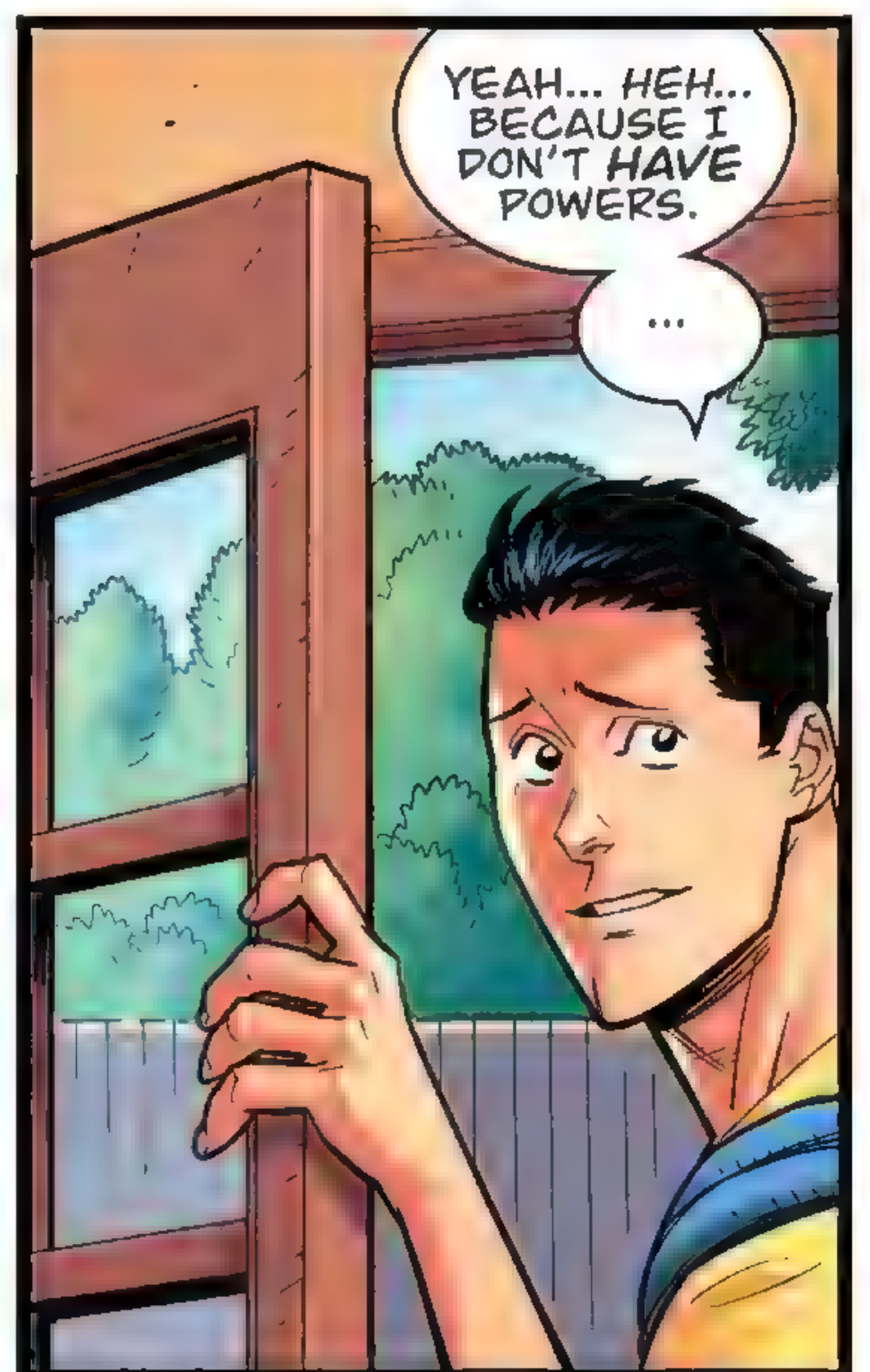
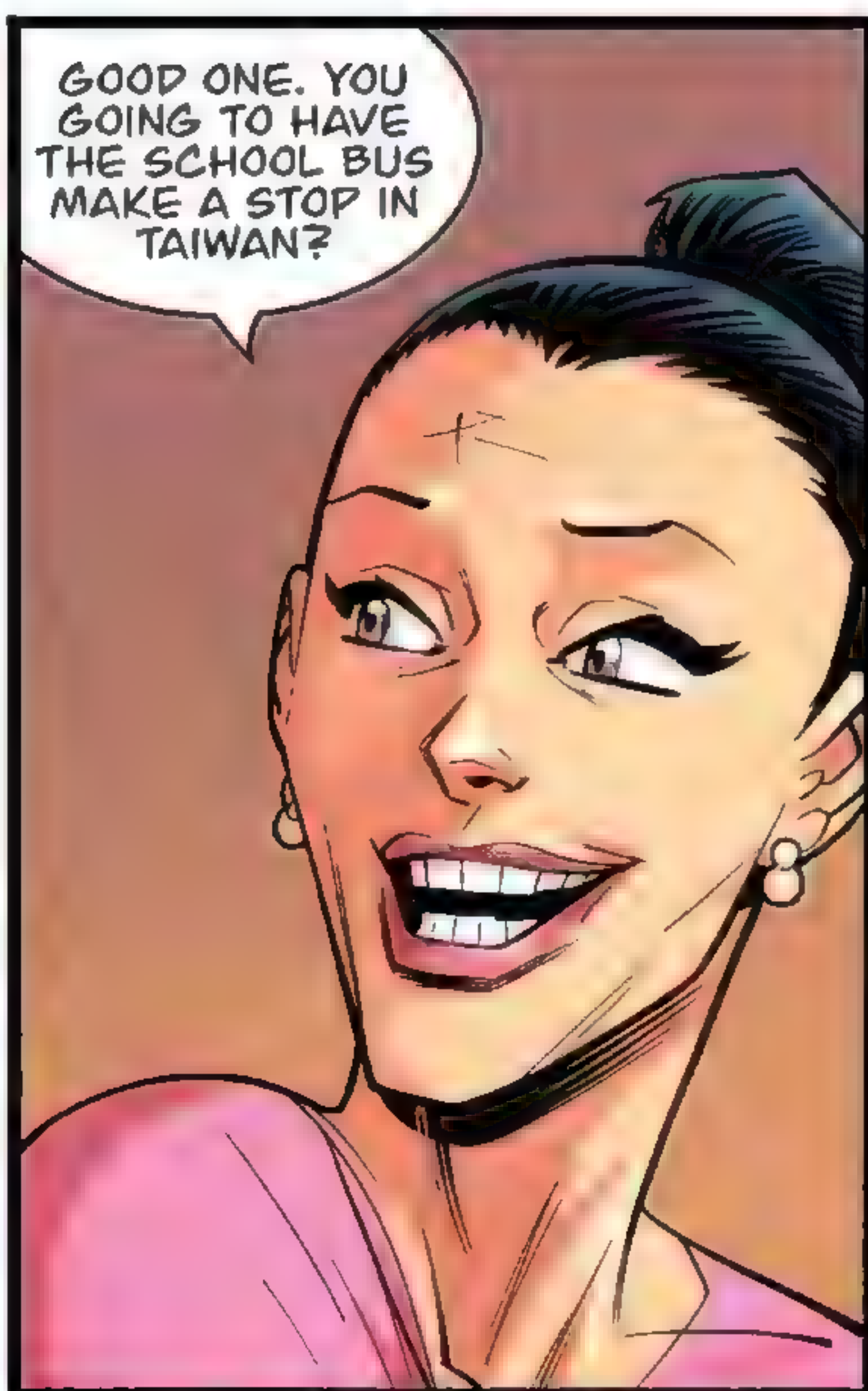


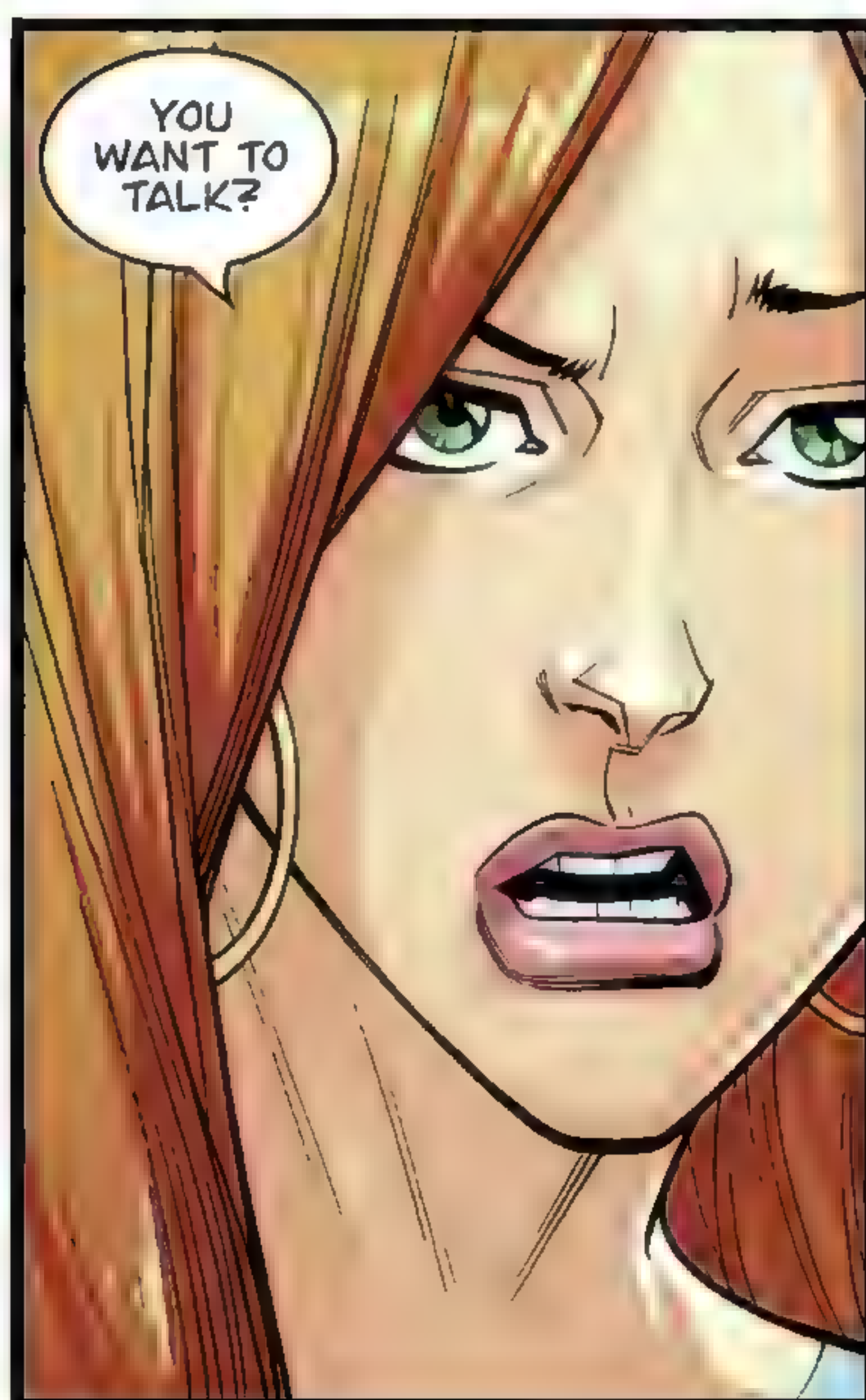


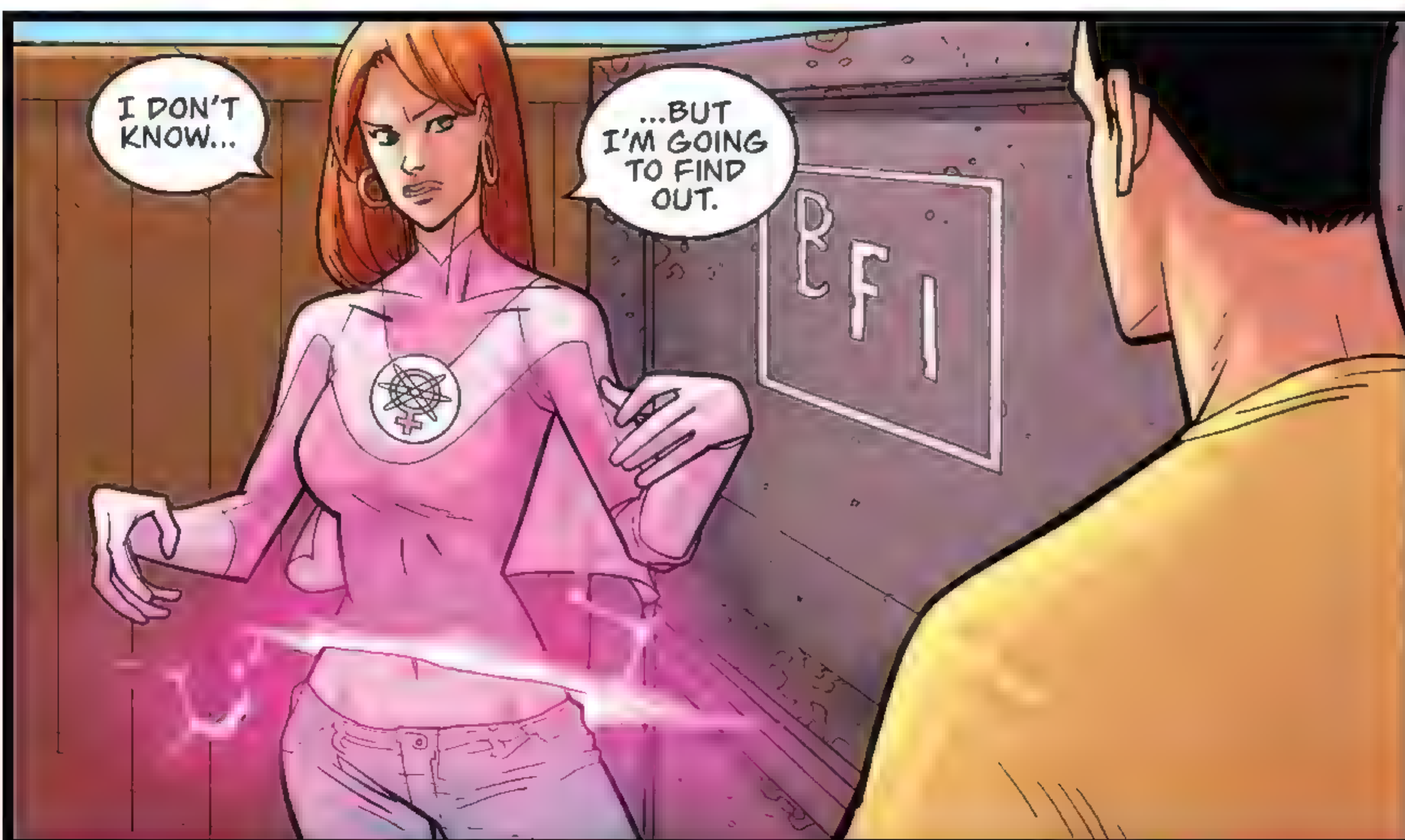
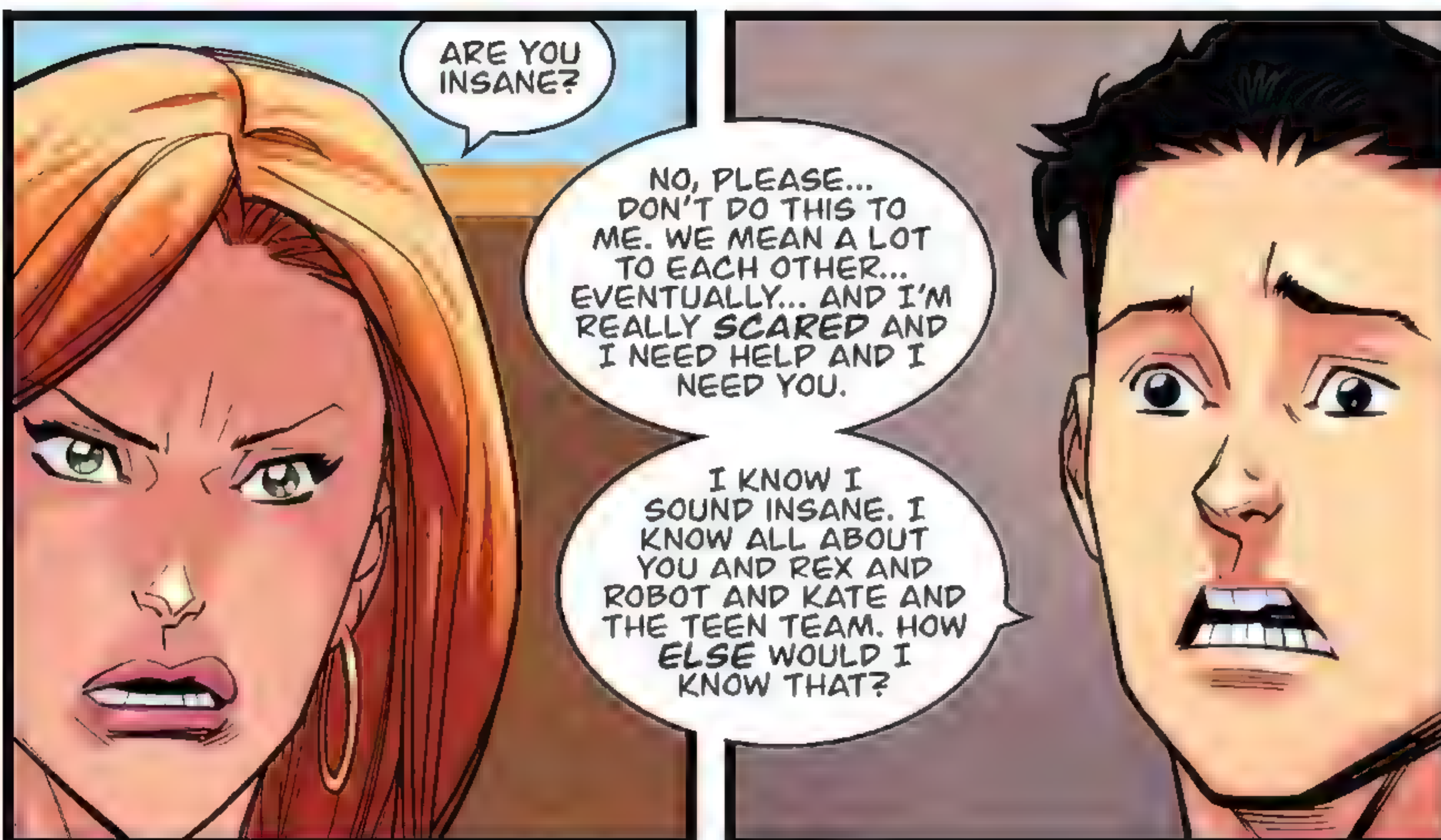
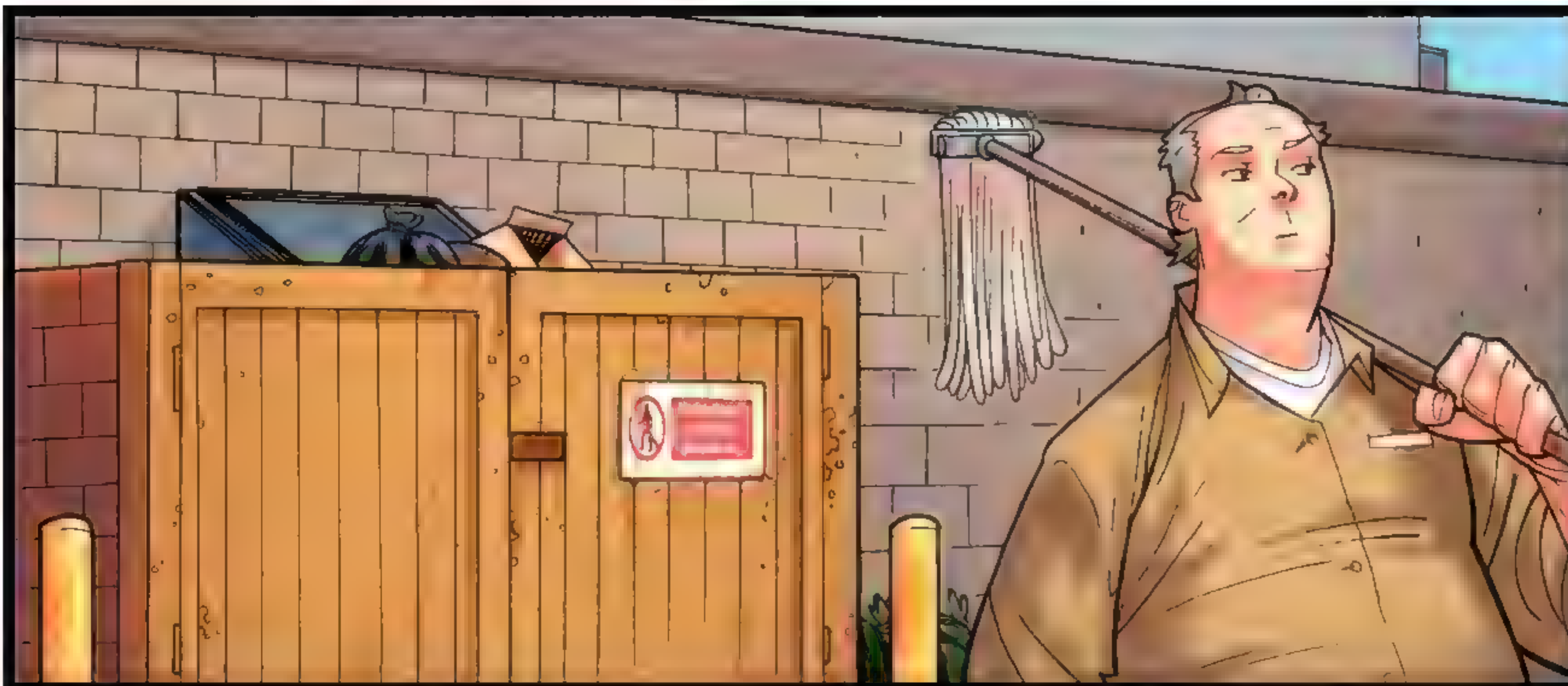
CHAPTER 124

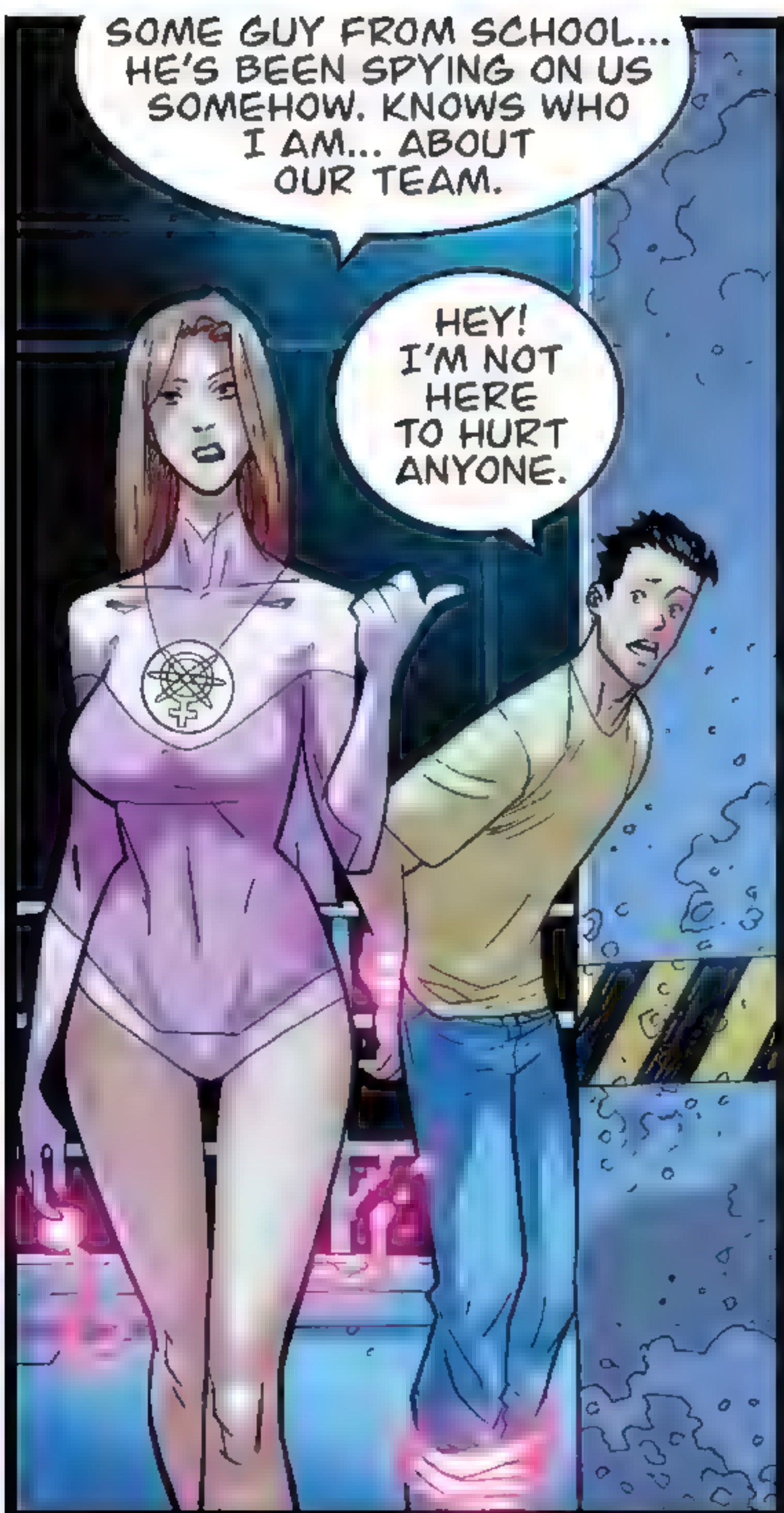
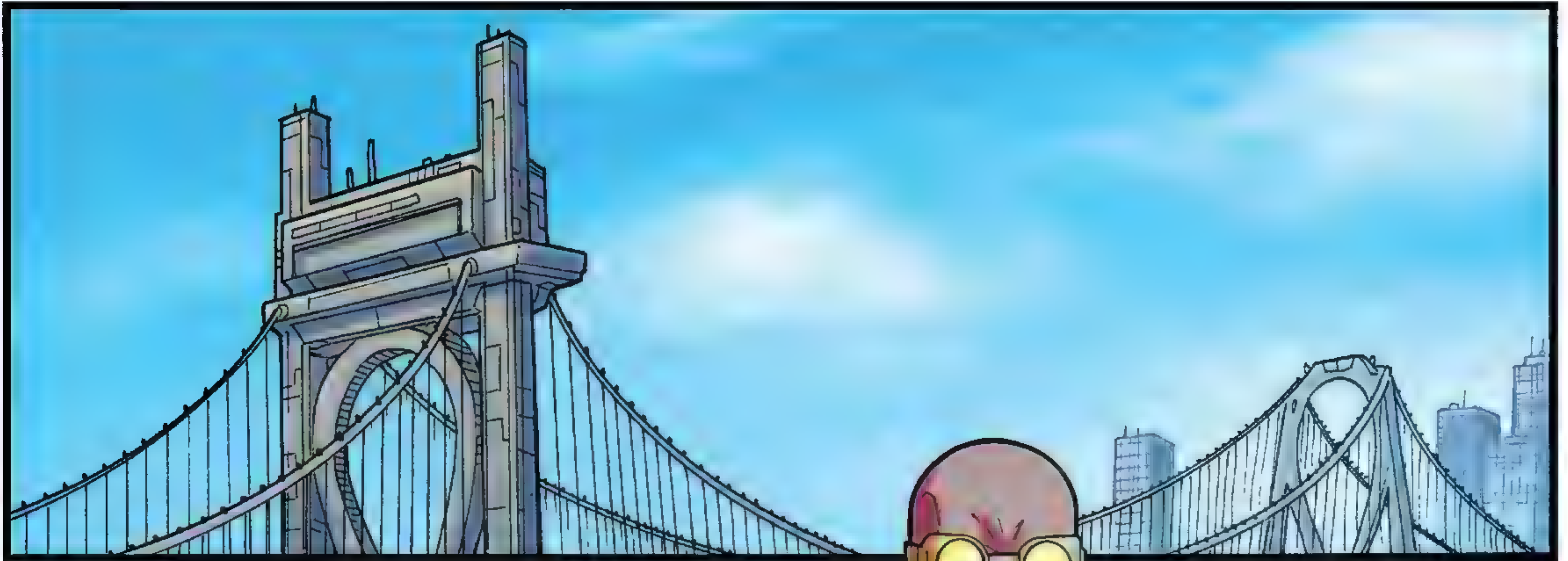


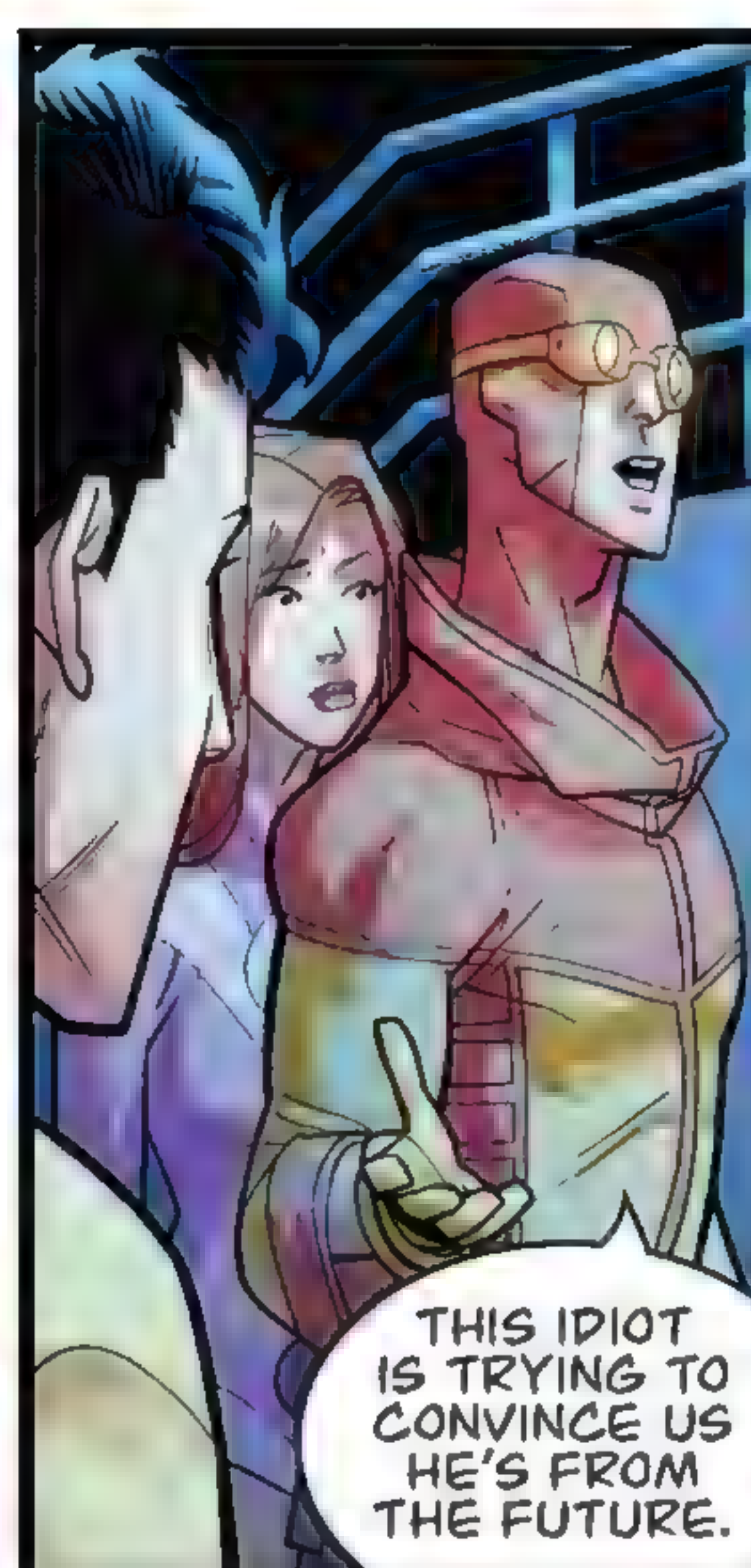
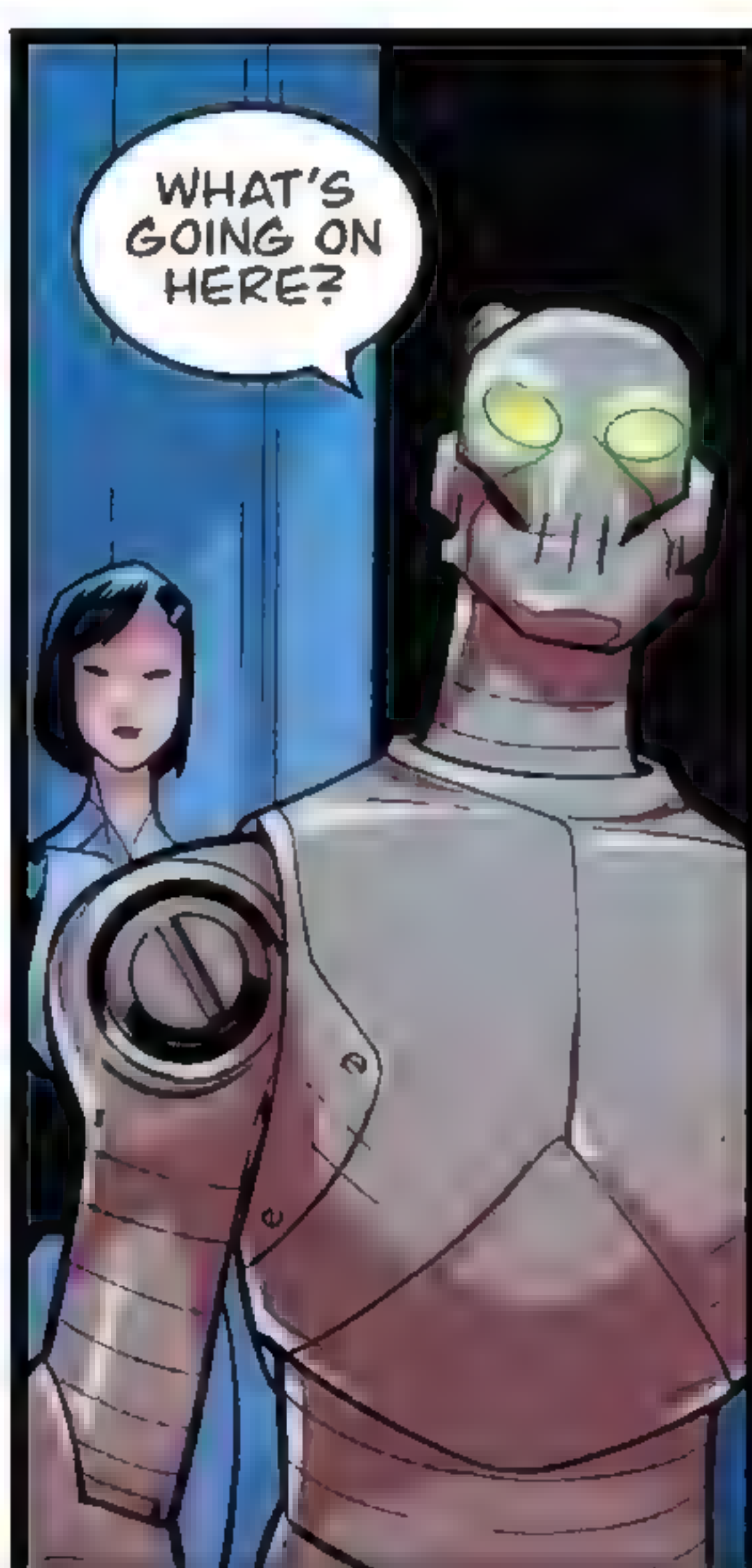
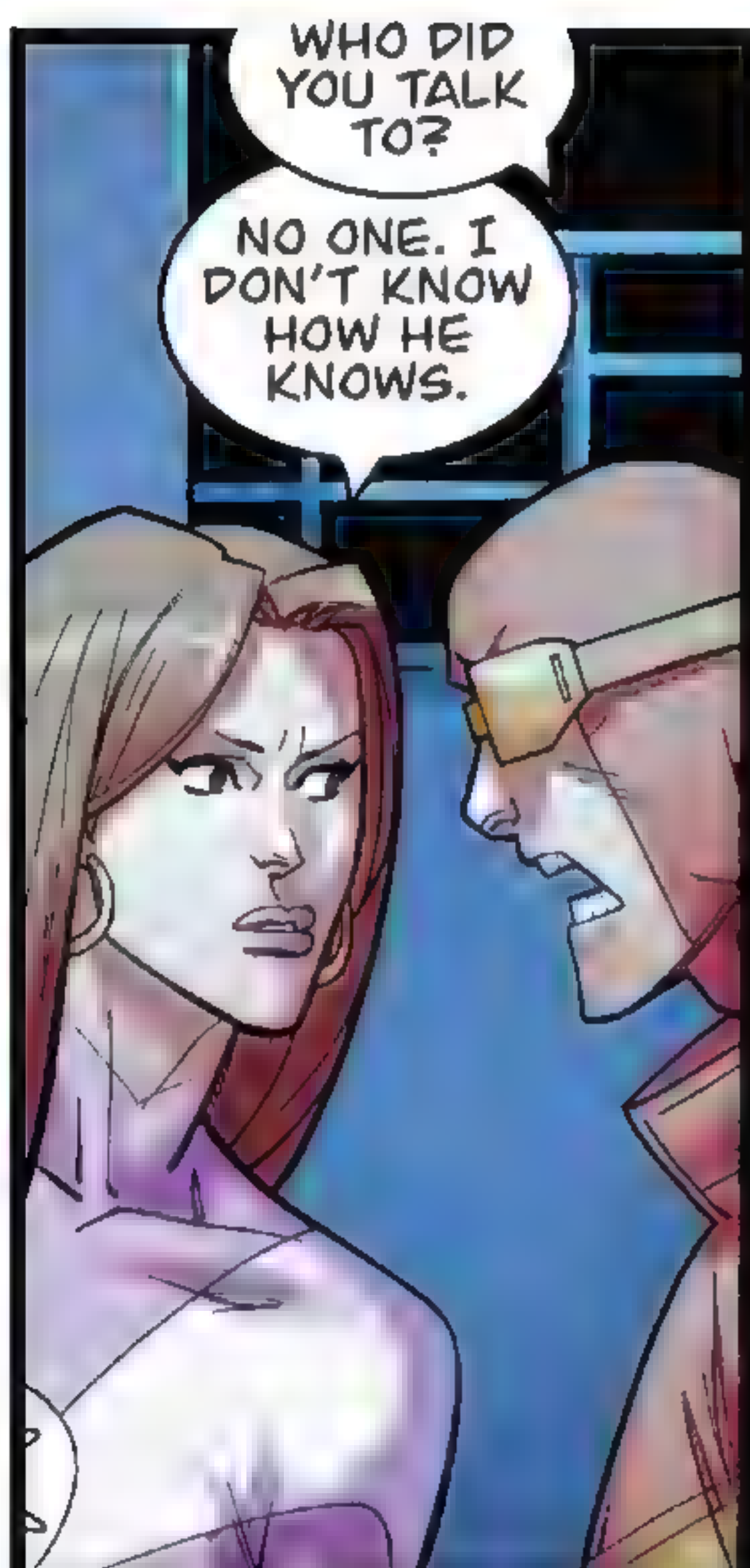
R.DITTLE

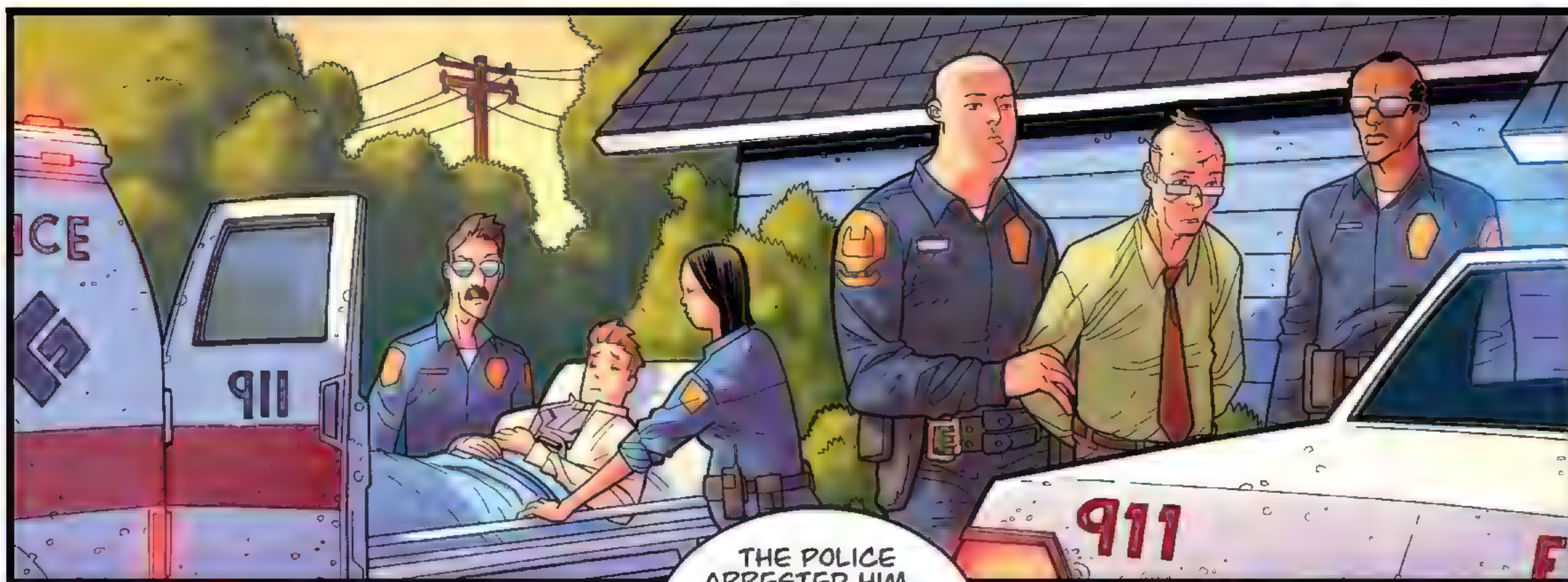




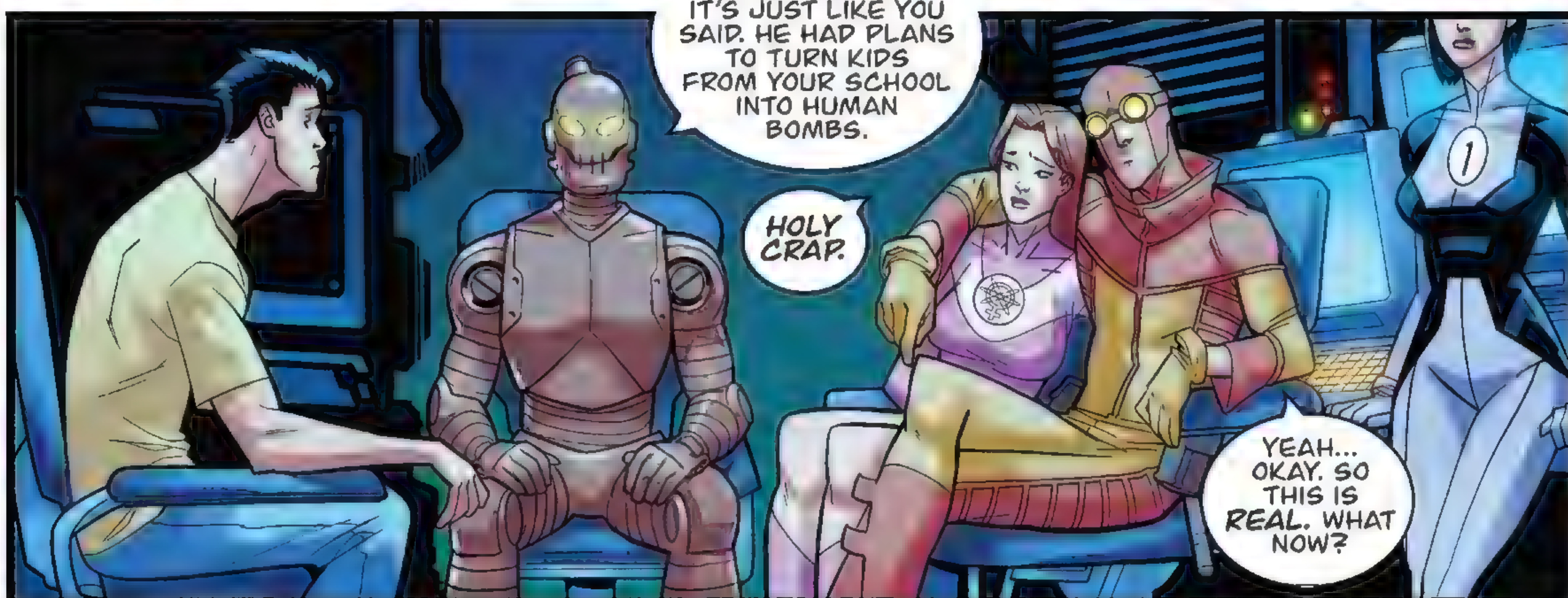








THE POLICE
ARRESTED HIM...
IT'S JUST LIKE YOU
SAID. HE HAD PLANS
TO TURN KIDS
FROM YOUR SCHOOL
INTO HUMAN
BOMBS.



HOLY
CRAP.

YEAH...
OKAY. SO
THIS IS
REAL. WHAT
NOW?

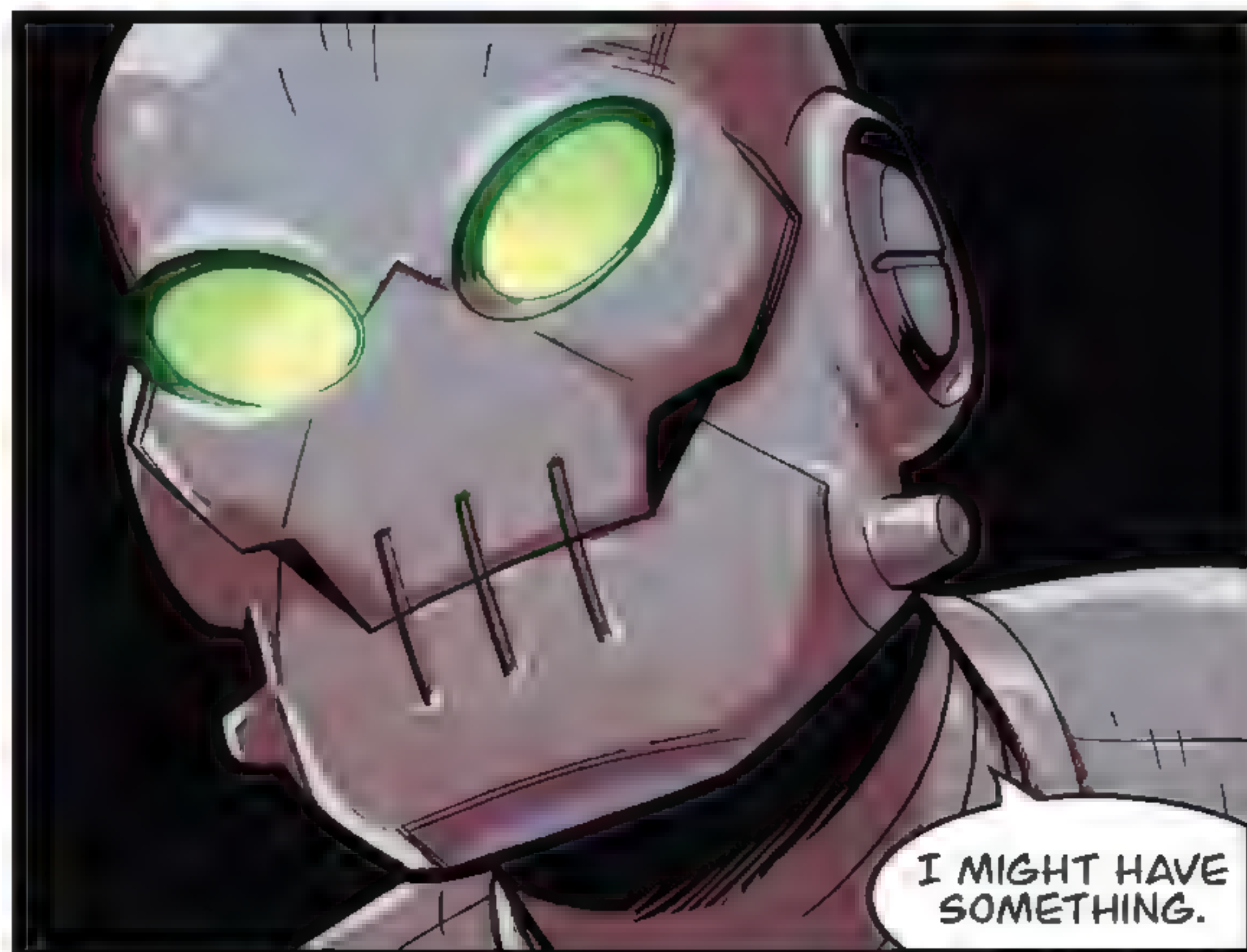
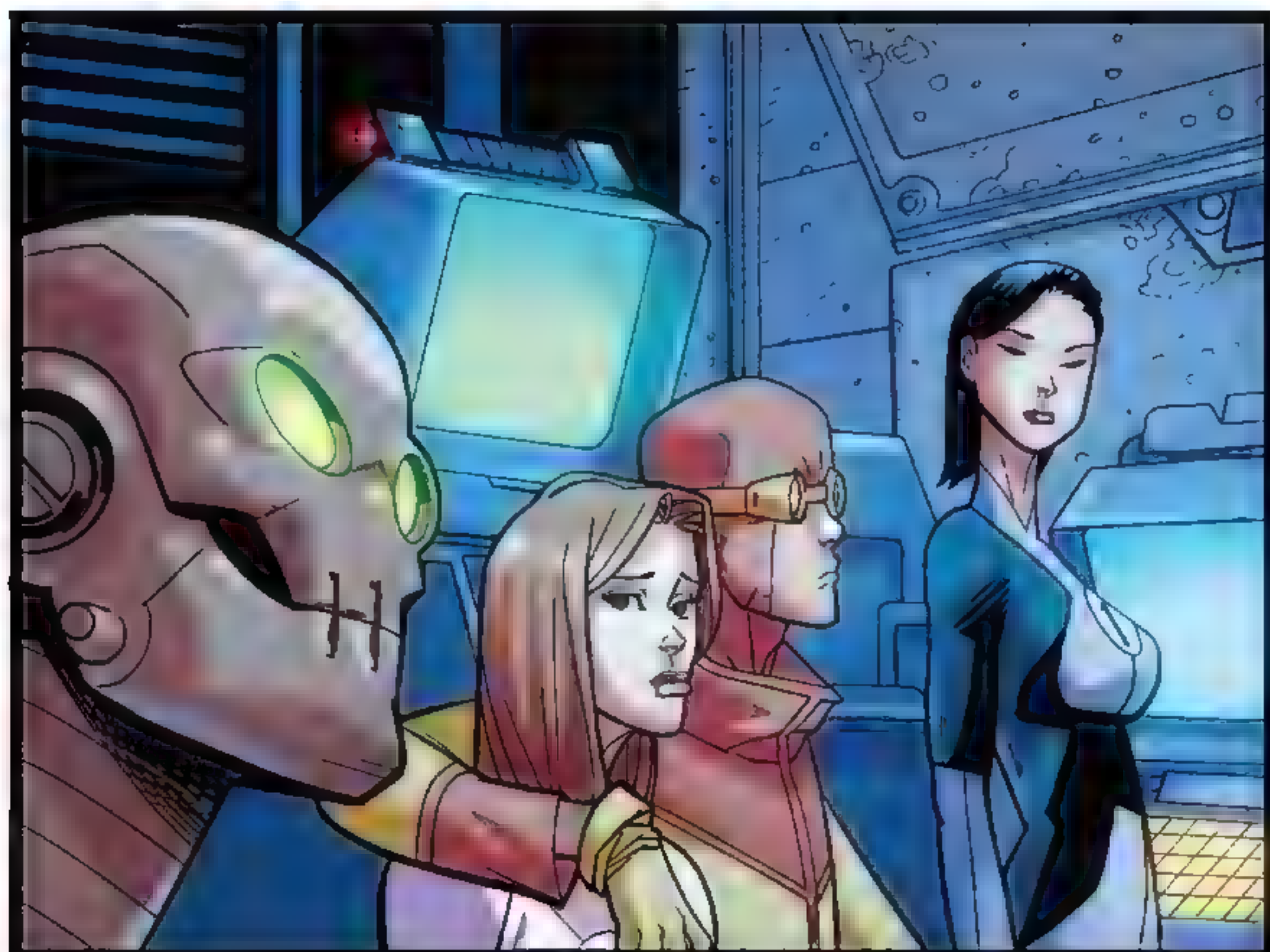


WELL... I'M JUST GOING
TO SAY THIS OUT LOUD
BECAUSE I FEEL LIKE
WE'RE ALL FRIENDS
HERE. I'M STILL
WORRIED THIS ISN'T
REAL.

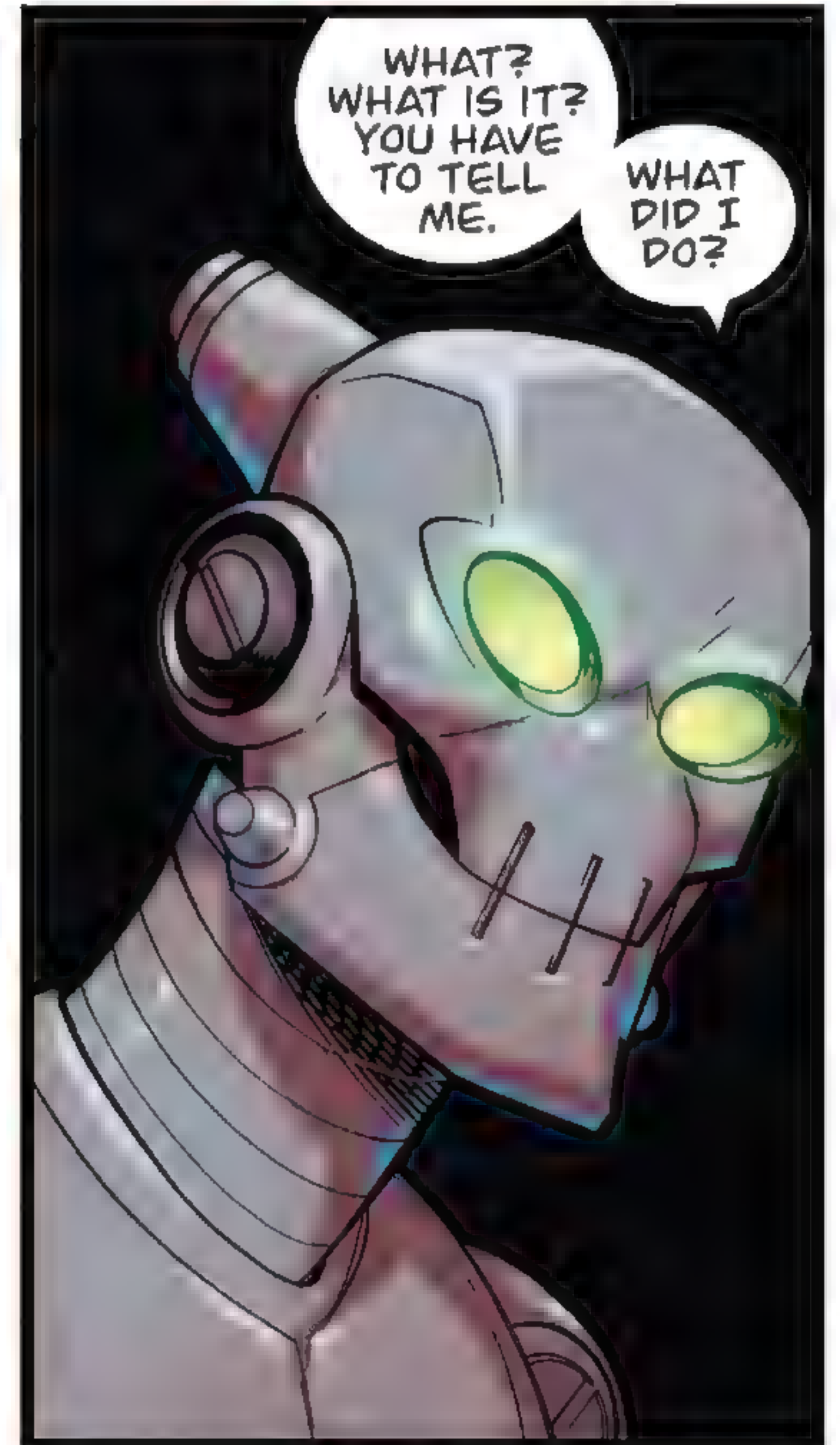
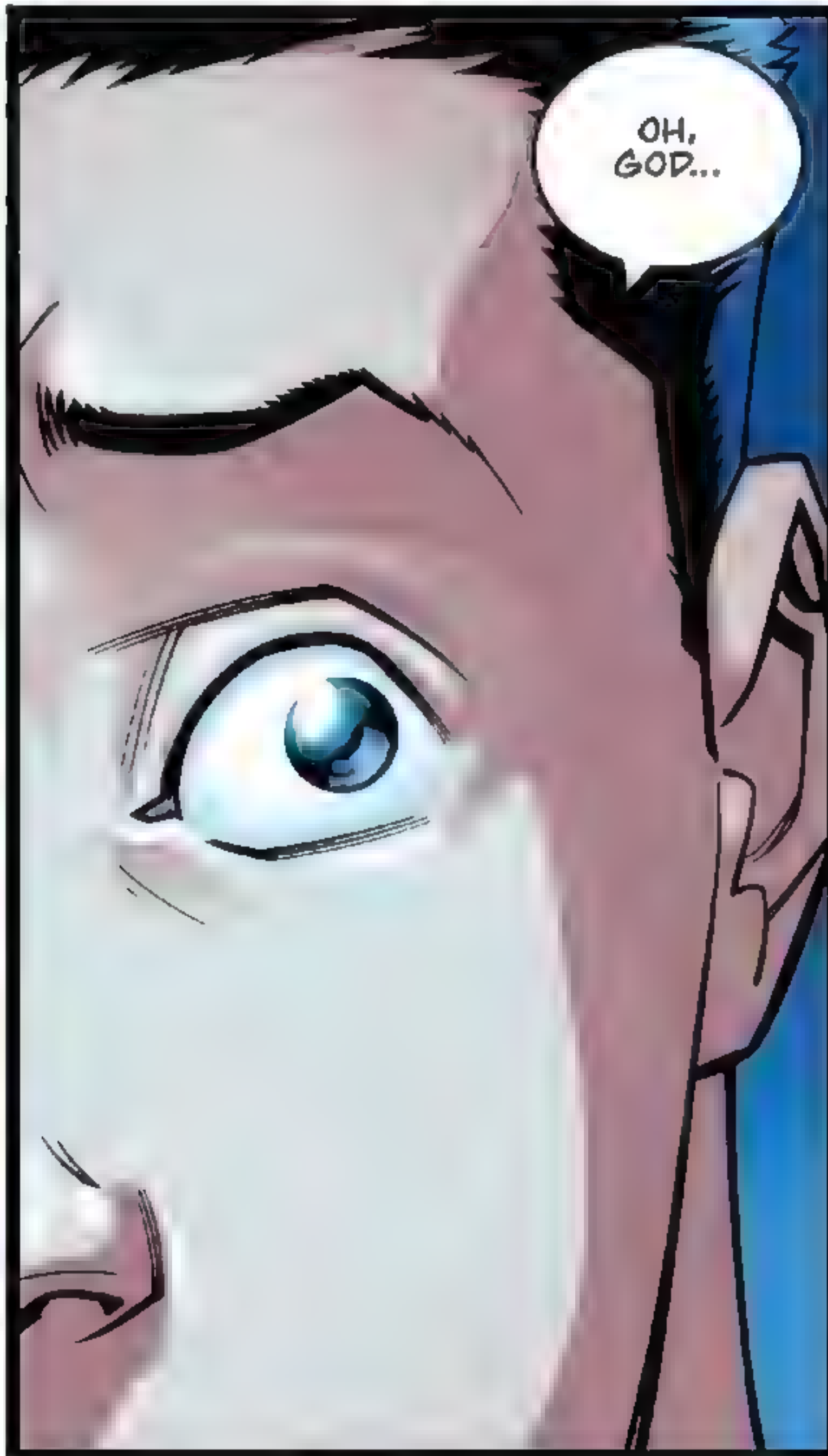
IT FEELS
REAL. THE
BIGGEST THING IS
I'M A FEW YEARS
YOUNGER... AND BEING IN
THIS BODY IS JUST WEIRD.
I'M THINNER, I MOVE
DIFFERENTLY... IT
FEELS SO ALIEN.

BUT STILL... I
WISH THERE WAS
SOMETHING YOU GUYS
COULD SAY THAT
WOULDN'T BE SOMETHING
I KNEW. THAT MAYBE I
COULD USE MY
KNOWLEDGE OF FUTURE
EVENTS TO CONFIRM...
WITHOUT ME HAVING
ALREADY KNOWN IT.

THAT
SEEMS...
IMPOSSIBLE,
THOUGH.



I MIGHT HAVE
SOMETHING.

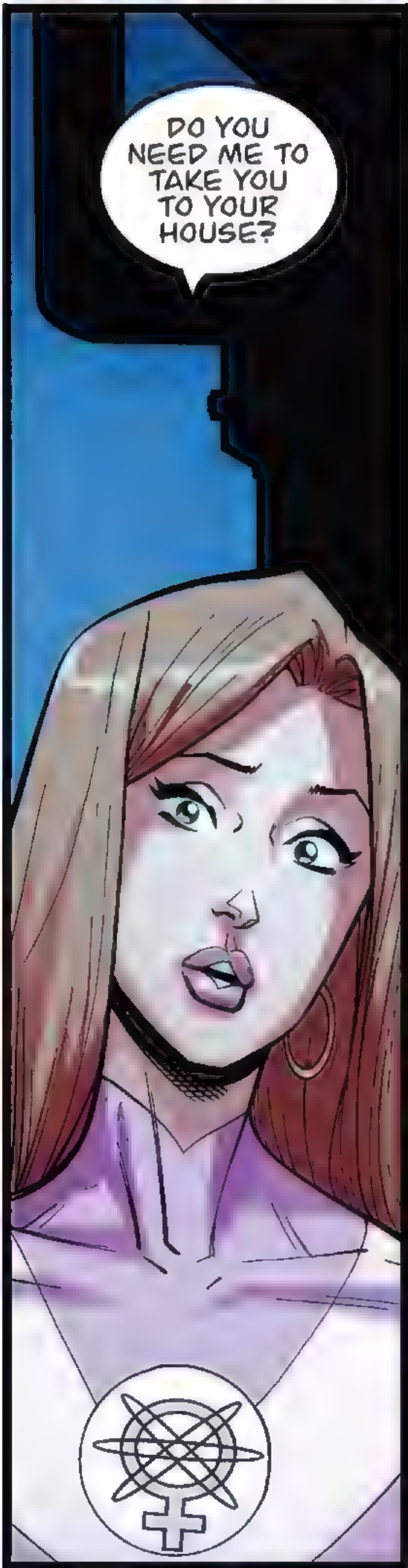




YOU NEED TO BE VERY CAREFUL.
SAVE LIVES YOU KNOW YOU CAN
SAVE... YOU HAVE TO DO THAT.
BUT DON'T GET TOO... CREATIVE.
YOU NEED TO BE
CAREFUL.

I JUST WORRY THAT BY
TRYING TO FIX SOMETHING...
YOU COULD JUST AS
EASILY MAKE THINGS
WORSE.

YEAH.
UNDERSTOOD.



DO YOU
NEED ME TO
TAKE YOU
TO YOUR
HOUSE?



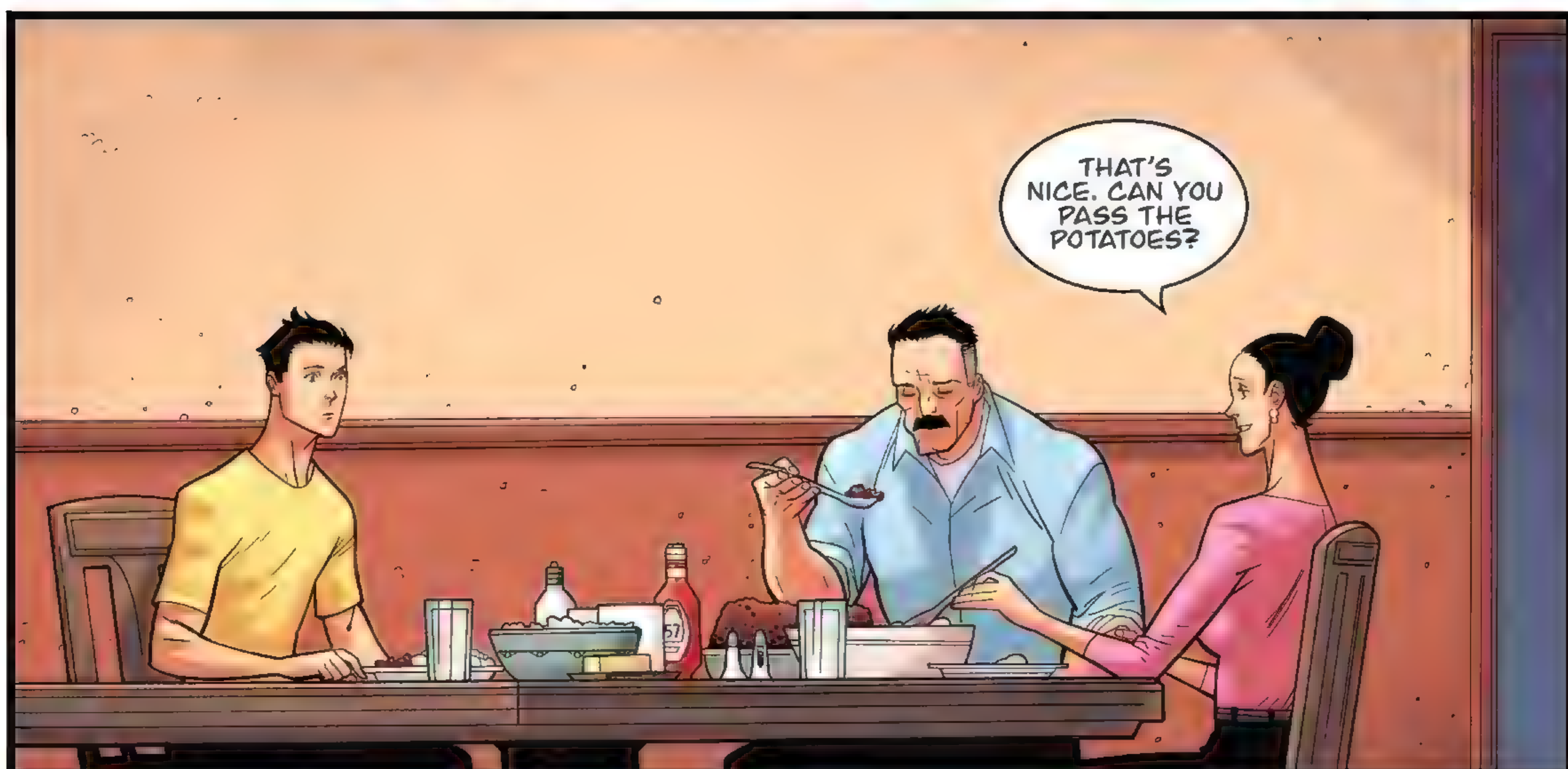
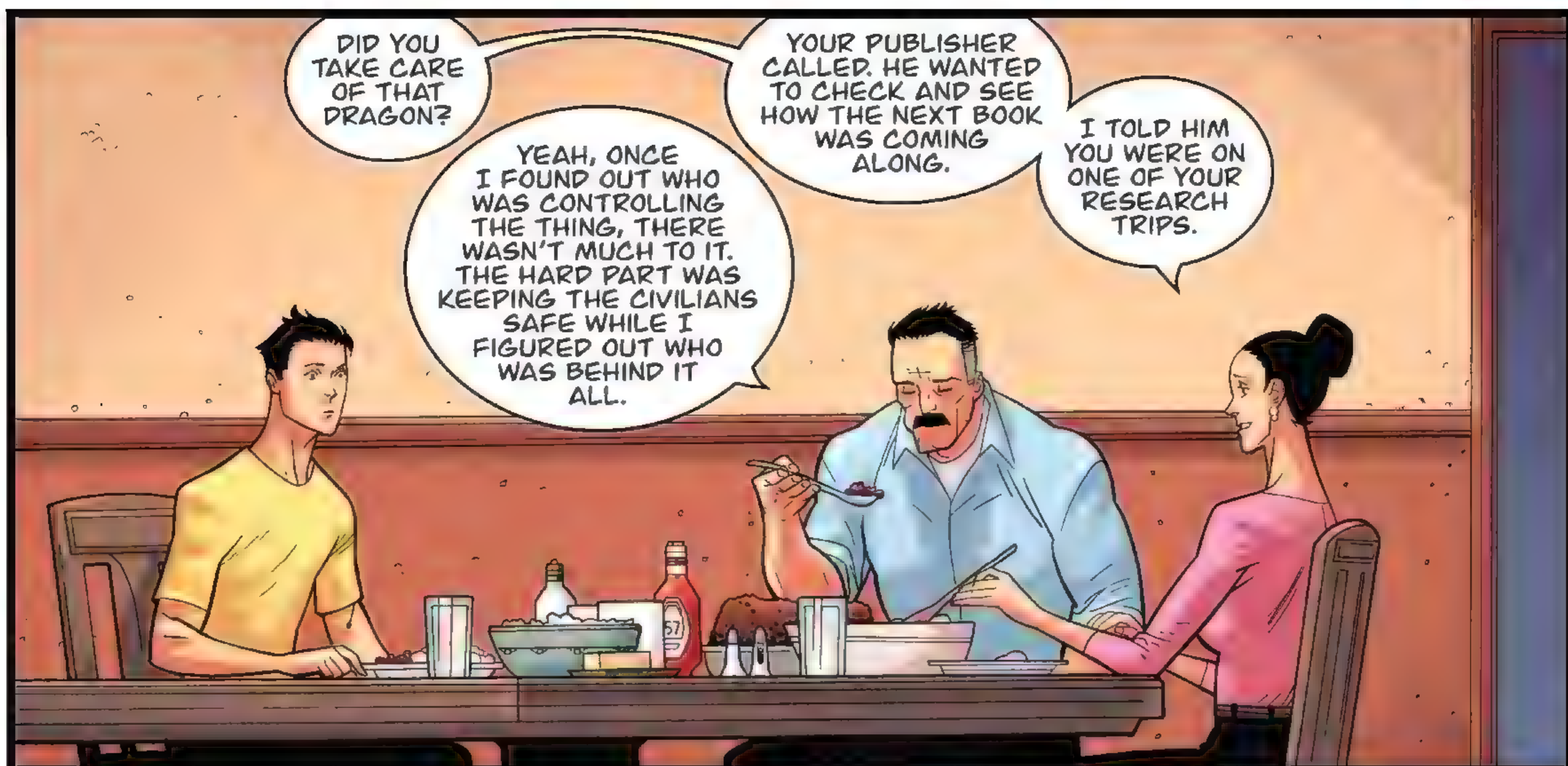
NO, I WAS
SUPPOSED TO
BE AT WORK
TODAY... AND MY
POWERS KICKED
IN THERE... SO
I MUST HAVE
THEM BY
NOW...

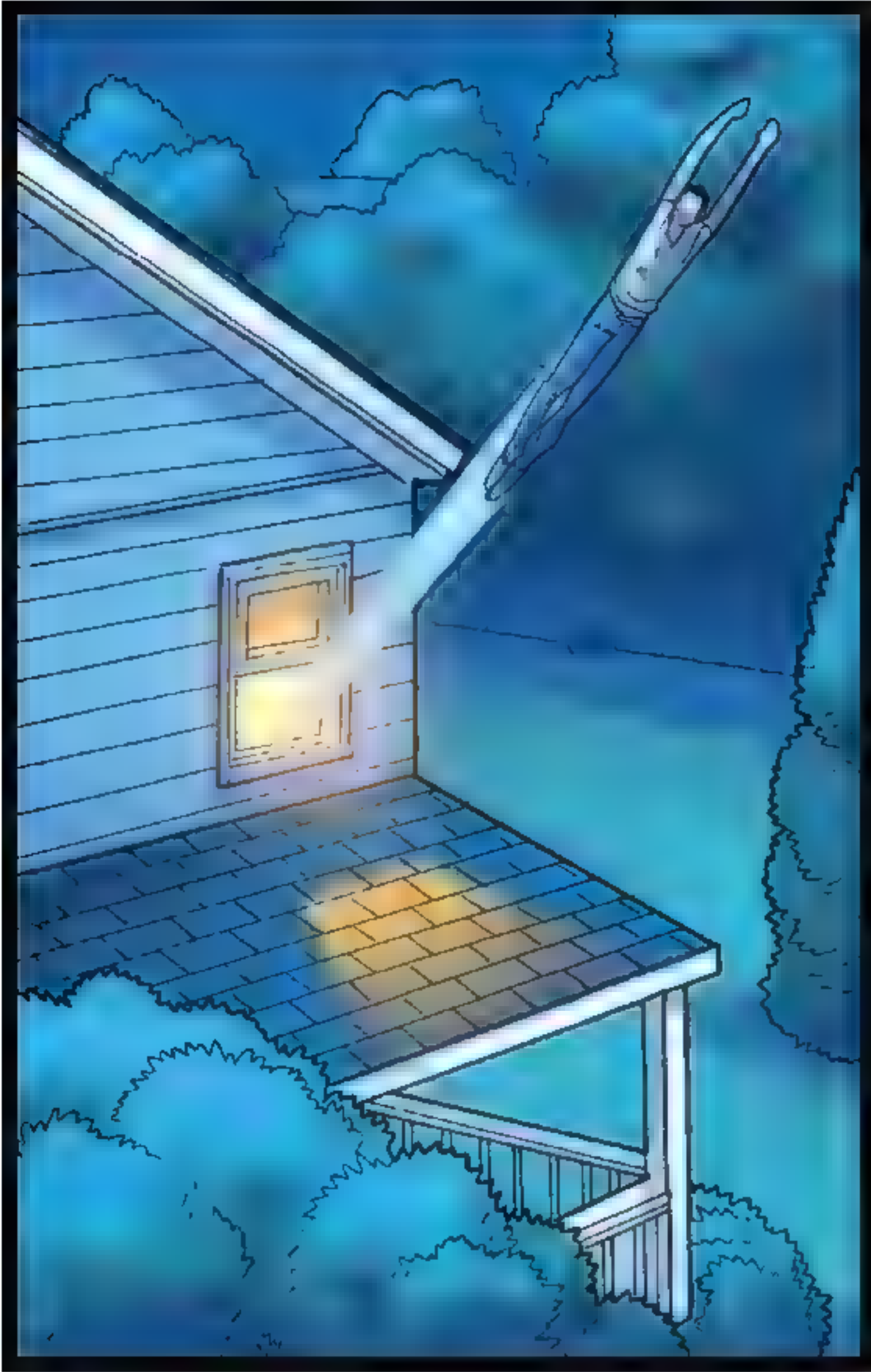


YEAH.
I'M
GOOD.



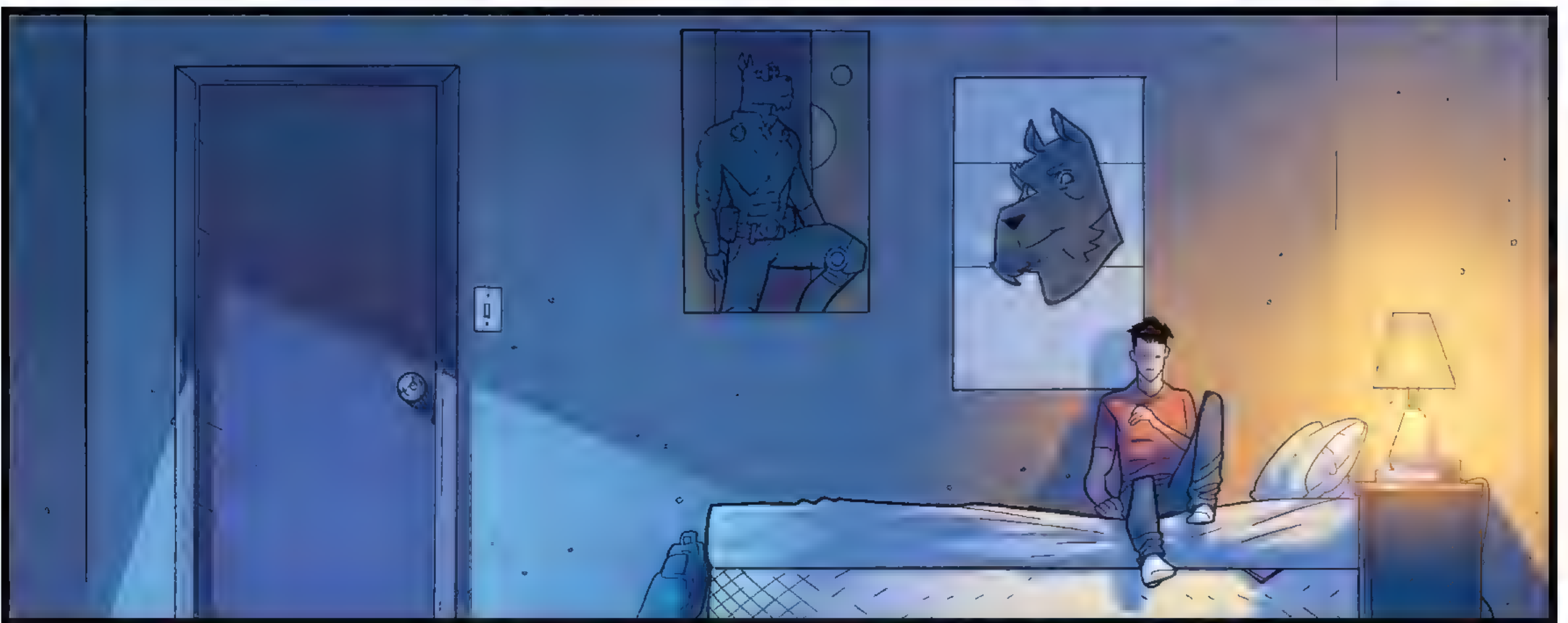
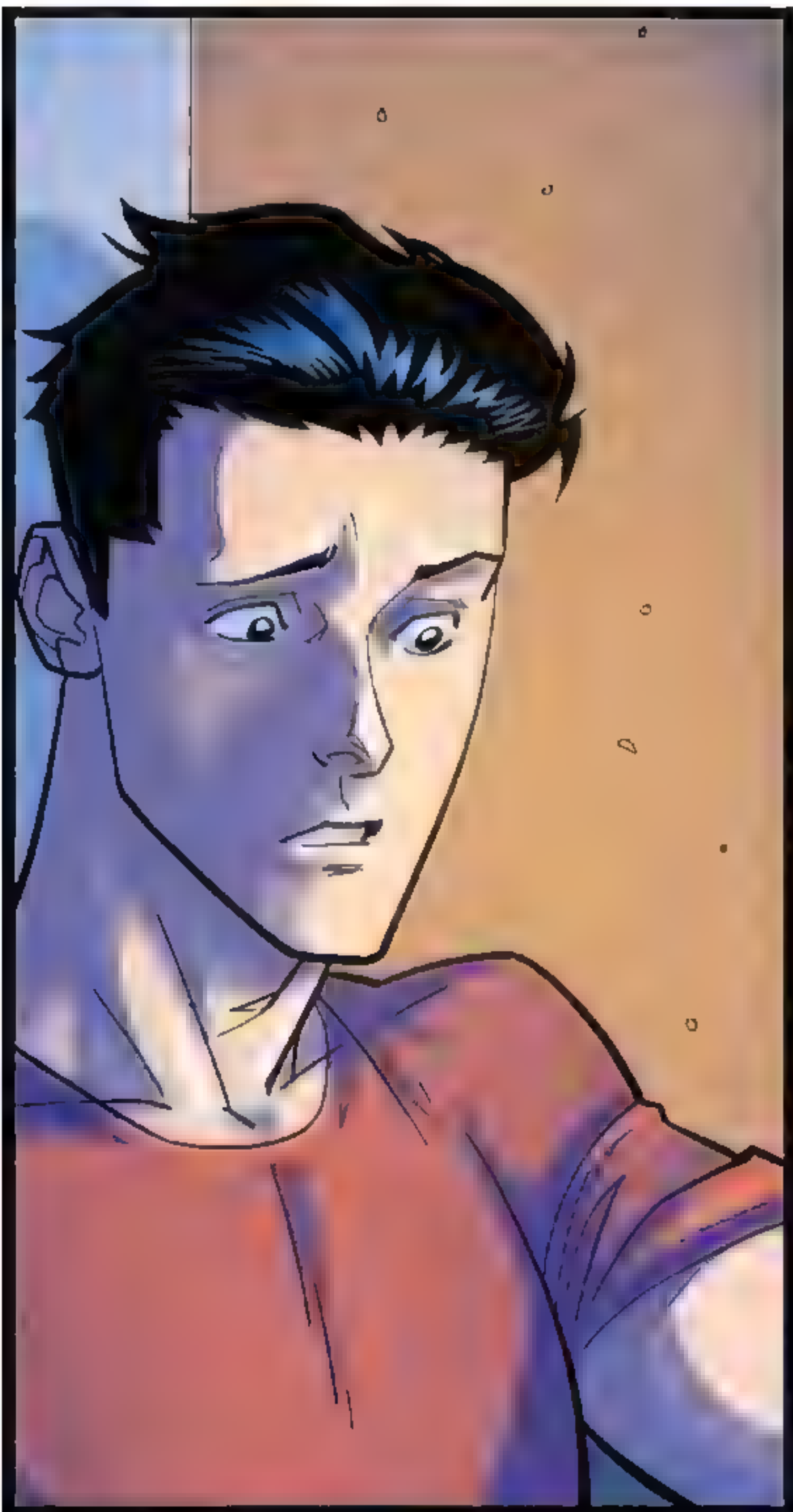
LATER!









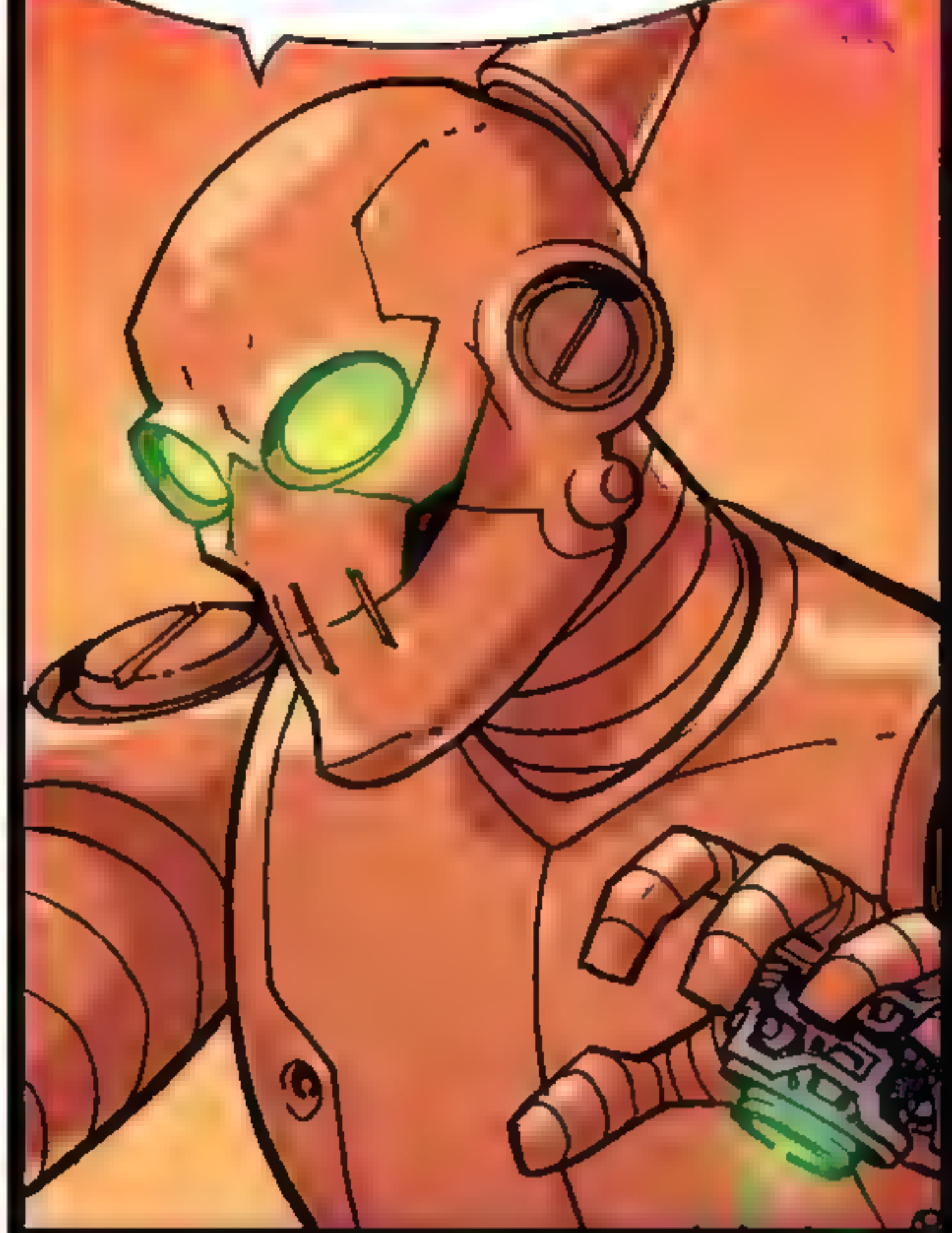




THAT'S
IT--
KEEP IT
UP!

WE JUST
NEED TO
HOLD THEM
IN PLACE!

I HAVE TO SAY, WHILE YOU HAVE BEEN NEARLY PROPHETIC IN THE PAST... I'M STARTING TO QUESTION YOU THIS TIME.



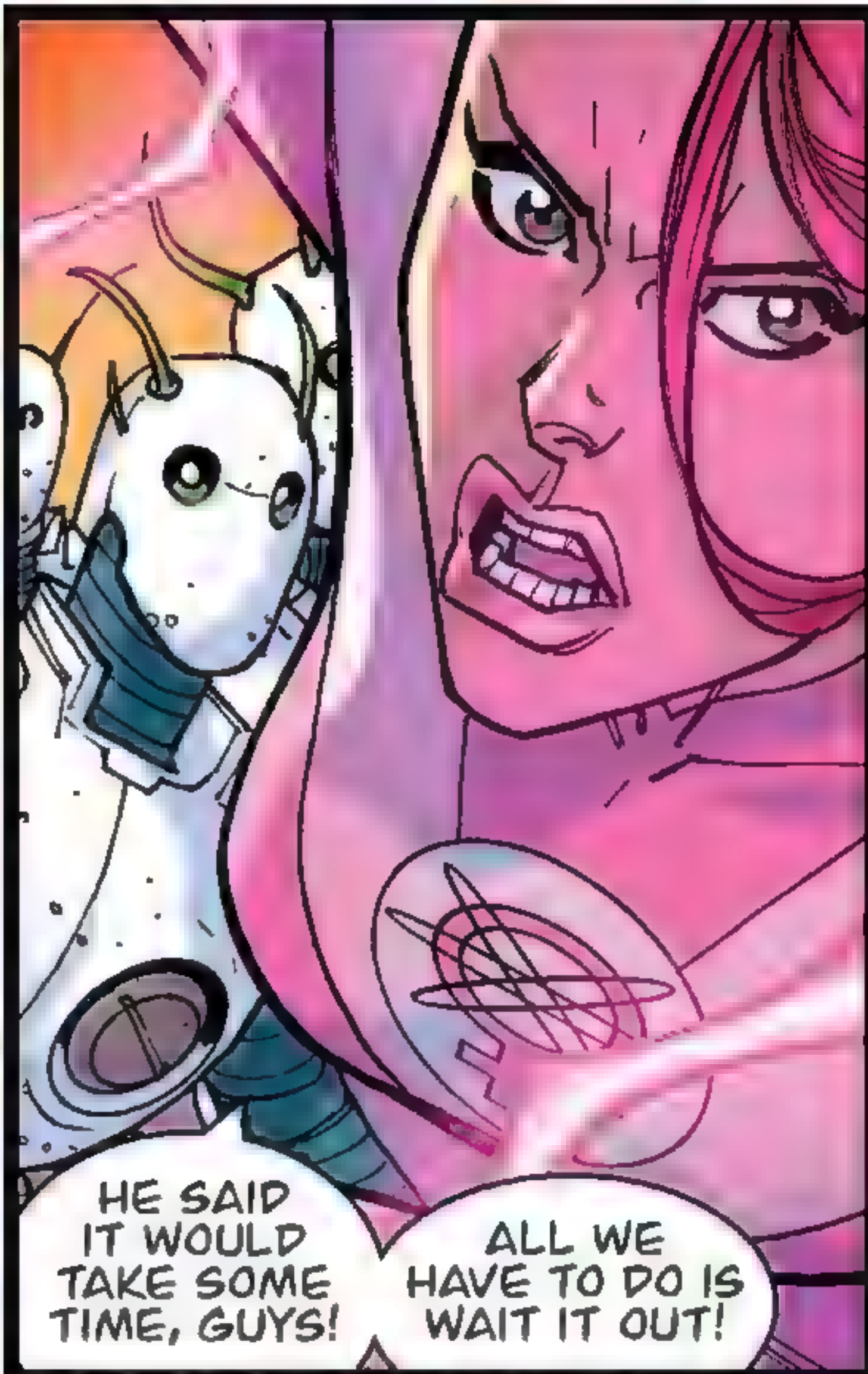
YEAH! I AGREE WITH ROBOT!

THESE GUYS AREN'T GETTING OLD AT ALL!



HE SAID IT WOULD TAKE SOME TIME, GUYS!

ALL WE HAVE TO DO IS WAIT IT OUT!



EXACTLY!

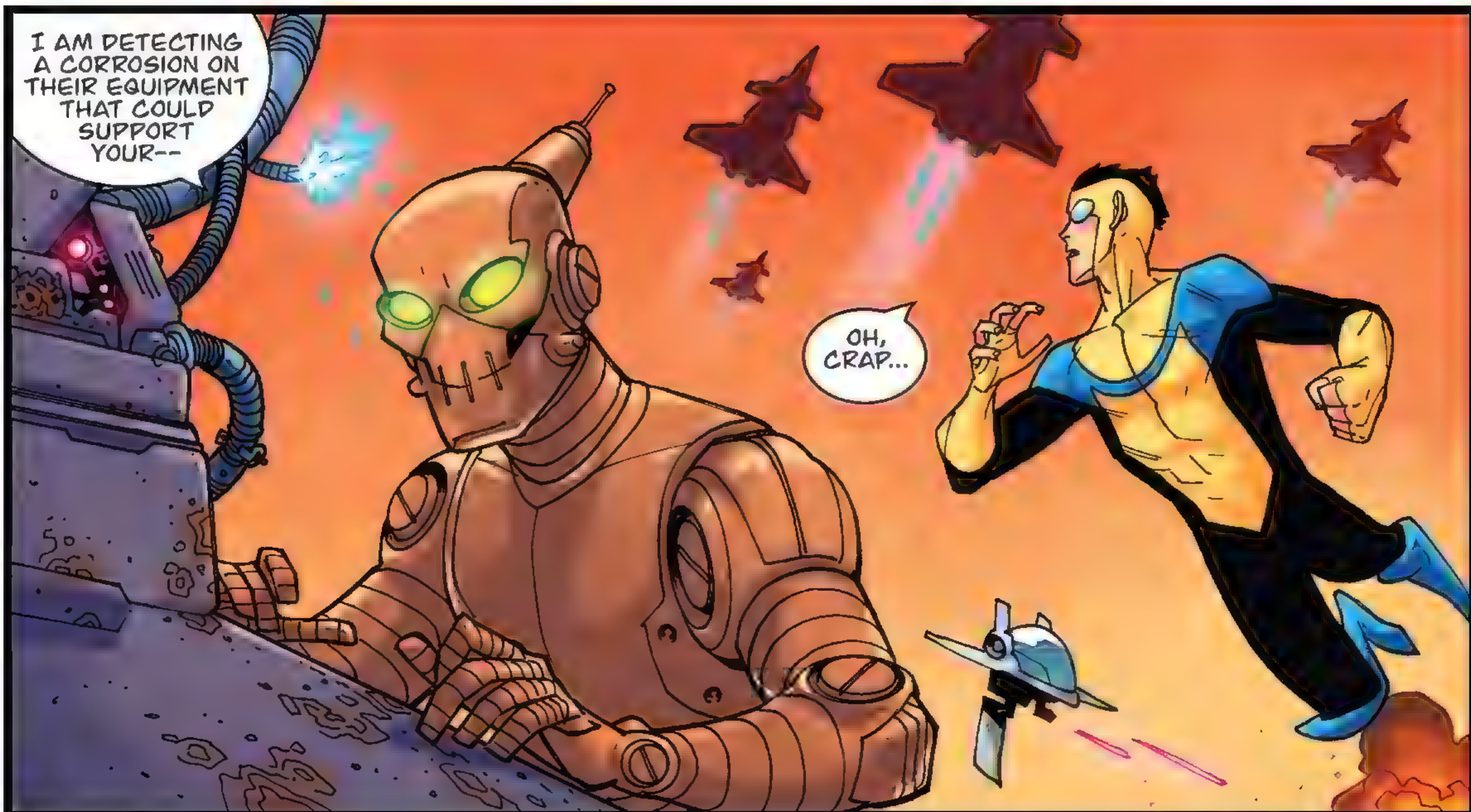
I SWEAR THESE GUYS ARE GOING TO LOOK LIKE GRAMPAS SOON, AND THEY'RE GOING TO CRAWL BACK INTO THAT PORTAL.

I WISH THEY'D HURRY UP ALREADY!

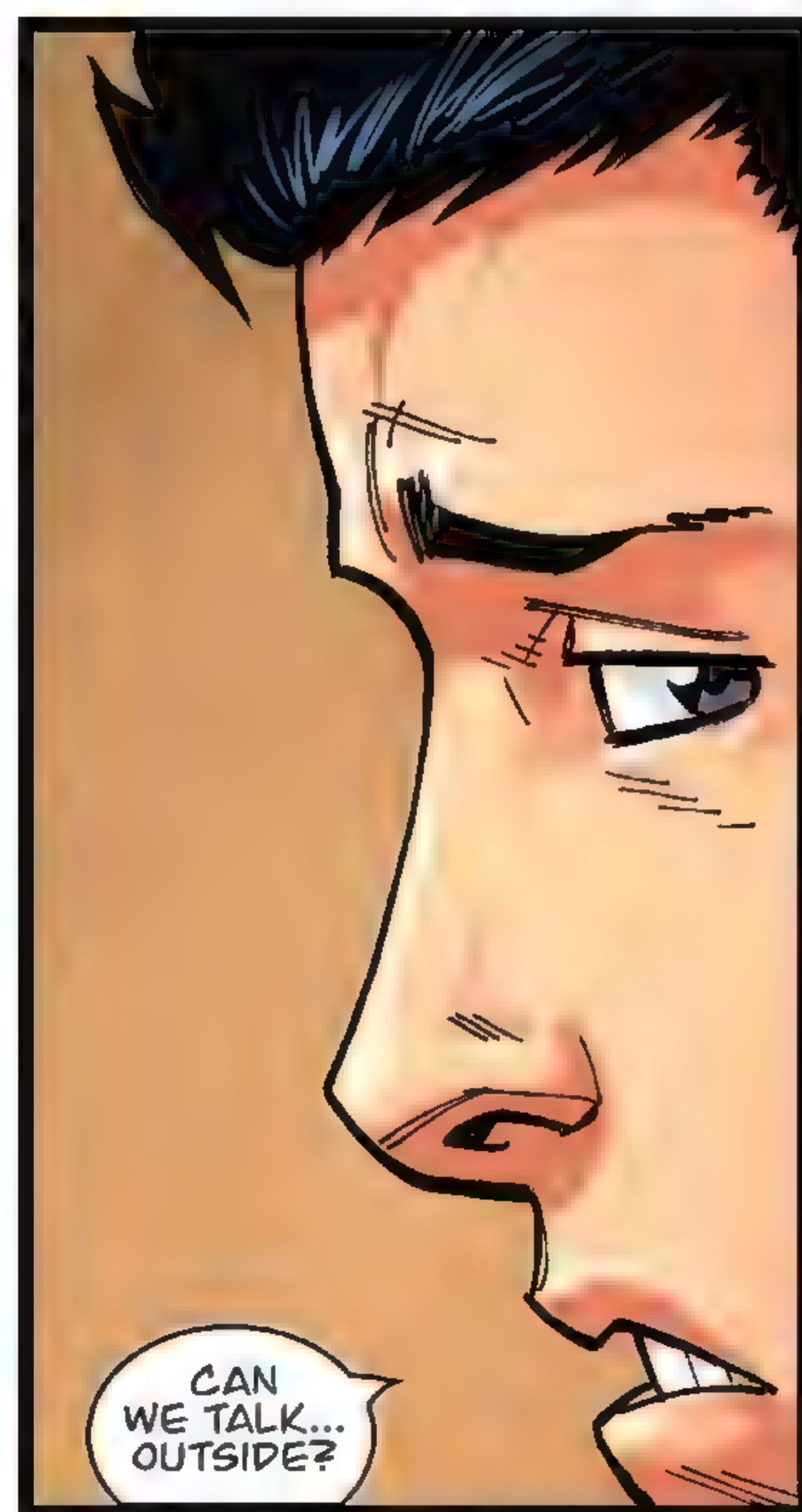


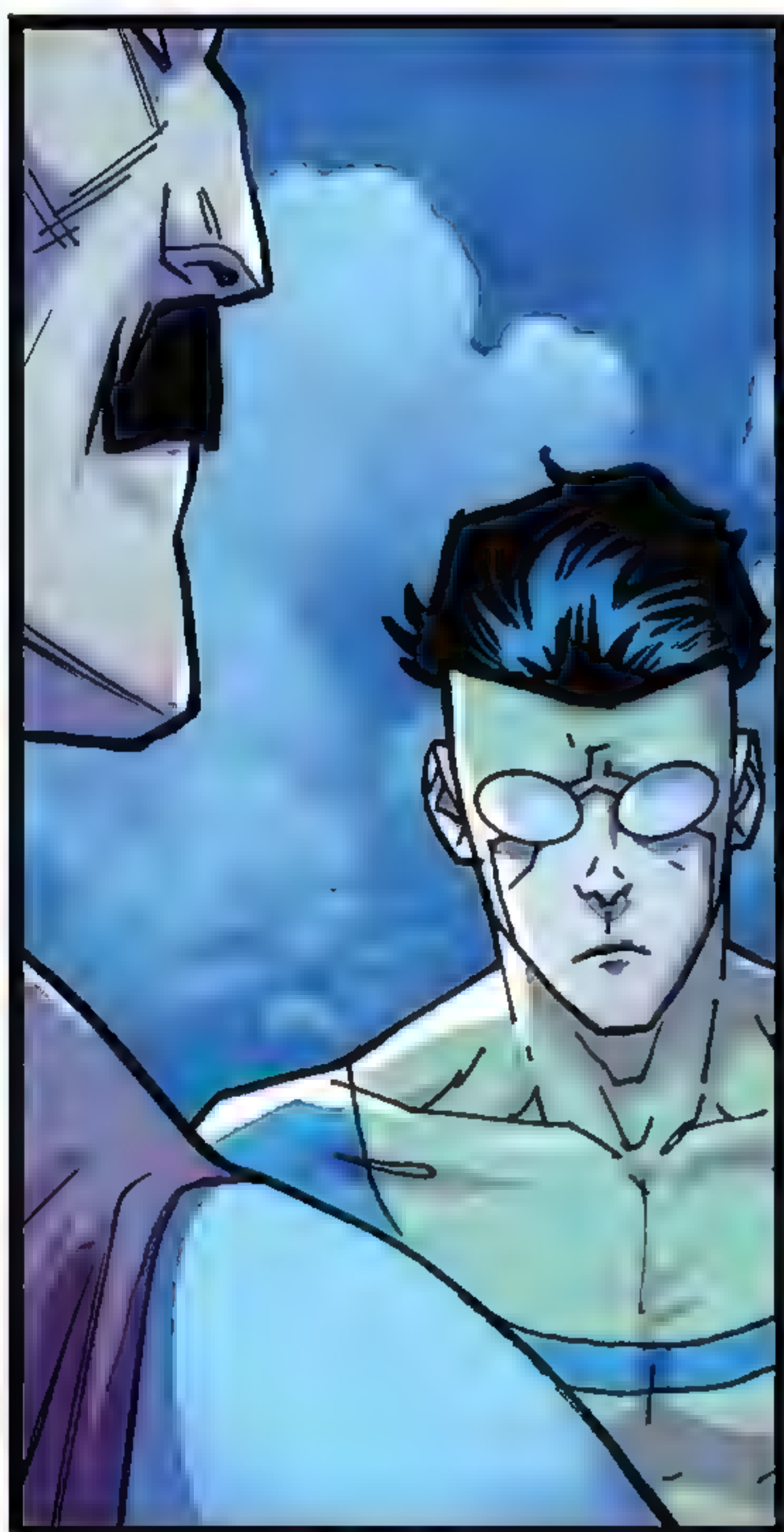
I AM DETECTING A CORROSION ON THEIR EQUIPMENT THAT COULD SUPPORT YOUR--

OH, CRAP...











BECAUSE
I NEED YOU
TO ANSWER
IT.

I NEED YOU
TO **THINK** ABOUT
IT... **REALLY**
CONSIDER IT. AND
I WANT YOU TO
KNOW WHAT YOUR
ANSWER **TRULY**
IS... OKAY?

MOM
AND ME...
DO YOU
LOVE
US?

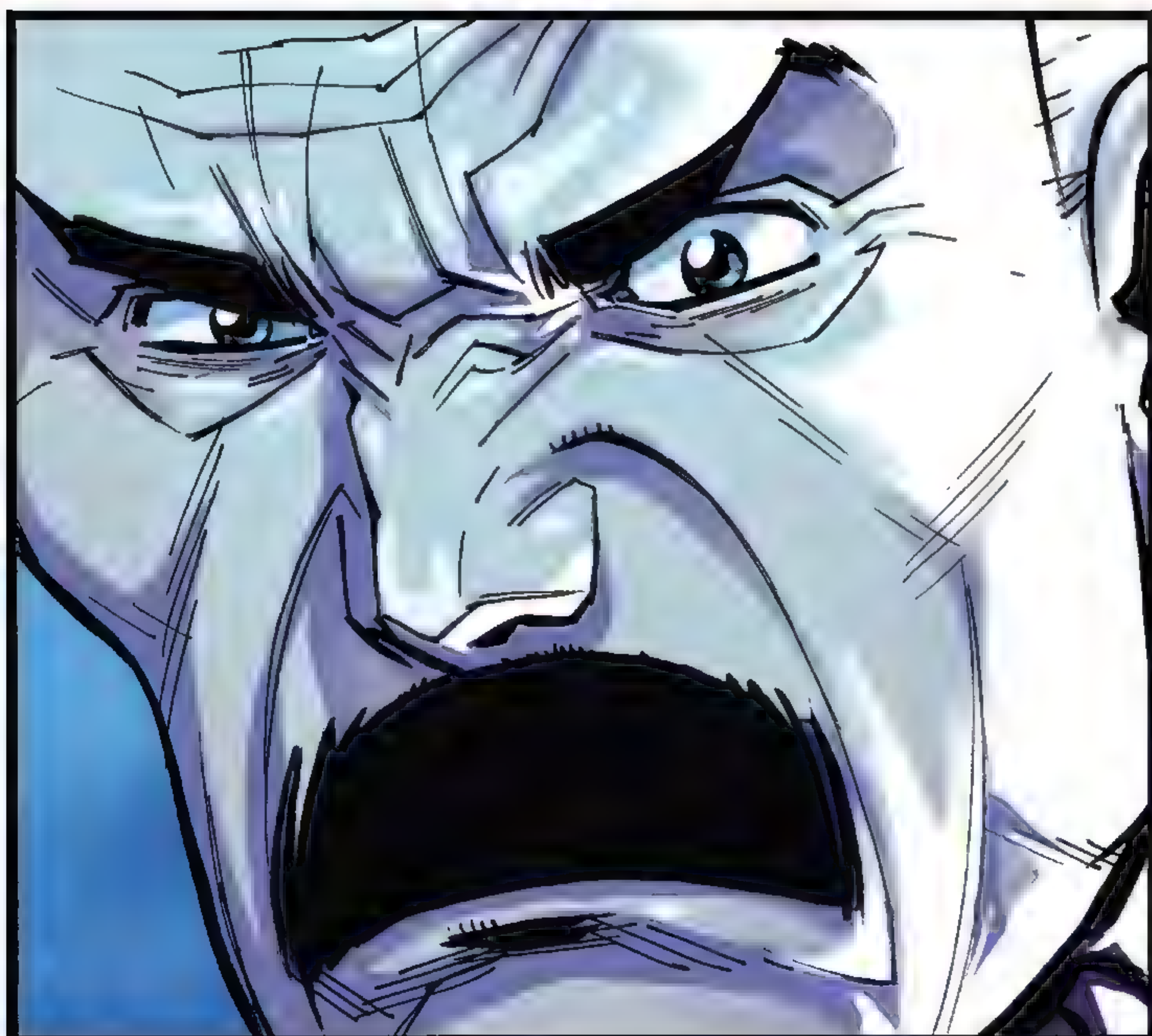


YES...
I...
...I
DO.



I TRULY
LOVE YOUR
MOTHER
AND YOU...
DEEPLY.

YOU'RE
BOTH... VERY
IMPORTANT
TO ME.





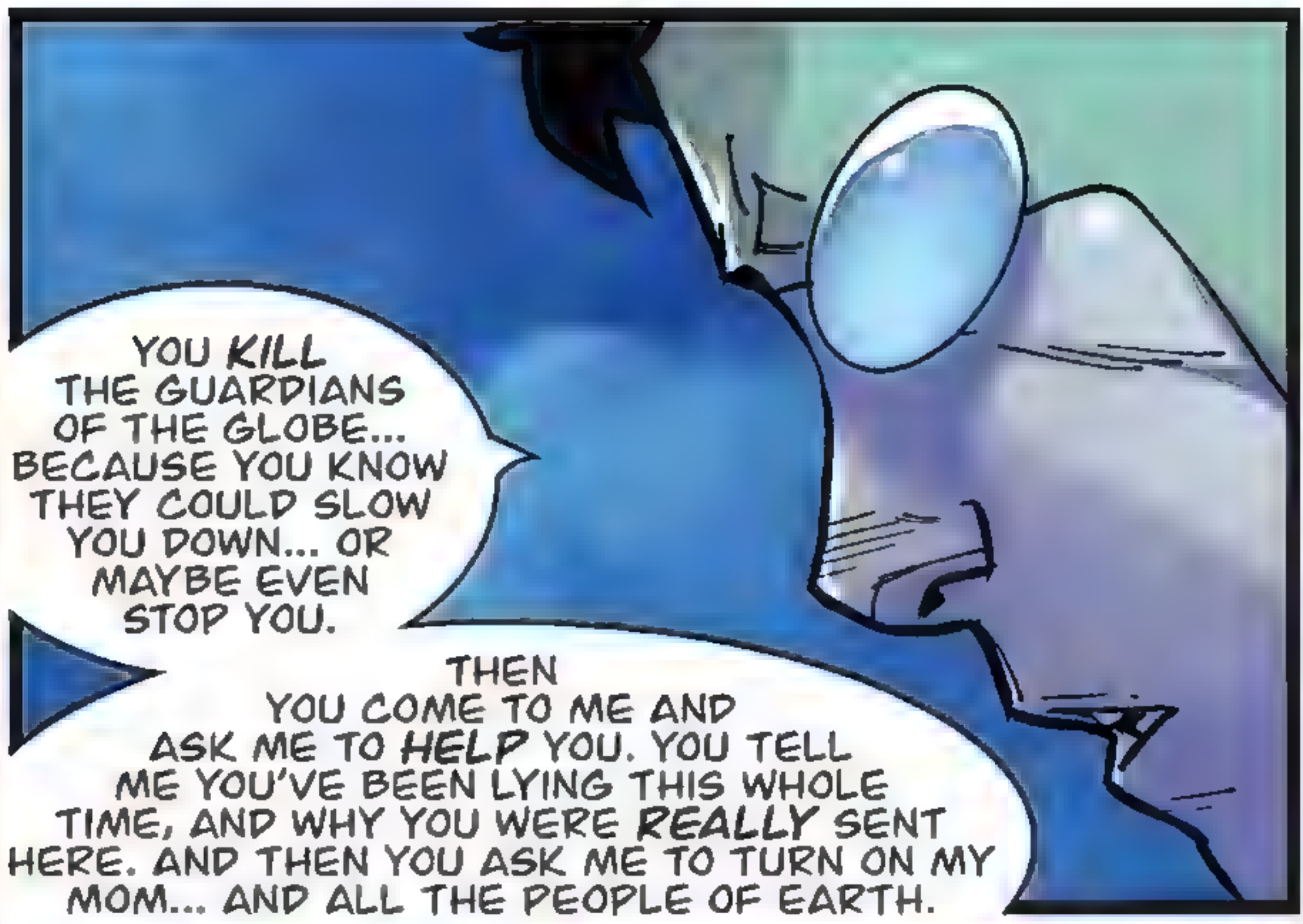
CHAPTER 125





LET ME
TELL YOU
WHAT
HAPPENS
NEXT.

FIRST... NOW THAT
YOU KNOW I HAVE
POWERS... AND THAT
OUR PEOPLE CAN
CREATE OFFSPRING THAT
HAVE OUR POWERS WITH
THE PEOPLE OF THIS
PLANET... YOU START
MAKING PLANS TO
TAKE OVER.



YOU KILL
THE GUARDIANS
OF THE GLOBE...
BECAUSE YOU KNOW
THEY COULD SLOW
YOU DOWN... OR
MAYBE EVEN
STOP YOU.

THEN
YOU COME TO ME AND
ASK ME TO **HELP** YOU. YOU TELL
ME YOU'VE BEEN LYING THIS WHOLE
TIME, AND WHY YOU WERE **REALLY** SENT
HERE. AND THEN YOU ASK ME TO TURN ON MY
MOM... AND ALL THE PEOPLE OF EARTH.



AND I
REFUSE.



I TRY TO TALK SENSE INTO
YOU... TO TALK YOU OUT OF IT...
BUT YOU DON'T LISTEN AND
WE FIGHT... AND YOU NEARLY
KILL ME. BUT RIGHT
BEFORE YOU DO...
YOU STOP.

LATER YOU
TELL ME THAT
YOU HESITATED,
BECAUSE YOU
REALIZED HOW
MUCH YOU LOVE
ME... AND
MOM.

EVENTUALLY...
WE REBEL
AGAINST THE
VILTRUM EMPIRE
TOGETHER...
AND WE WIN.

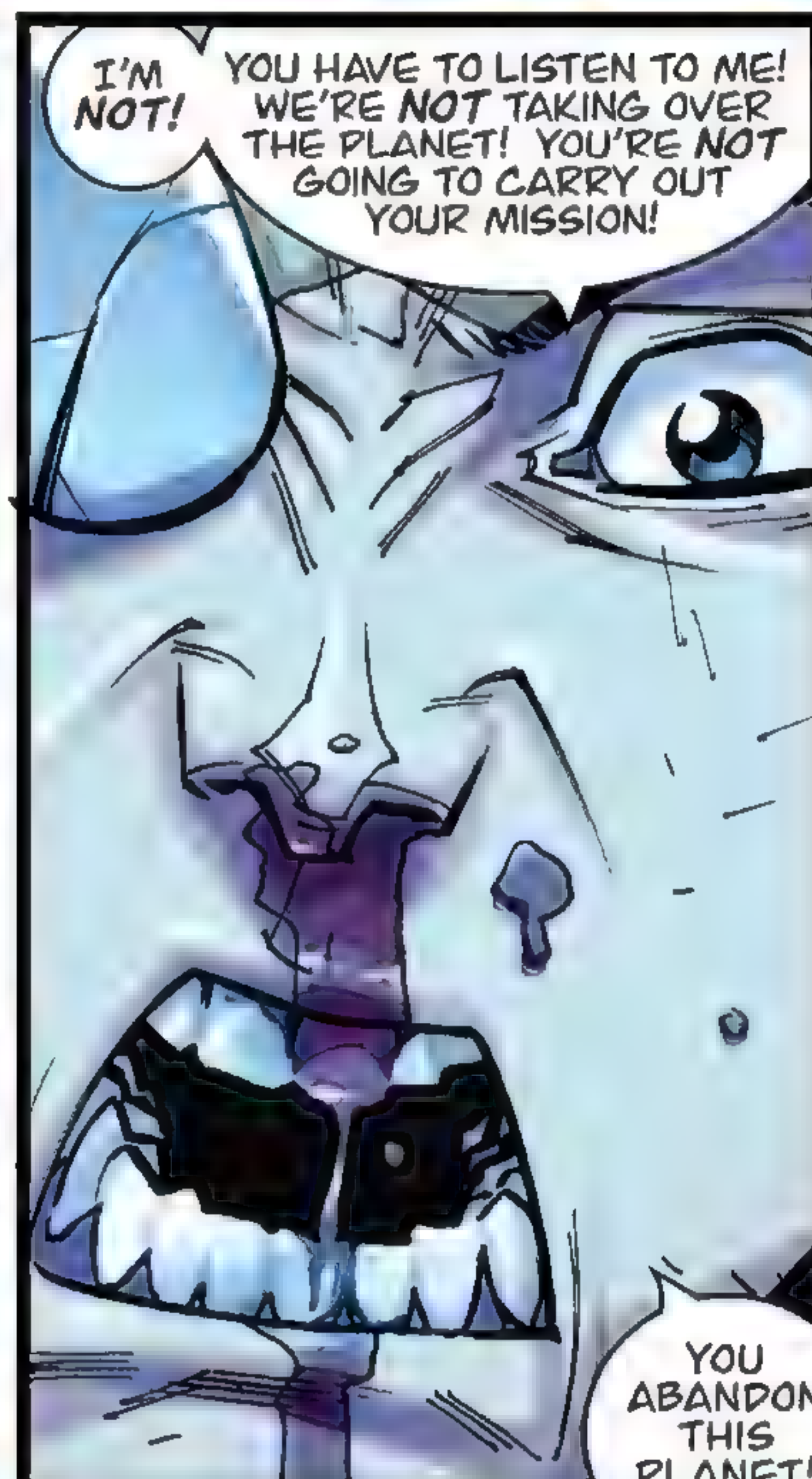


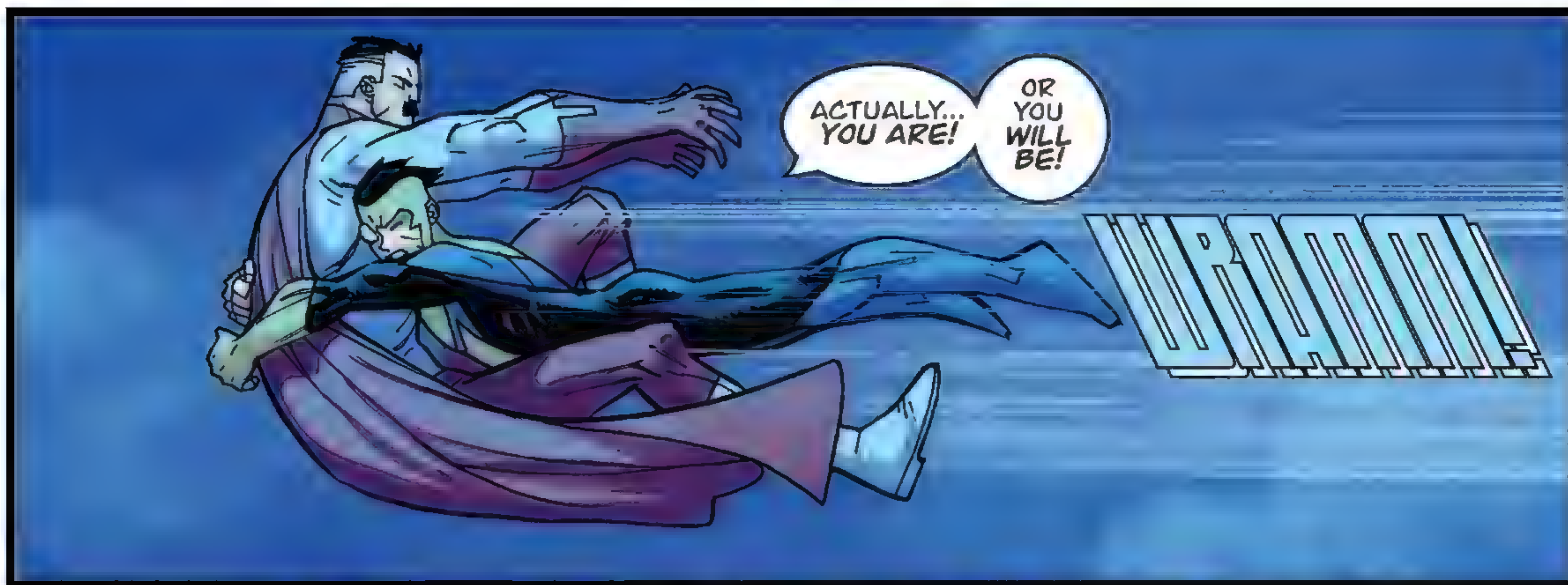
I DON'T KNOW WHAT'S
GOING THROUGH YOUR
HEAD RIGHT NOW...
BUT CAN WE JUST
KEEP TALKING
THIS OVER?

I KNOW THIS
SOUNDS CRAZY...
BUT I **DON'T**
WANT TO FIGHT
YOU AGAIN.

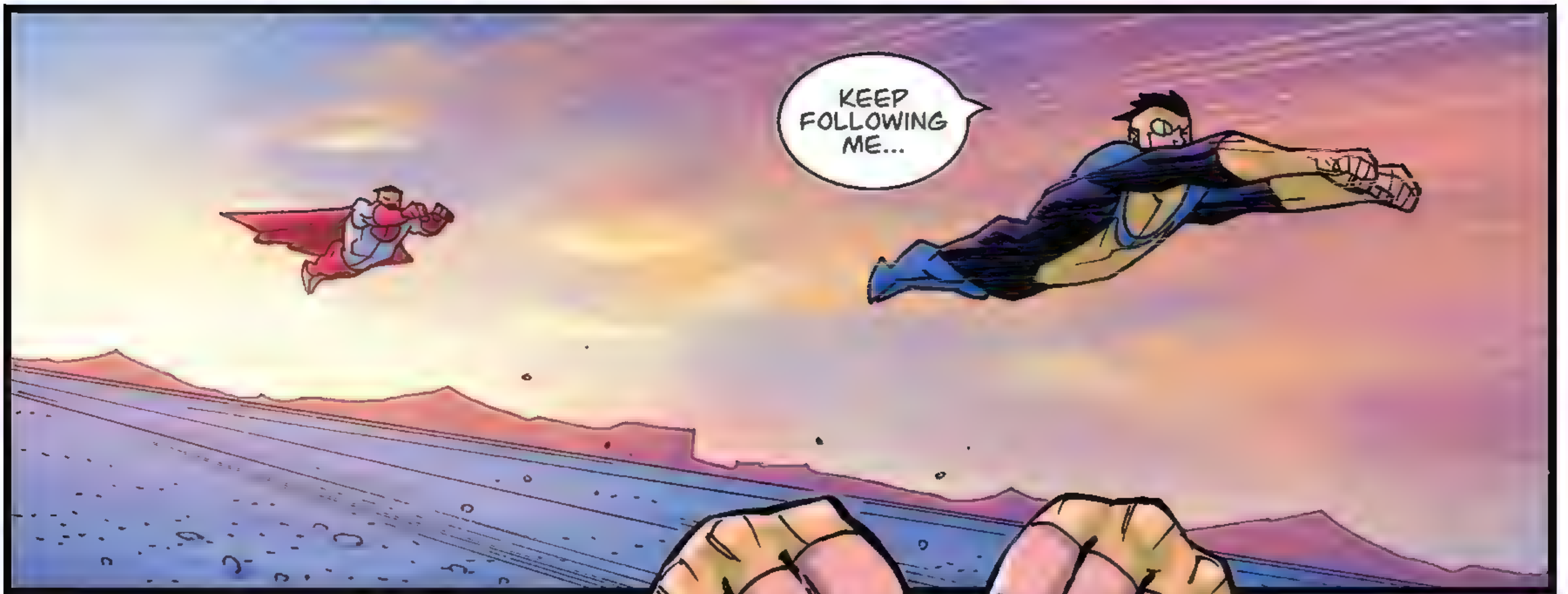
I **REALLY**
DON'T WANT
TO.

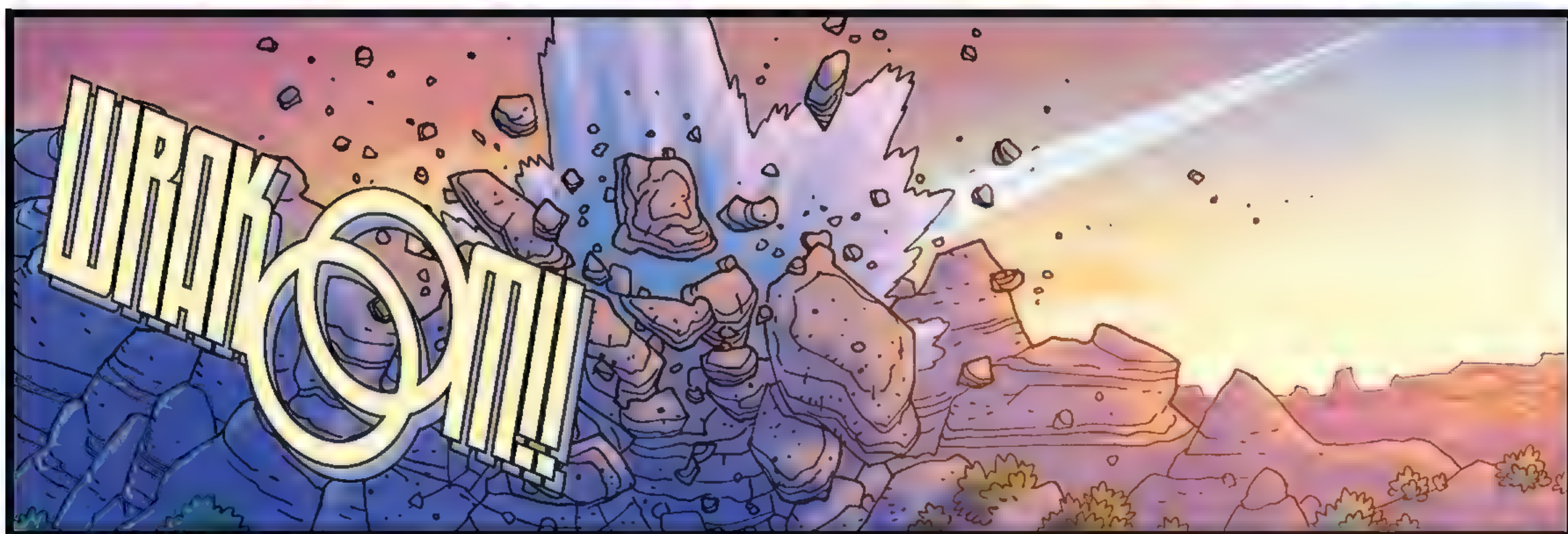
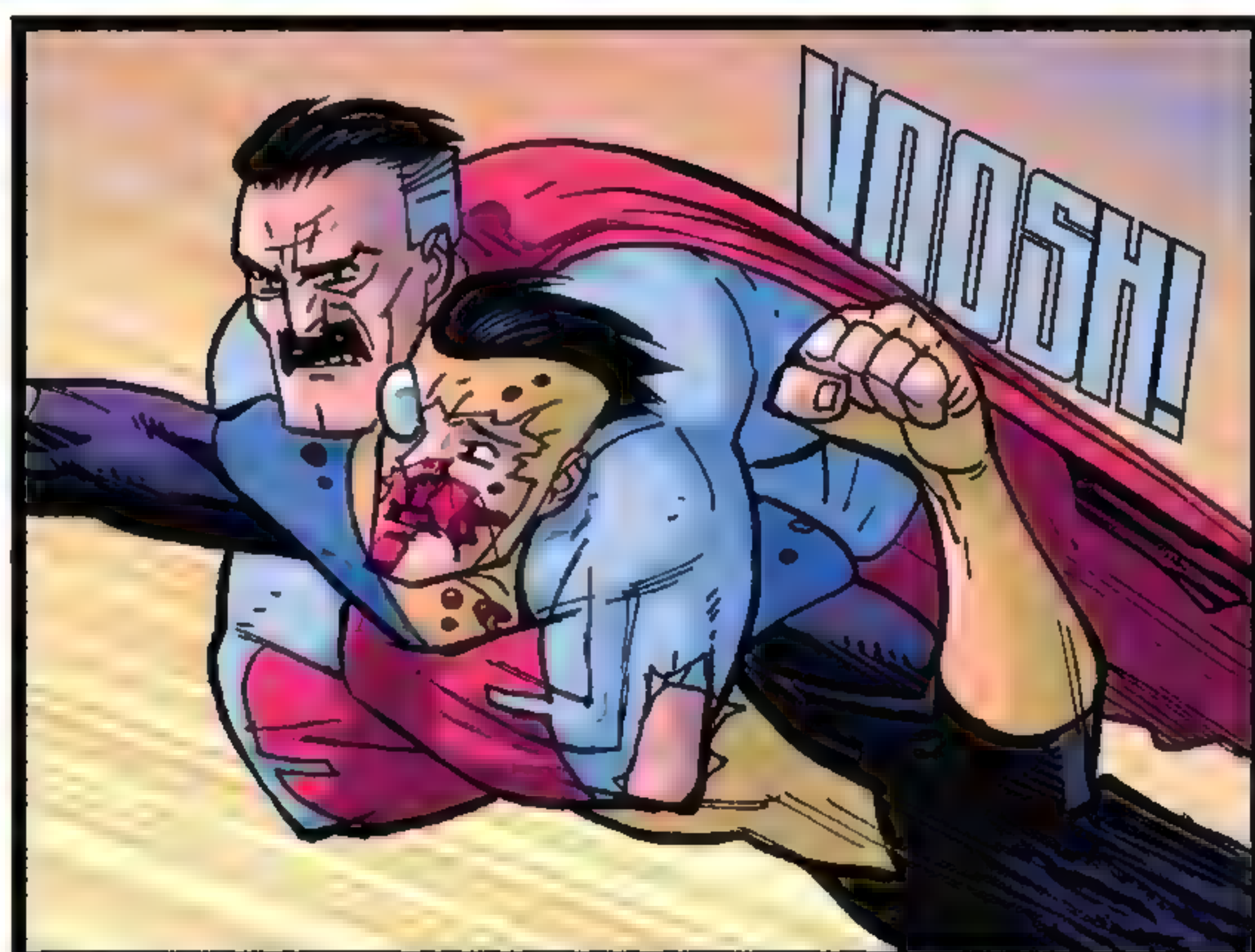
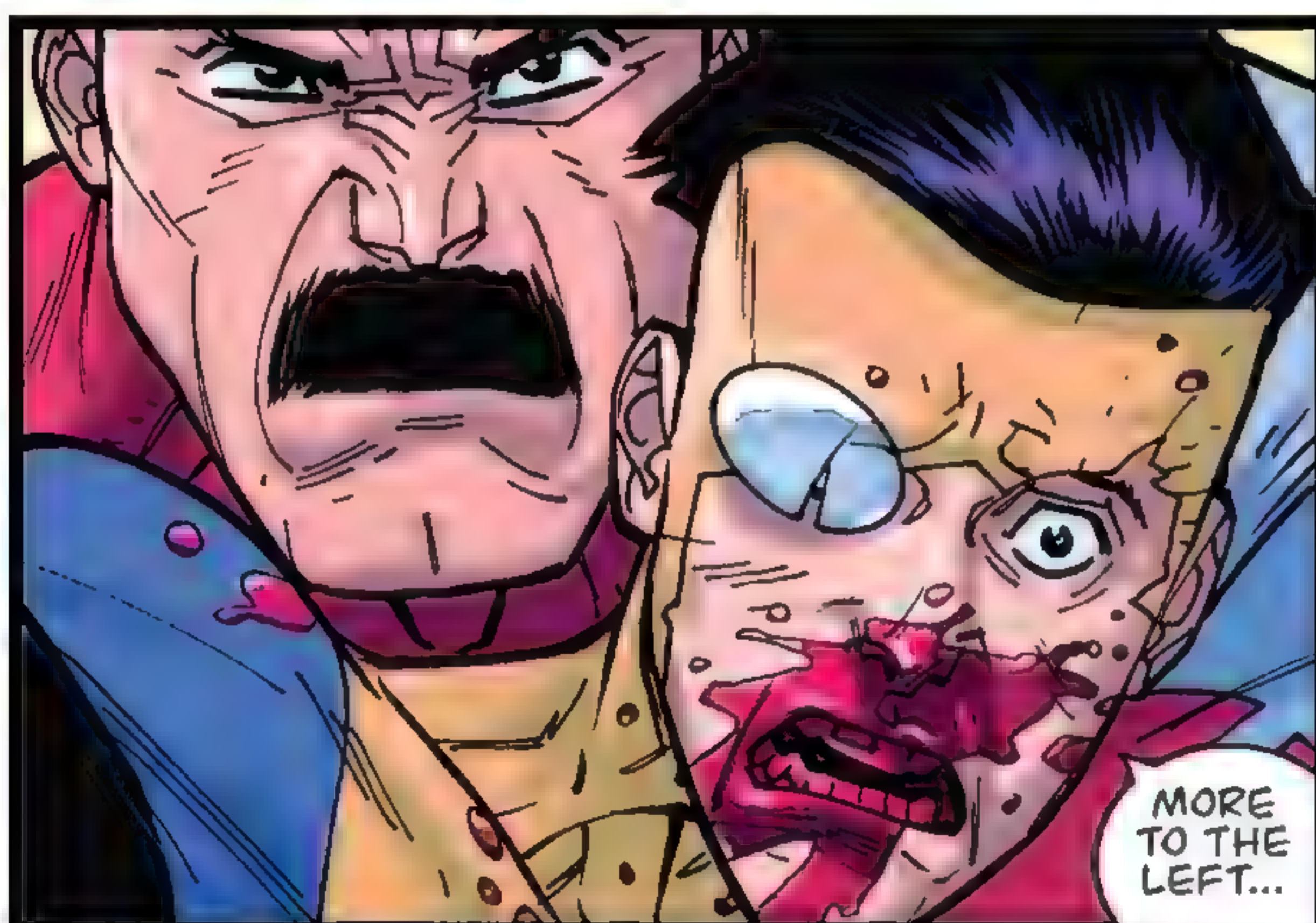








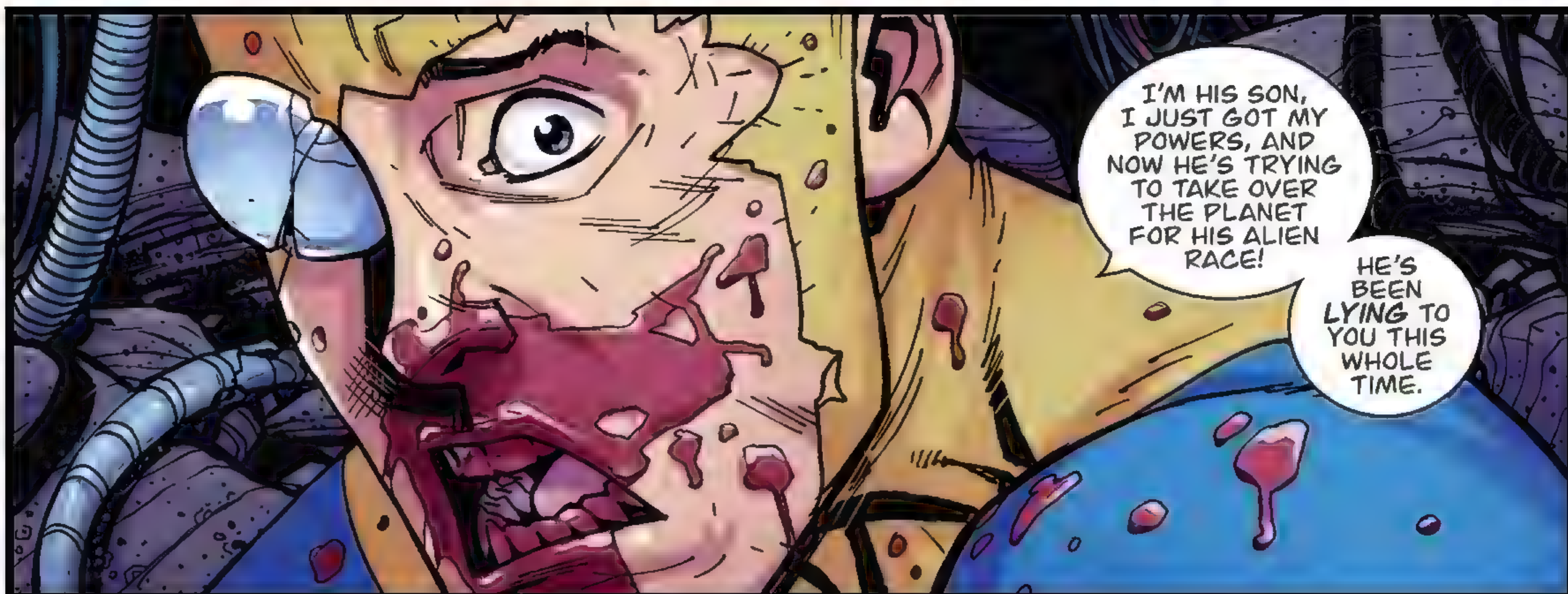






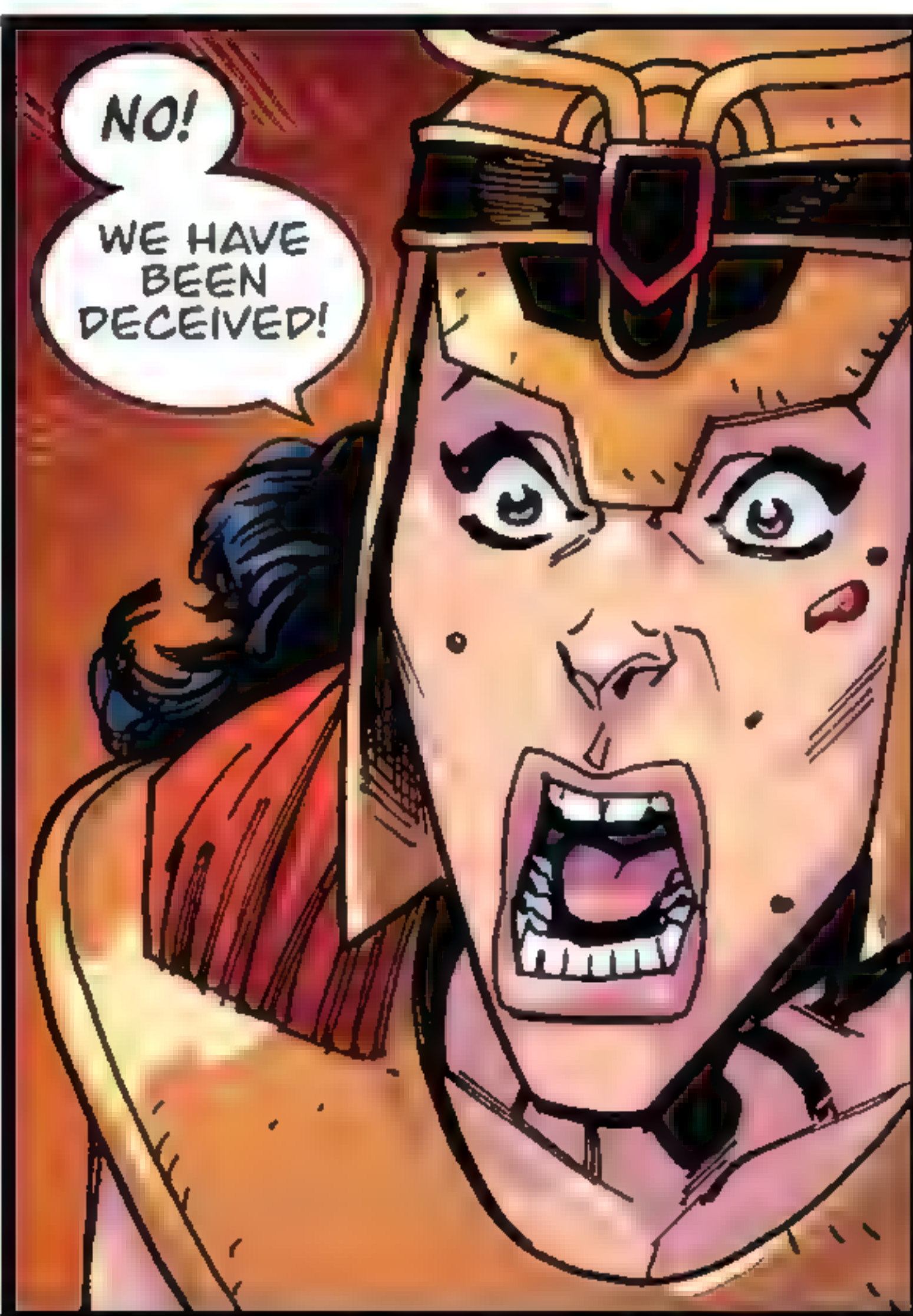
OMNI-MAN?!

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?



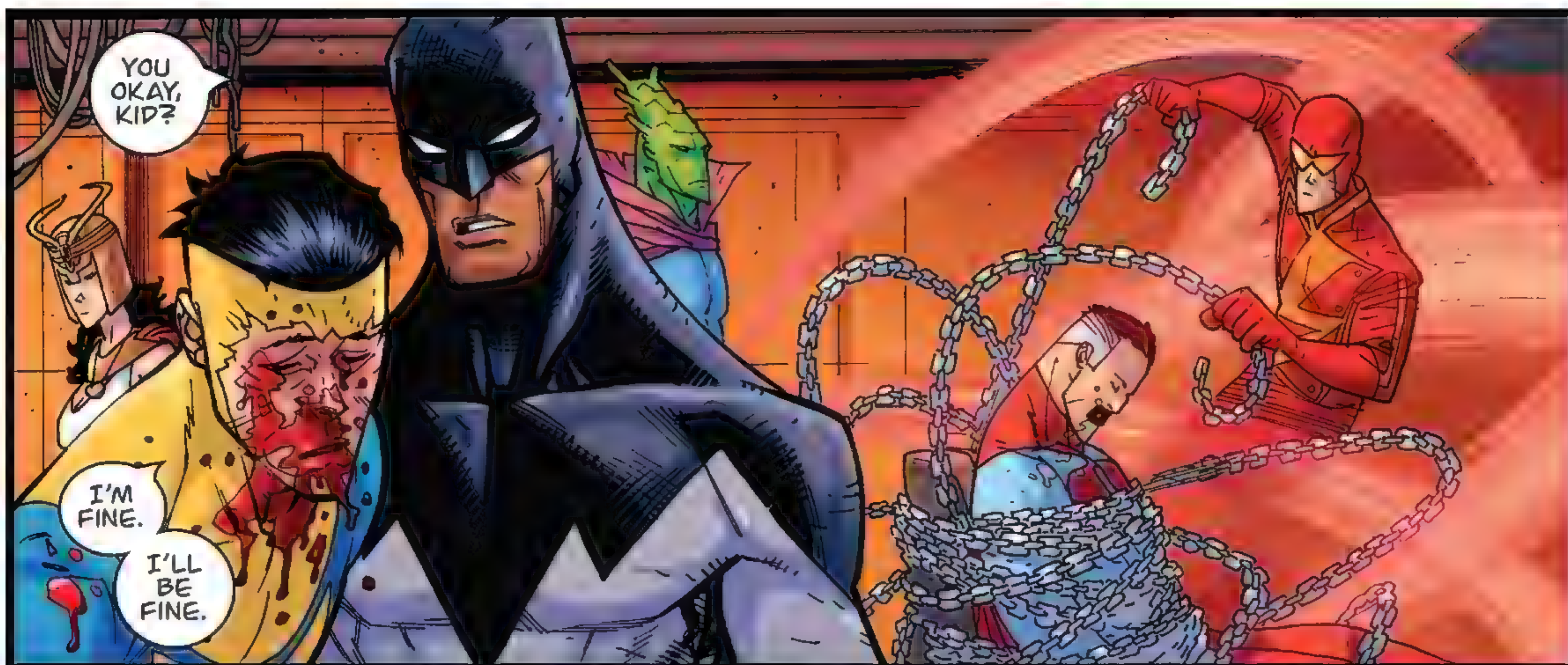




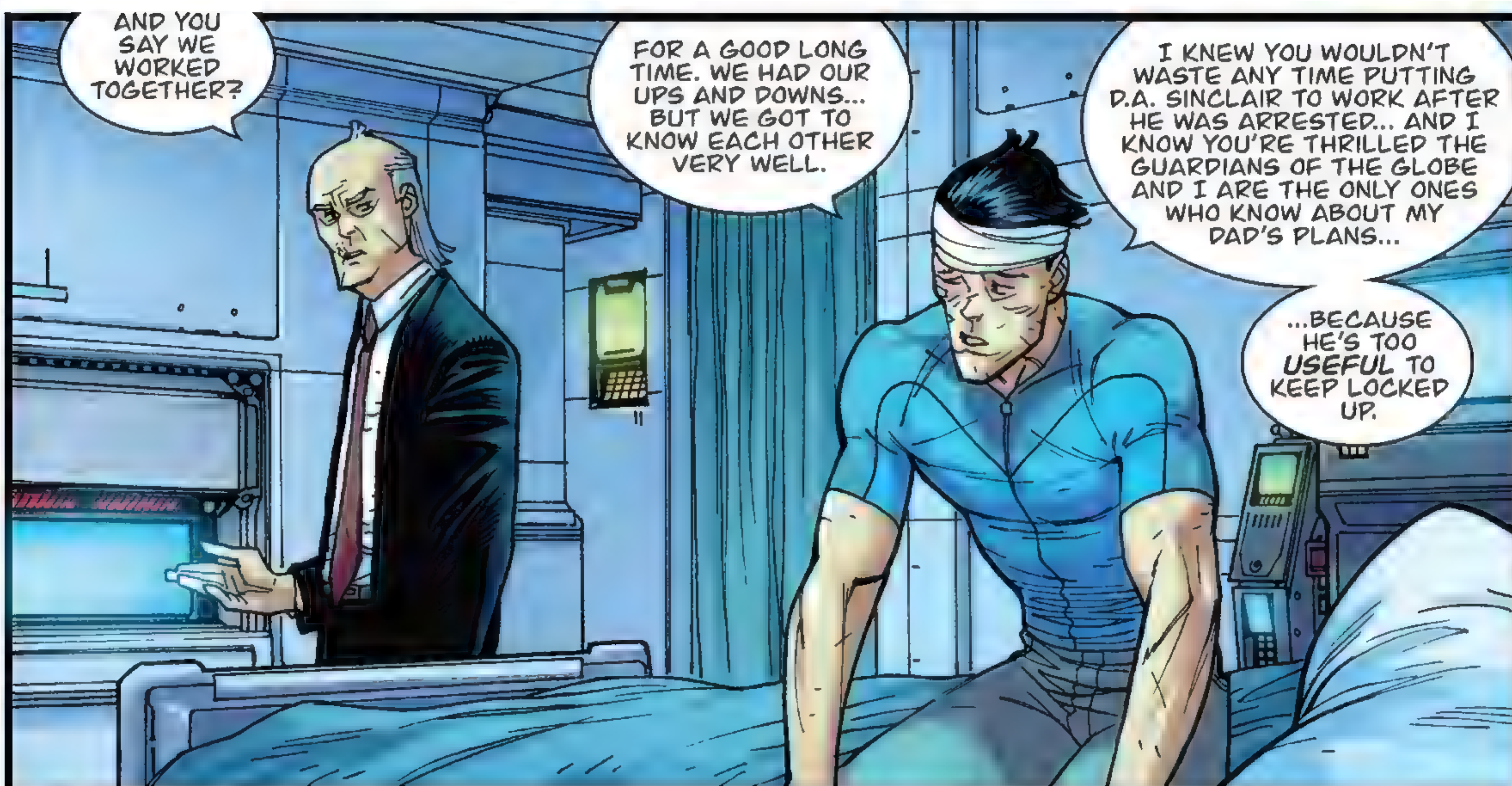
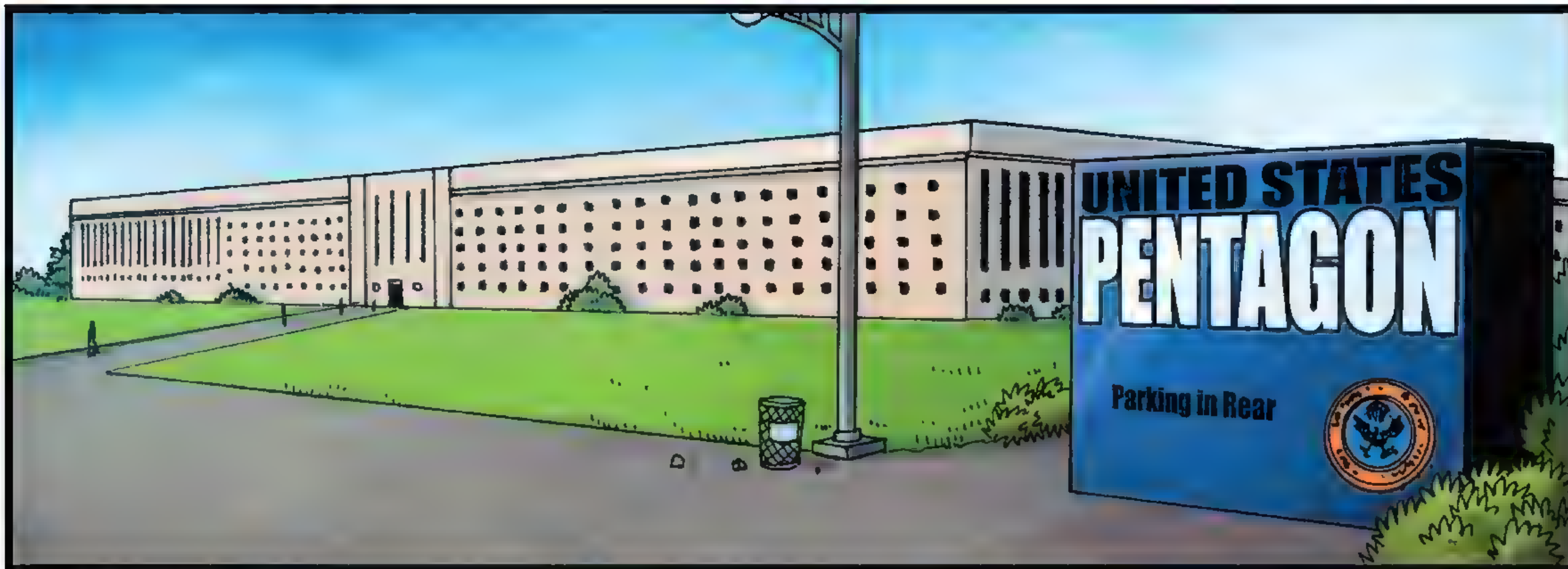














YOU KNOW
WHAT'S OUT
THERE, KID.
YOU KNOW WE
NEED HIM.

IF YOU THINK
YOU CAN TALK
SENSE INTO HIM...
GET HIM BACK
ON THE RIGHT
SIDE OF THINGS...



GO AHEAD
AND GET
STARTED.



...

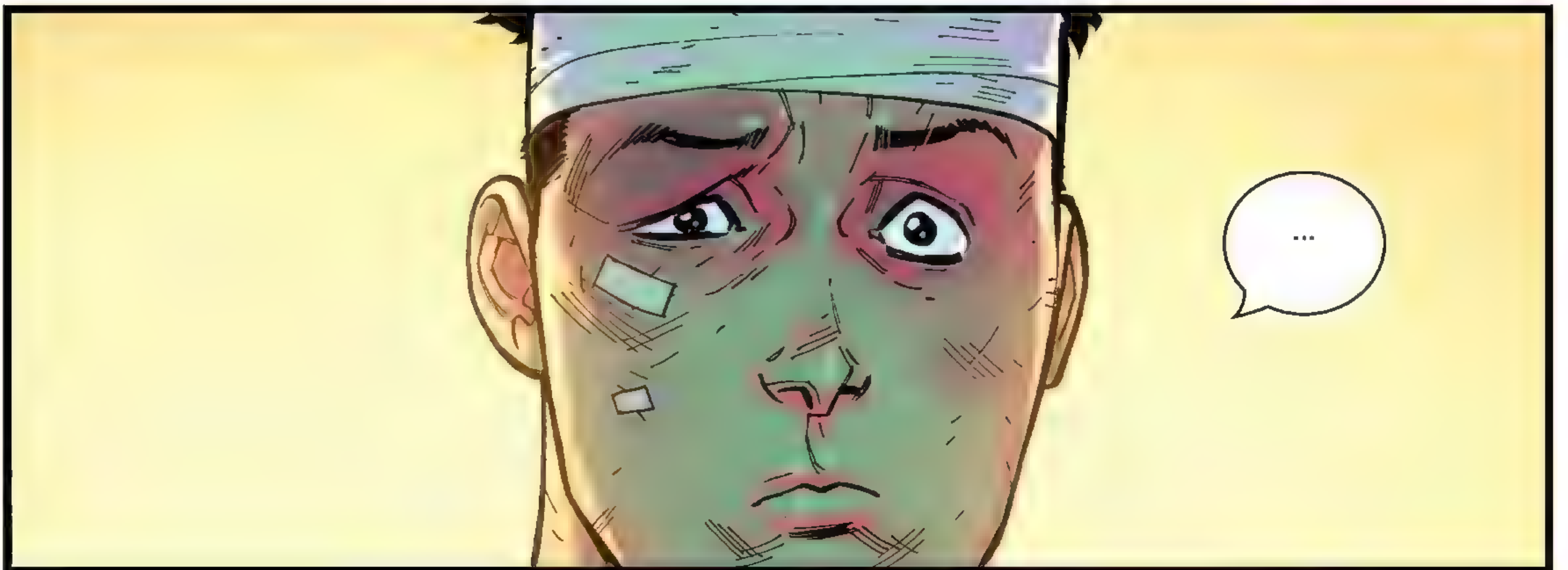


I'M
SORRY.



SON...
NO.







CHAPTER 126





THIS IS CRAZY. IT'S... A LOT TO TAKE IN.

I ALMOST CAN'T BELIEVE THIS.



WHAT'S SO HARD TO BELIEVE? THIS IS EARTH, NOT URATH. YOU WERE TOLD TO AVOID EARTH BECAUSE THE VILTRUMITES HAD ALREADY TAKEN INTEREST IN THIS PLANET.

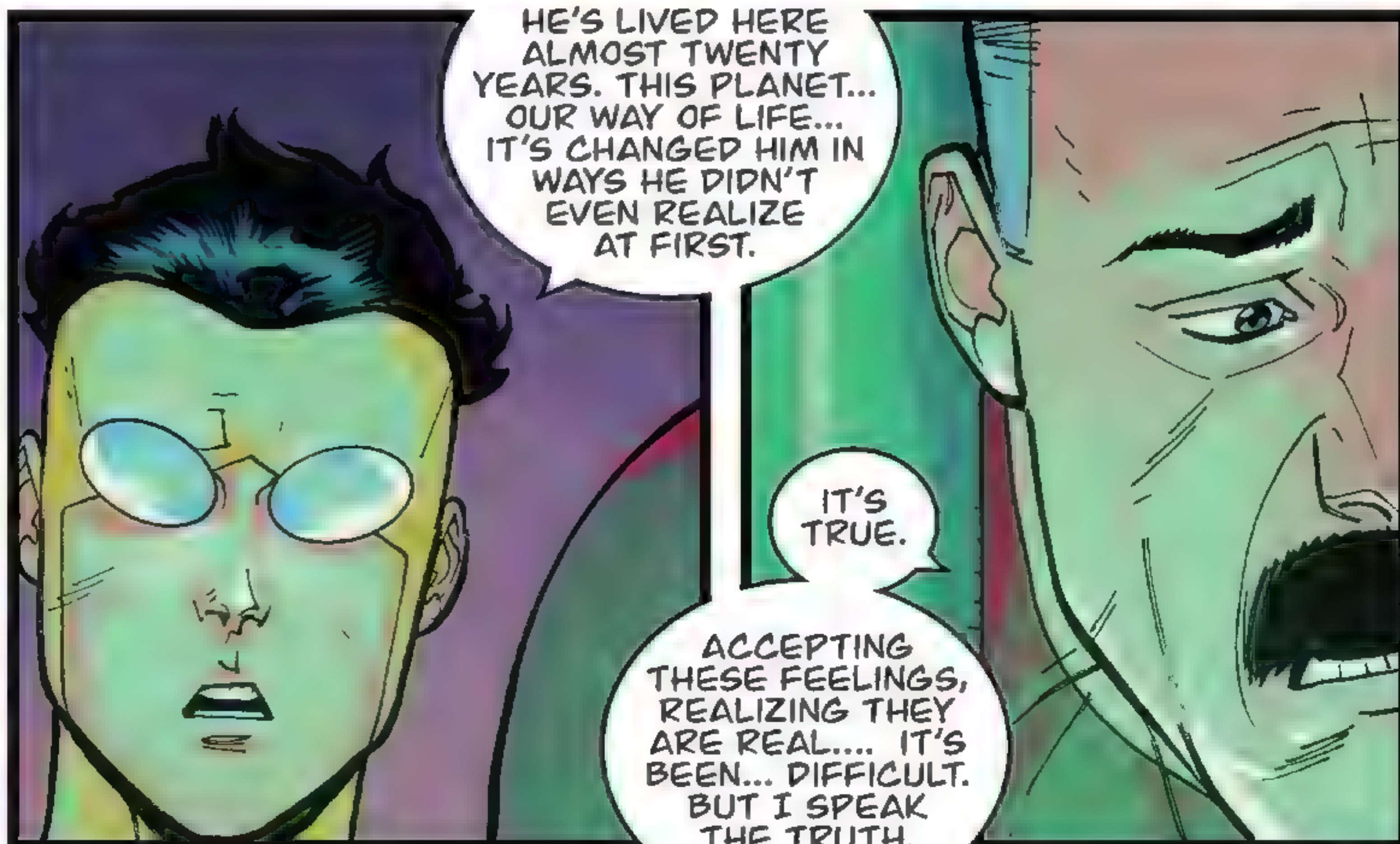
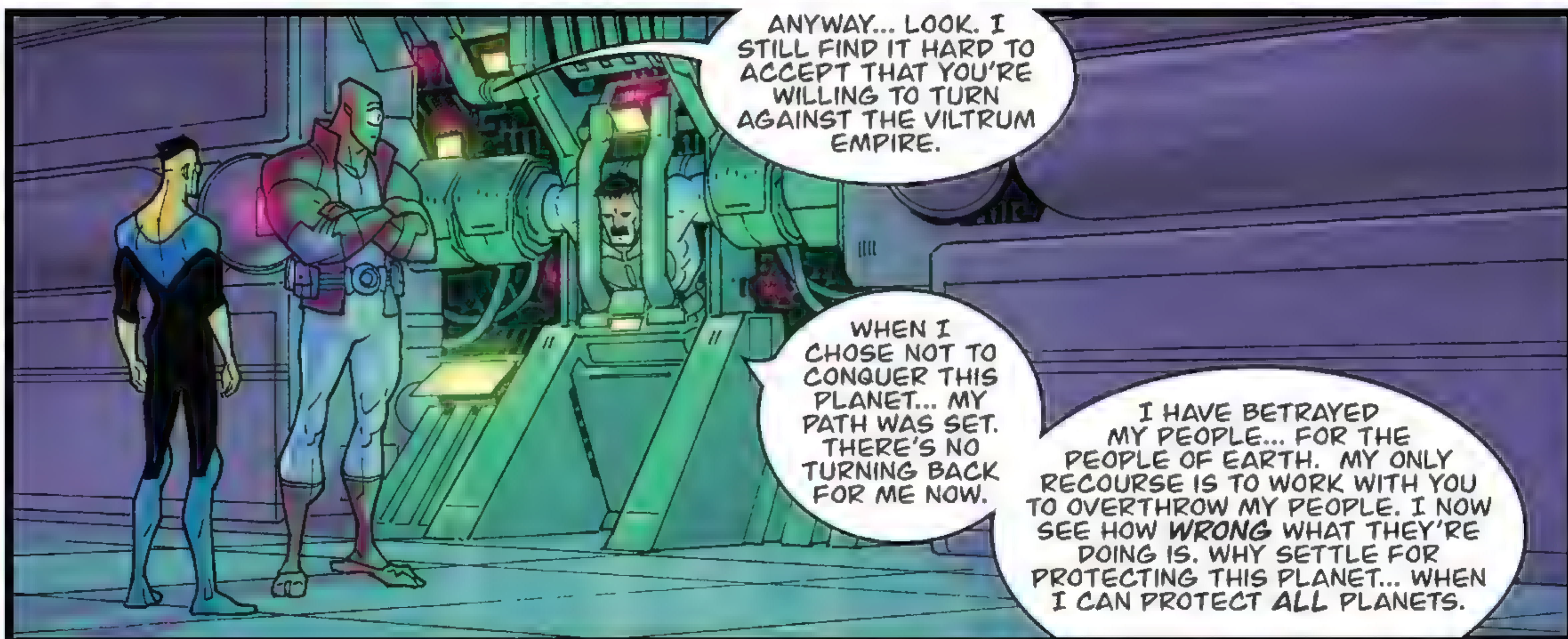
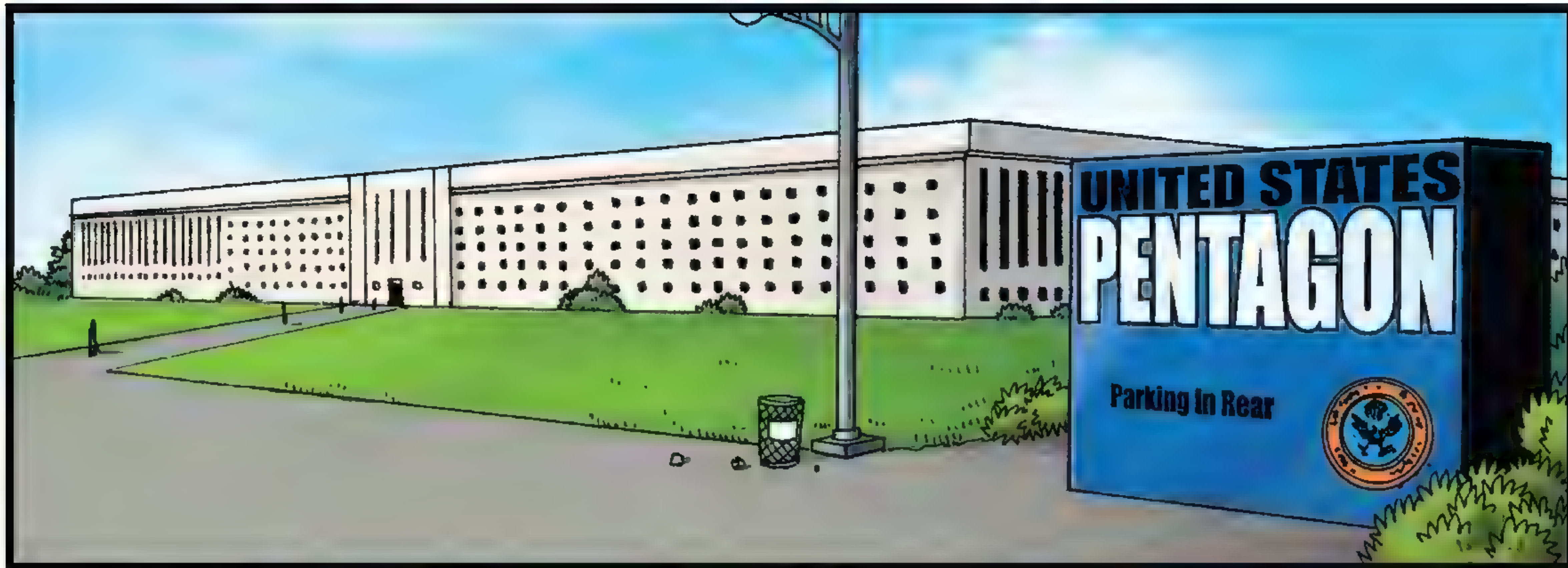
I'M THE SON OF SAID VILTRUMITE, AND I'VE DEFEATED HIM. HE'S CHANGED HIS OUTLOOK ON THINGS... AND IS READY TO TURN AGAINST THE EMPIRE. SOMETHING YOU PROBABLY THINK IS IMPOSSIBLE... BUT YOUR BOSS, THAEDUS... IS SECRETLY A VILTRUMITE DEFECTOR.

SO I'D MAKE THREE VILTRUMITES READY TO TURN AGAINST THE EMPIRE.



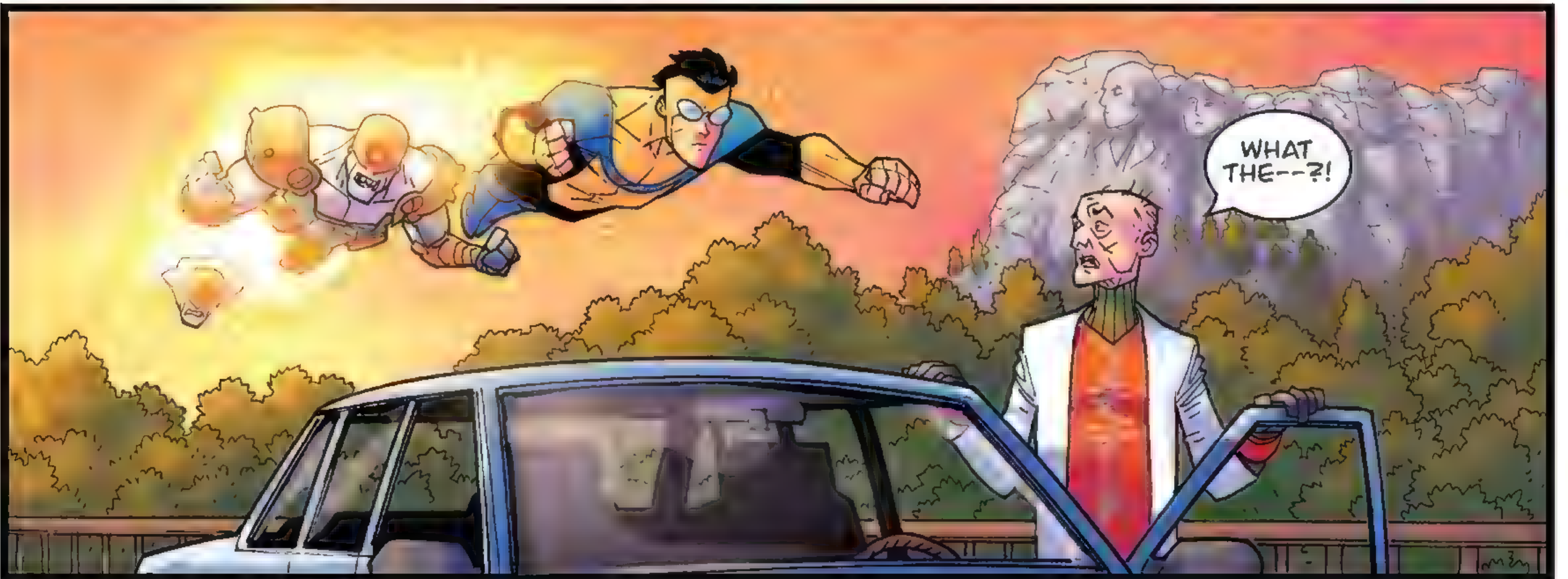
WHEN YOU LAY IT ALL OUT LIKE THAT... IT SEEMS INSANE.

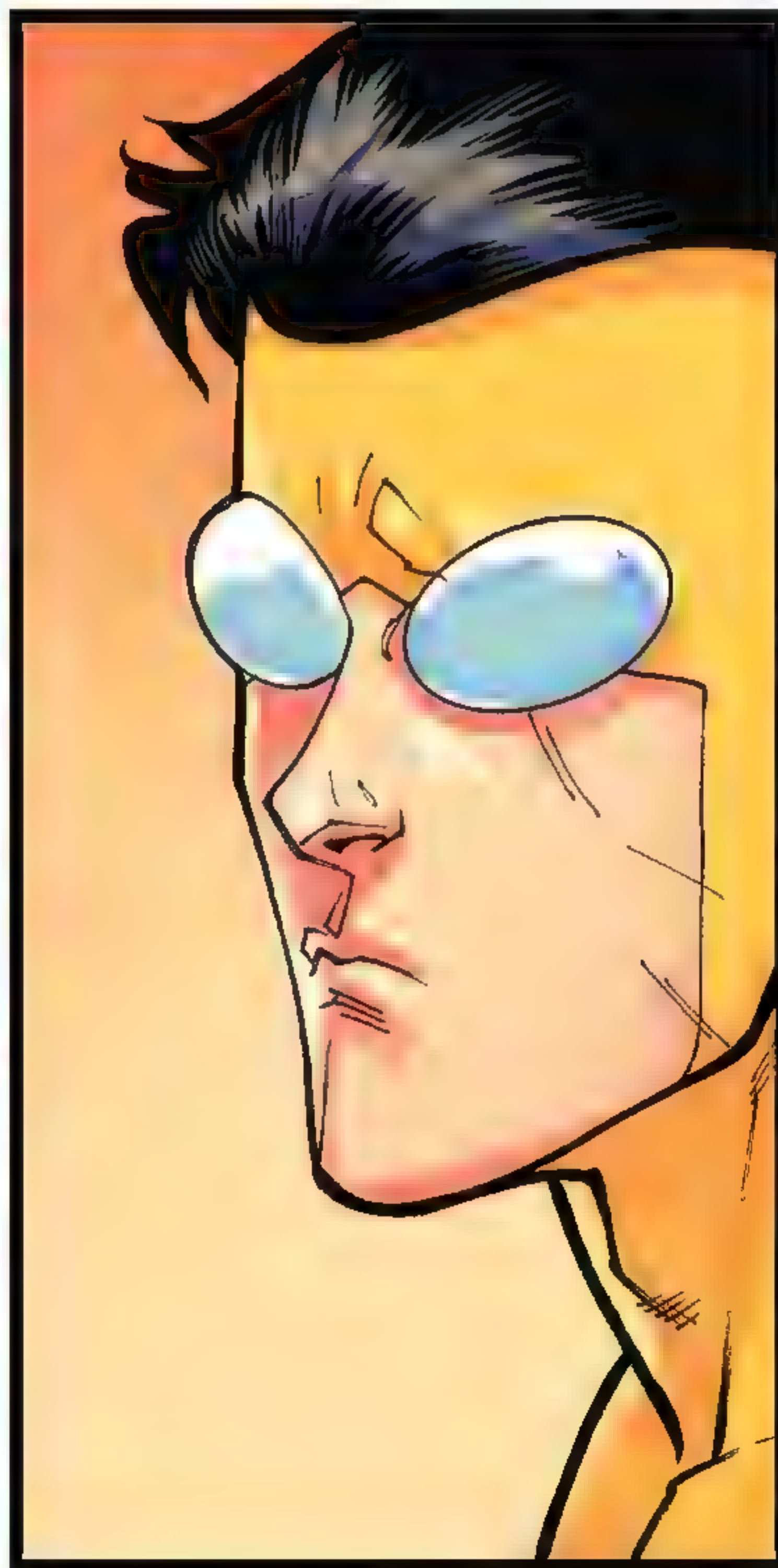
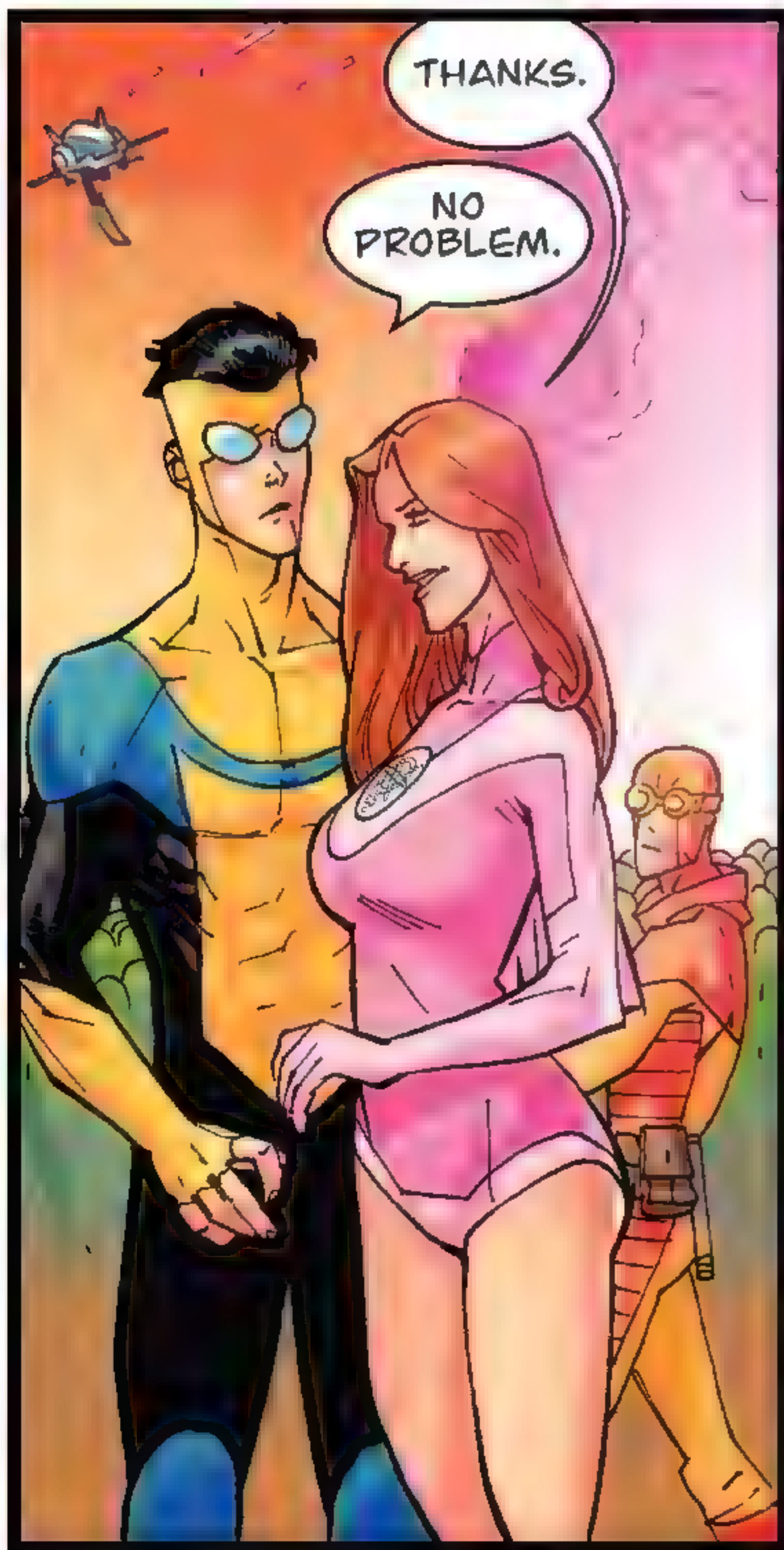
I SUPPOSE SO. LET ME INTRODUCE YOU TO HIM. YOU GUYS... ARE GOING TO BECOME REALLY GOOD FRIENDS... EVENTUALLY.

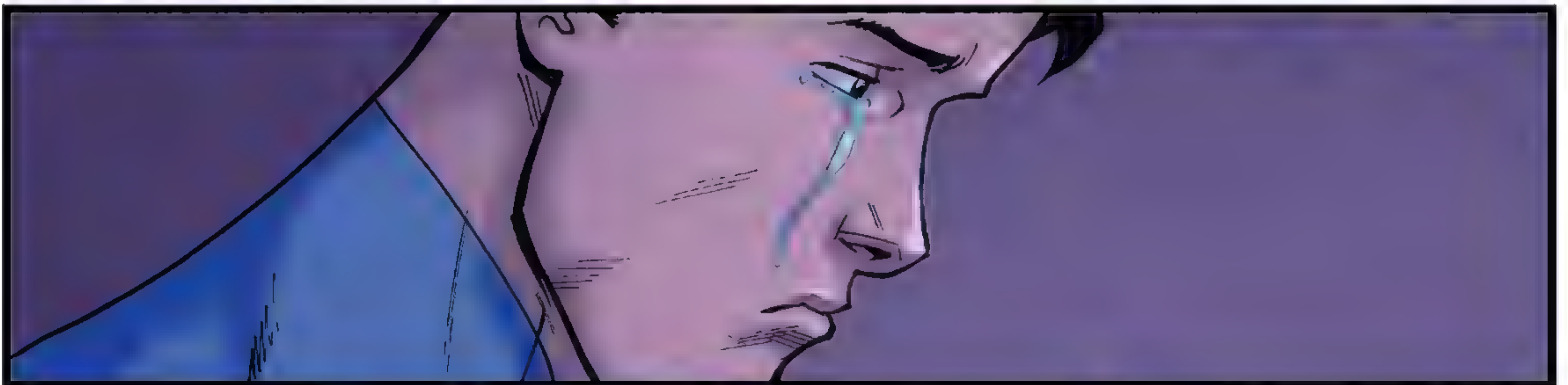












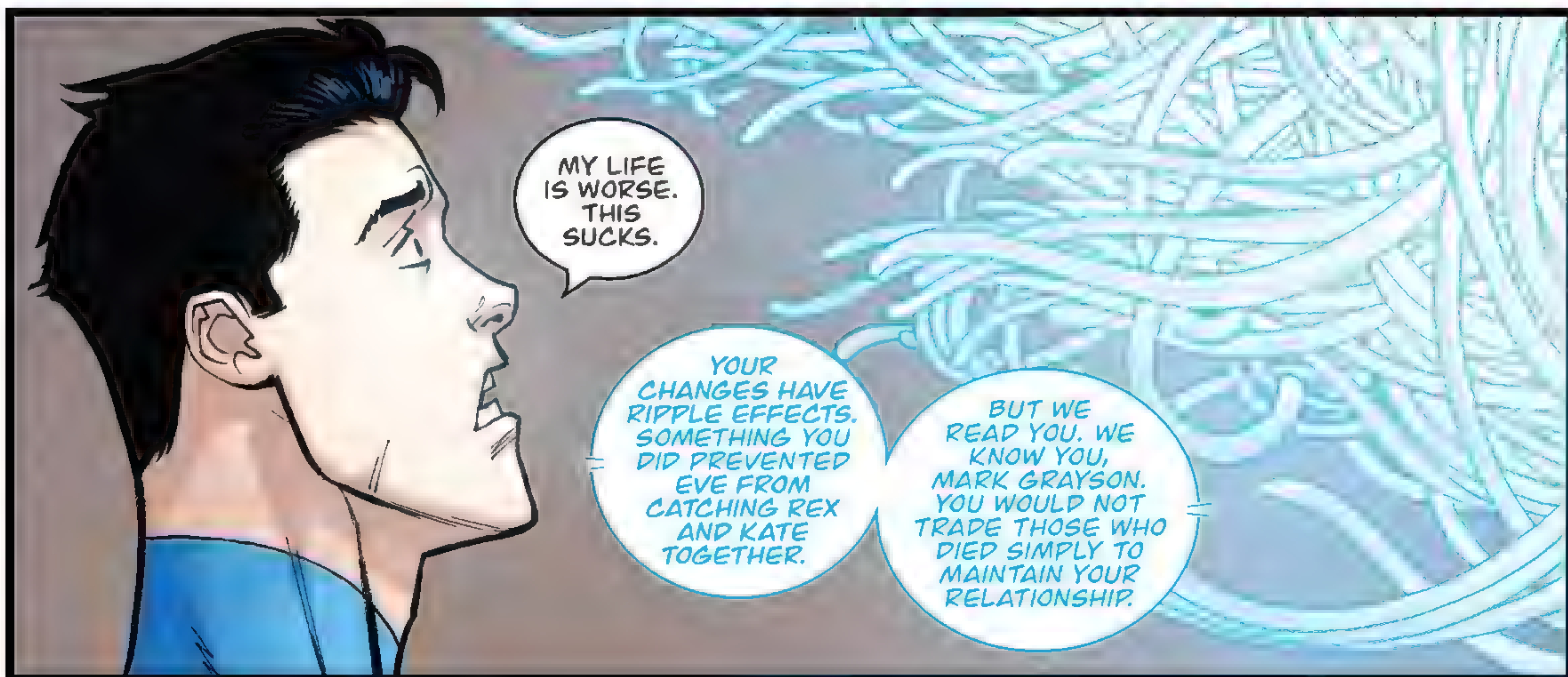


WHAT
THE--?!

YOU'RE
THAT THING--
FROM THE
CAVE. WHAT
THE HELL ARE
YOU?!

THAT IS NOT
IMPORTANT.

DO YOU
NOT REALIZE
HOW MANY YOU
HAVE SAVED? YOU
HAVE UNDONE SO
MUCH DEATH AND
MISERY. WHY ARE
YOU NOT
PLEASED?



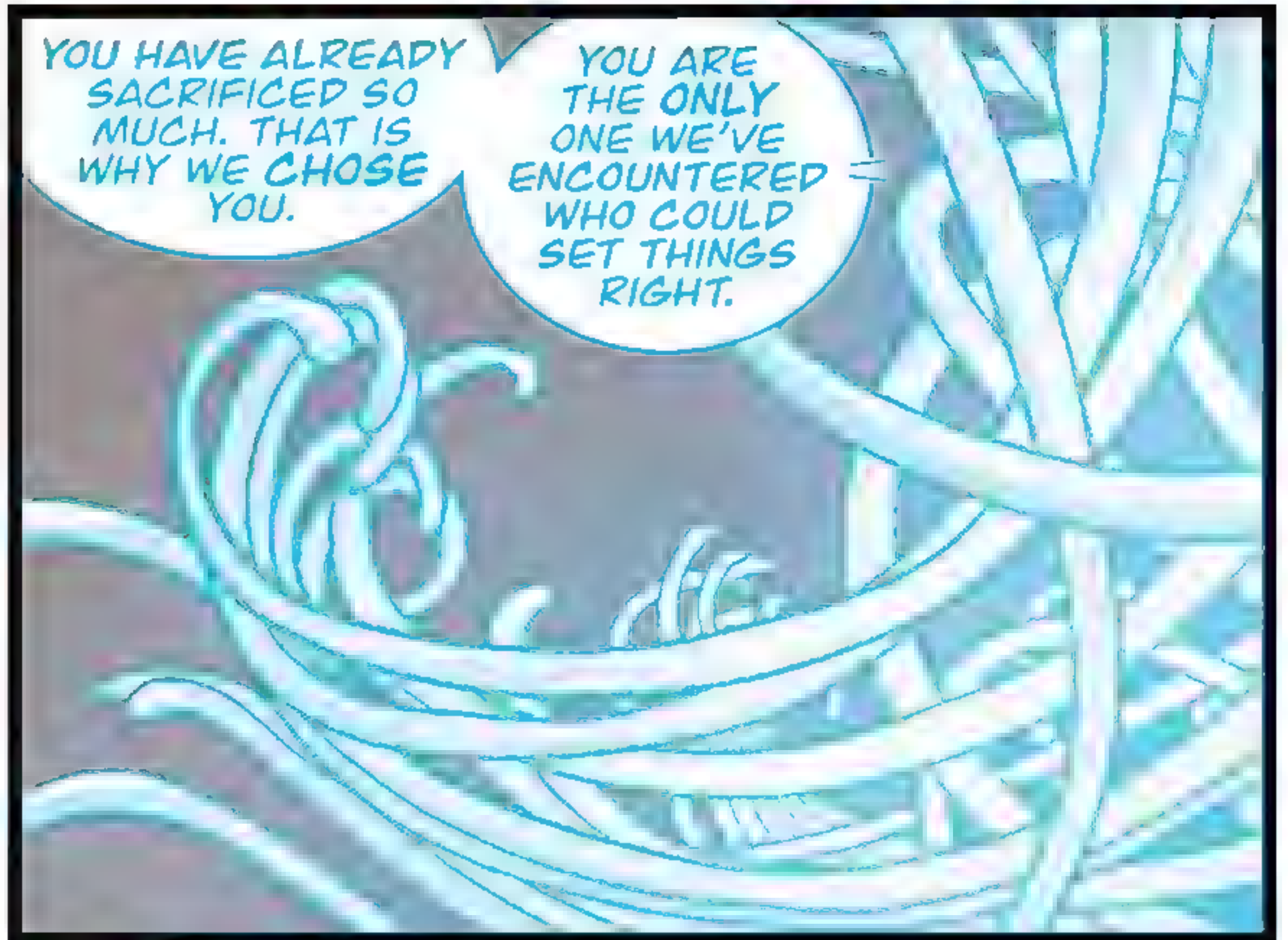
MY LIFE
IS WORSE.
THIS
SUCKS.

YOUR
CHANGES HAVE
RIPPLE EFFECTS.
SOMETHING YOU
DID PREVENTED
EVE FROM
CATCHING REX
AND KATE
TOGETHER.

BUT WE
READ YOU. WE
KNOW YOU,
MARK GRAYSON.
YOU WOULD NOT
TRADE THOSE WHO
DIED SIMPLY TO
MAINTAIN YOUR
RELATIONSHIP.

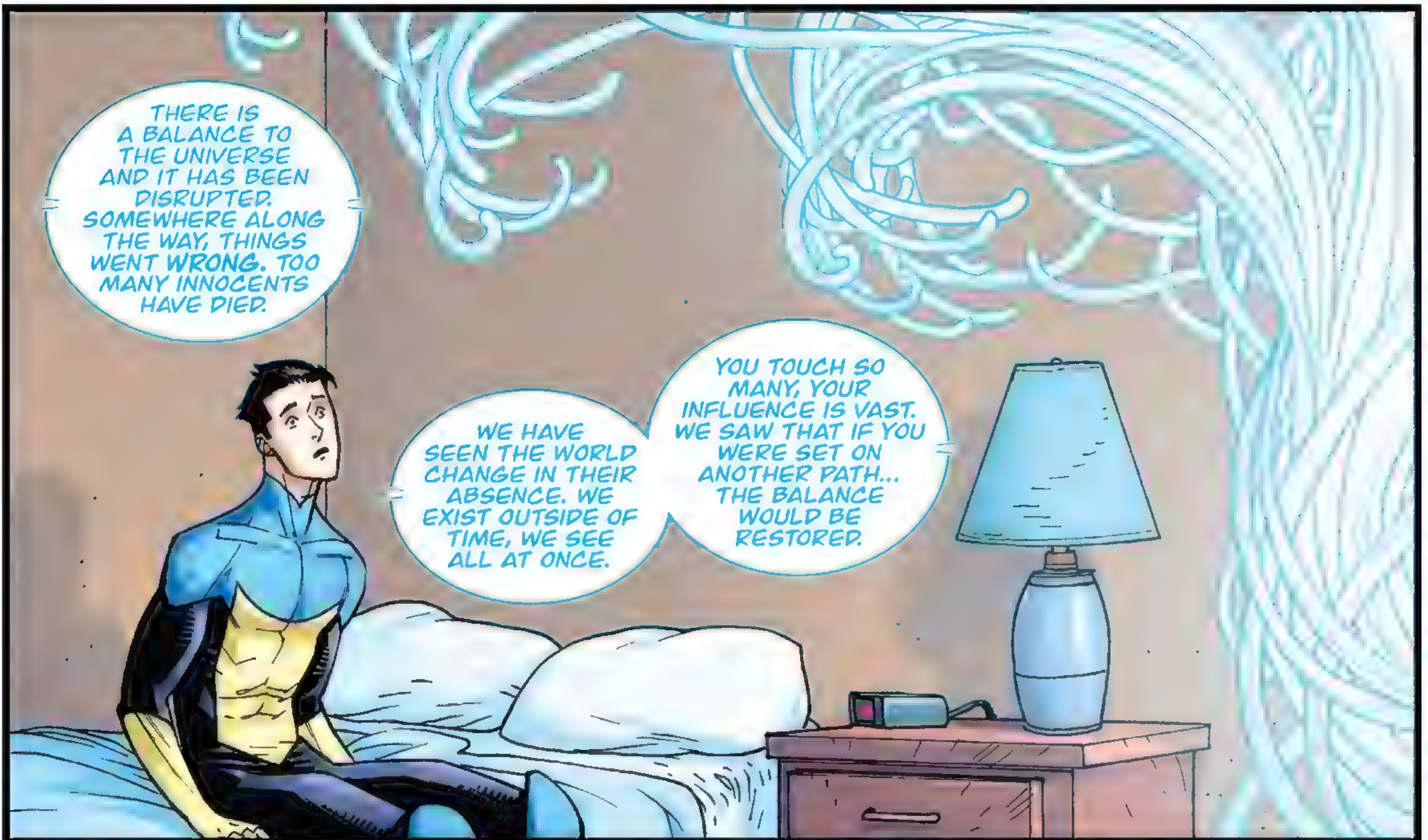


YOU'RE
RIGHT.



YOU HAVE ALREADY
SACRIFICED SO
MUCH. THAT IS
WHY WE CHOSE
YOU.

YOU ARE
THE ONLY
ONE WE'VE
ENCOUNTERED
WHO COULD
SET THINGS
RIGHT.



THERE IS
A BALANCE TO
THE UNIVERSE
AND IT HAS BEEN
DISRUPTED.
SOMEWHERE ALONG
THE WAY, THINGS
WENT WRONG. TOO
MANY INNOCENTS
HAVE DIED.

WE HAVE
SEEN THE WORLD
CHANGE IN THEIR
ABSENCE. WE
EXIST OUTSIDE OF
TIME, WE SEE
ALL AT ONCE.

YOU TOUCH SO
MANY, YOUR
INFLUENCE IS VAST.
WE SAW THAT IF YOU
WERE SET ON
ANOTHER PATH...
THE BALANCE
WOULD BE
RESTORED.

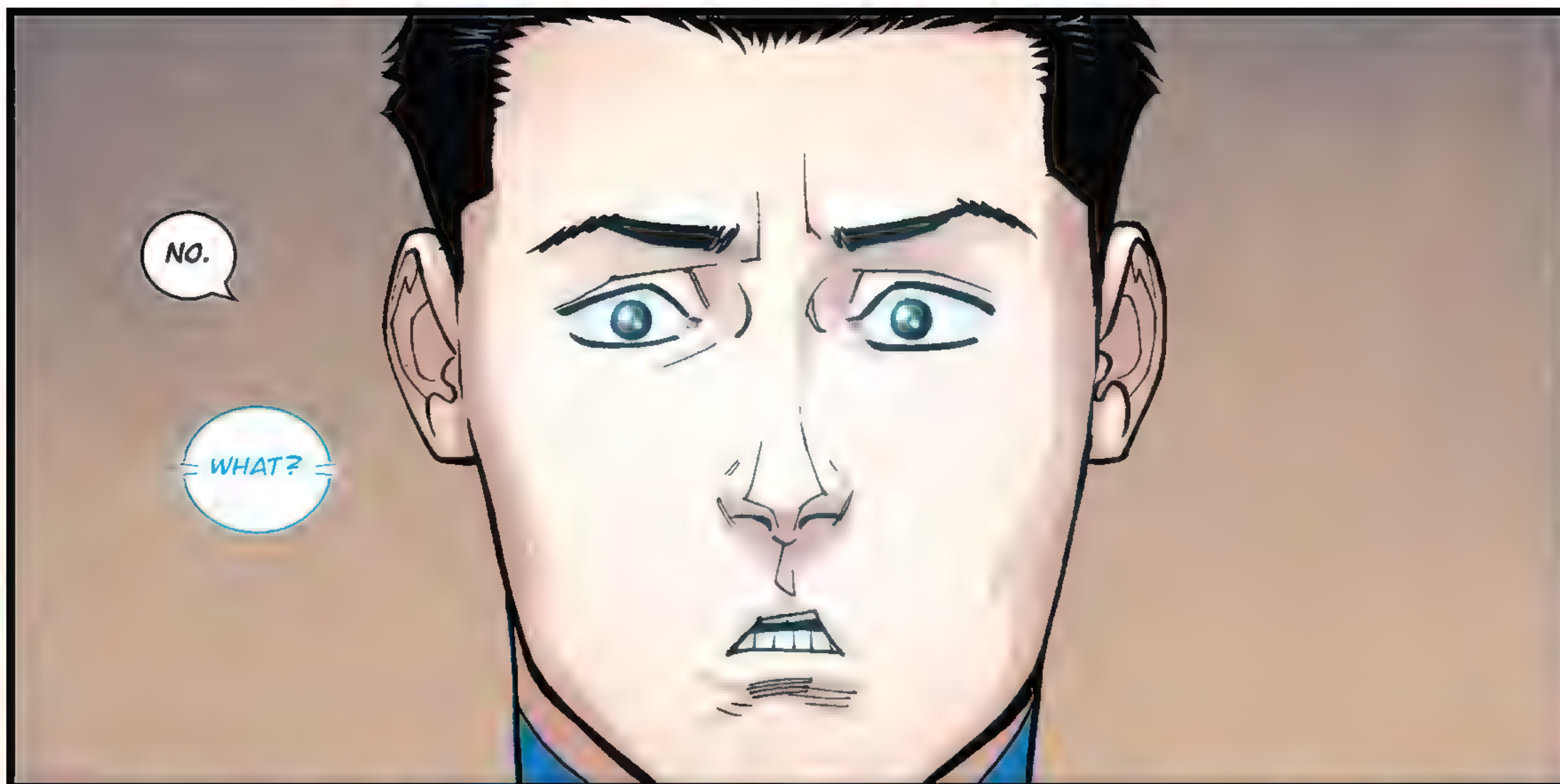


BUT
YOU HAVE TO
CHOOSE.



THIS WORLD
YOU INHABIT, YOUR
PAST... IT IS VERY
REAL. THE WORLD YOU
KNEW... IS GONE. YOU
HAVE A CHANCE TO DO
THINGS... RIGHT... TO
SAVE COUNTLESS
LIVES.

BUT THIS
PATH CANNOT
BE FORCED ON
YOU. THAT IS WHY
WE GAVE YOU A
TASTE OF WHAT CAN
BE... THE GOOD
THAT CAN BE
DONE.



NO.

WHAT?



I HAVE A DAUGHTER. IF I CAN GO BACK... I HAVE TO GO BACK.

I CAN'T DO THIS. SO NO. IF I HAVE TO CHOOSE THIS... I'M SAYING NO.



THIS WAS NOT FORESEEN. YOU ARE PURE... YOU ARE SELFLESS.

HOW CAN YOU TURN THIS DOWN?



EVE AND I WILL GET TOGETHER... WE'LL PROBABLY EVEN HAVE A CHILD... BUT THERE'S NO WAY THAT CHILD WOULD END UP BEING TERRA.

CHOOSING THIS... MEANS KILLING MY DAUGHTER.



YOU WOULD... ALLOW THE COUNTLESS DEATHS YOU COULD PREVENT... TO OCCUR... JUST TO SAVE ONE LIFE?



YES.



I WOULD.



HOW COULD WE NOT HAVE FORESEEN THIS? WE KNOW EVERY SINGLE MOMENT OF YOUR LIFE. YOU HAVE SACRIFICED SO MUCH FOR SO MANY ALREADY.

YOU WERE OUR LAST HOPE...



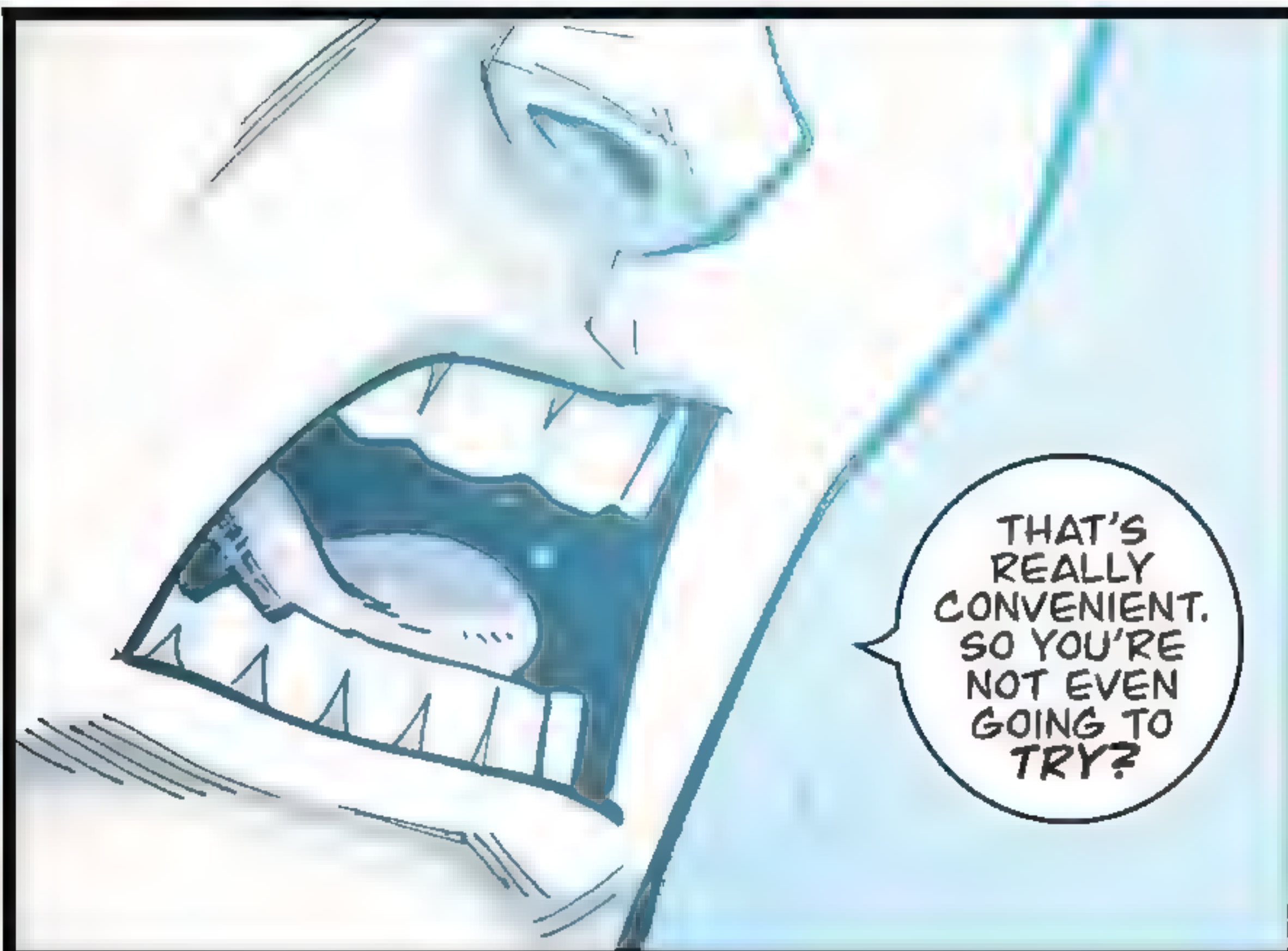
LAST HOPE FOR WHAT?! YOU HAVEN'T TOLD ME ANYTHING. NOT WHAT YOU ARE... NOT WHAT YOU'RE TRYING TO PREVENT. THIS IS RIDICULOUS!

YOU'VE PUT ME THROUGH HELL AND YOU THINK I'D JUST... CHOOSE TO STAY THERE?

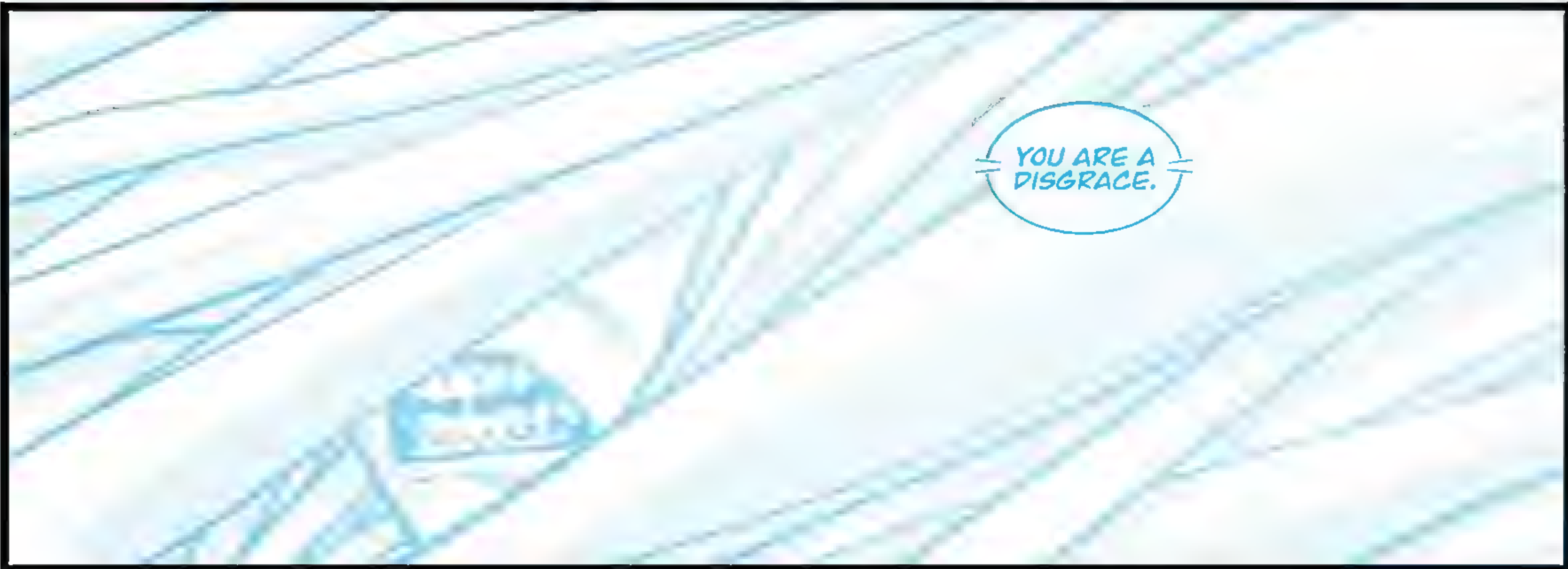
SCREW YOU!

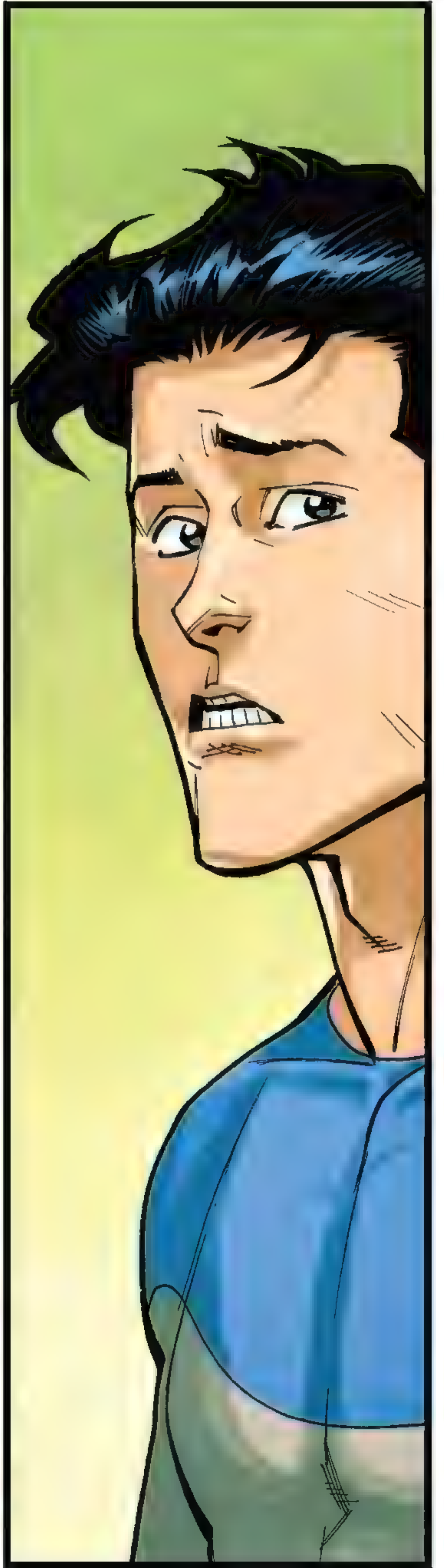


WE WOULD BE UNABLE TO EXPLAIN TO YOU WHAT WE ARE AND WHAT WE ARE TRYING TO PREVENT IN A WAY THAT YOU WOULD COMPREHEND.



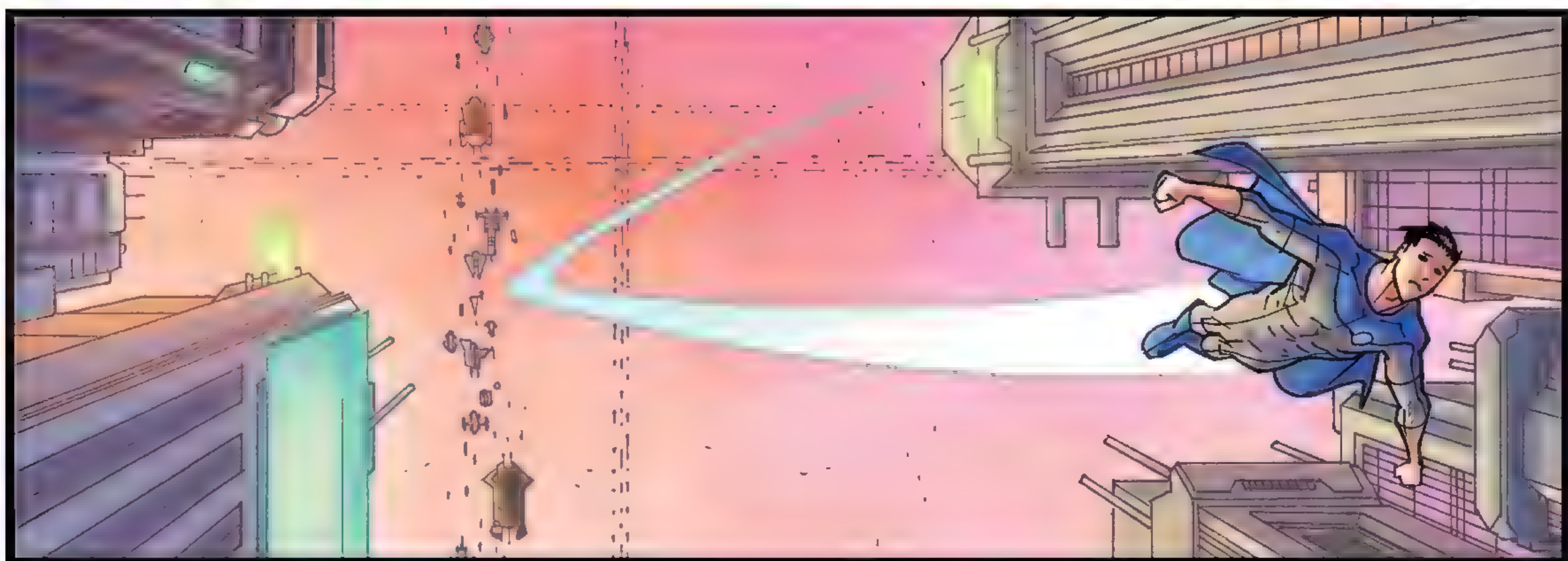
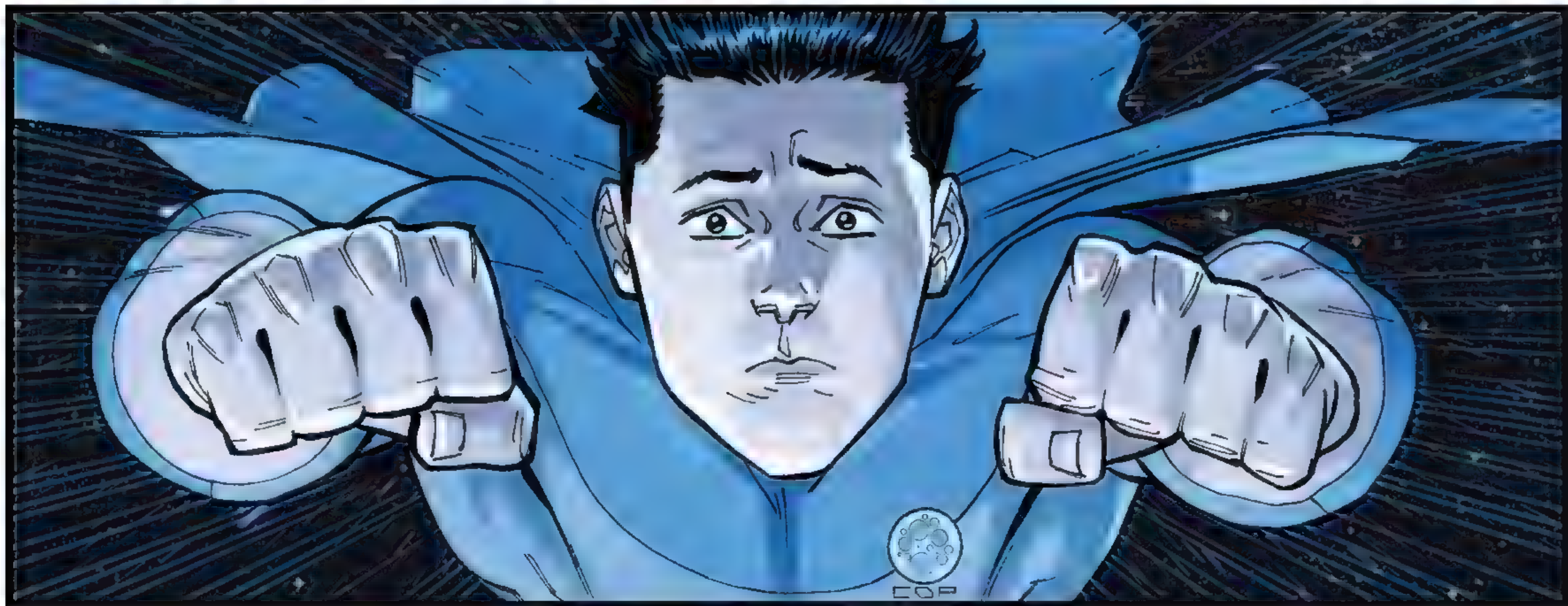
THAT'S REALLY CONVENIENT. SO YOU'RE NOT EVEN GOING TO TRY?

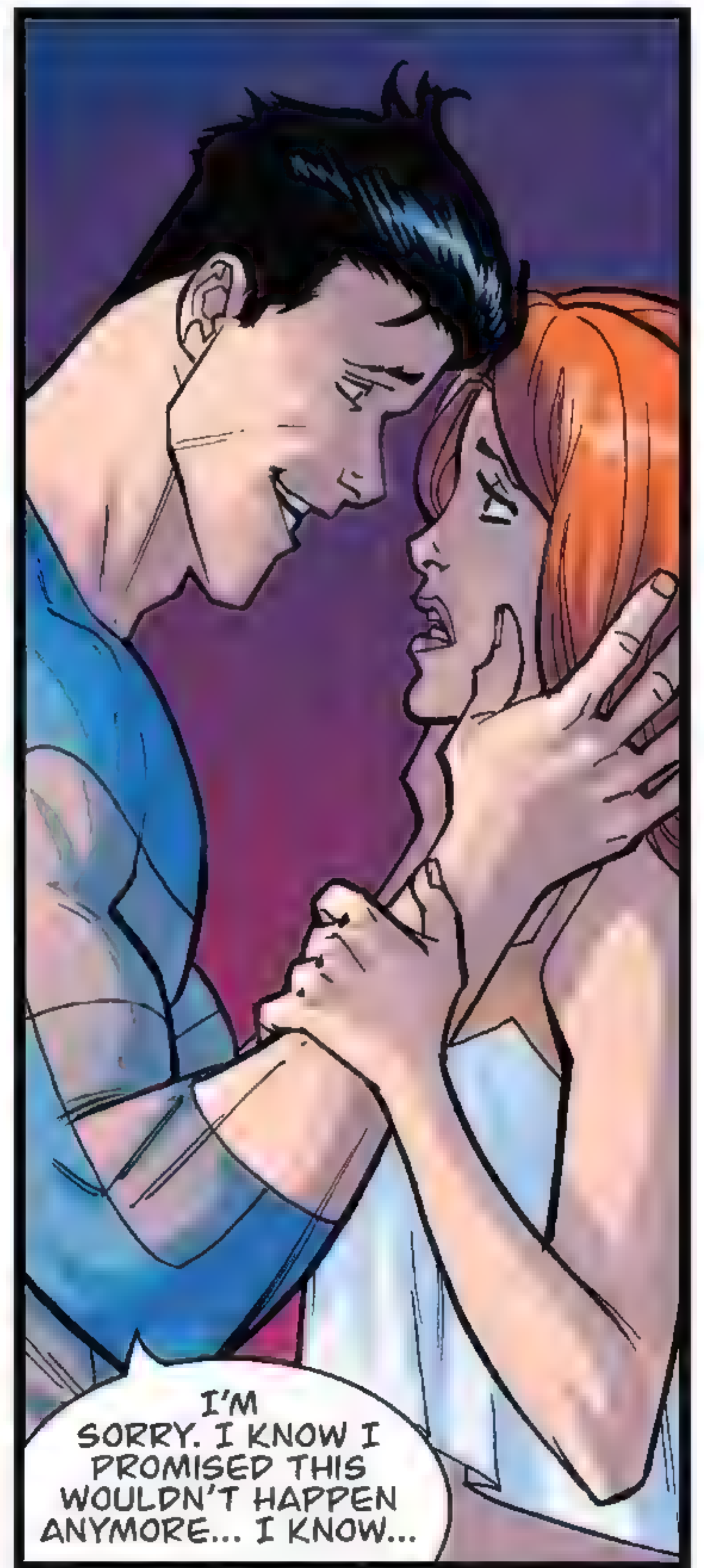
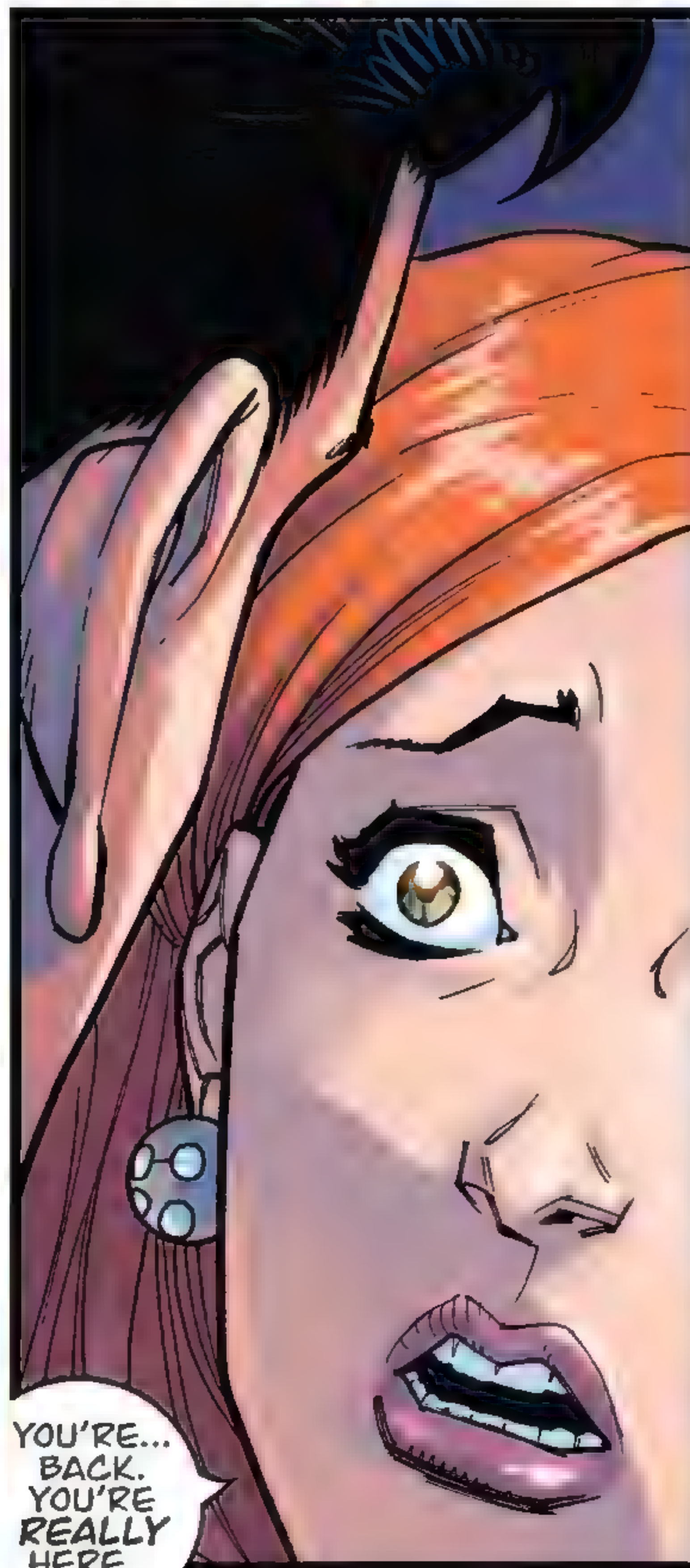
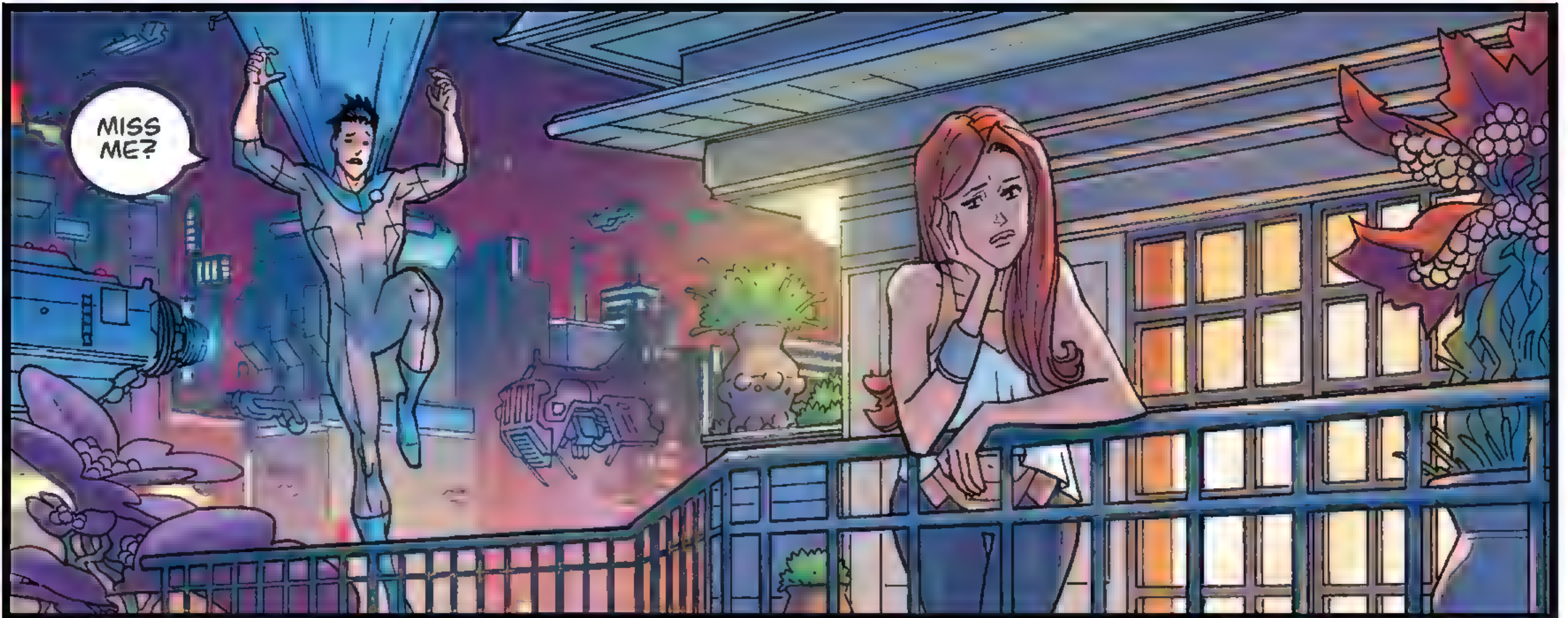




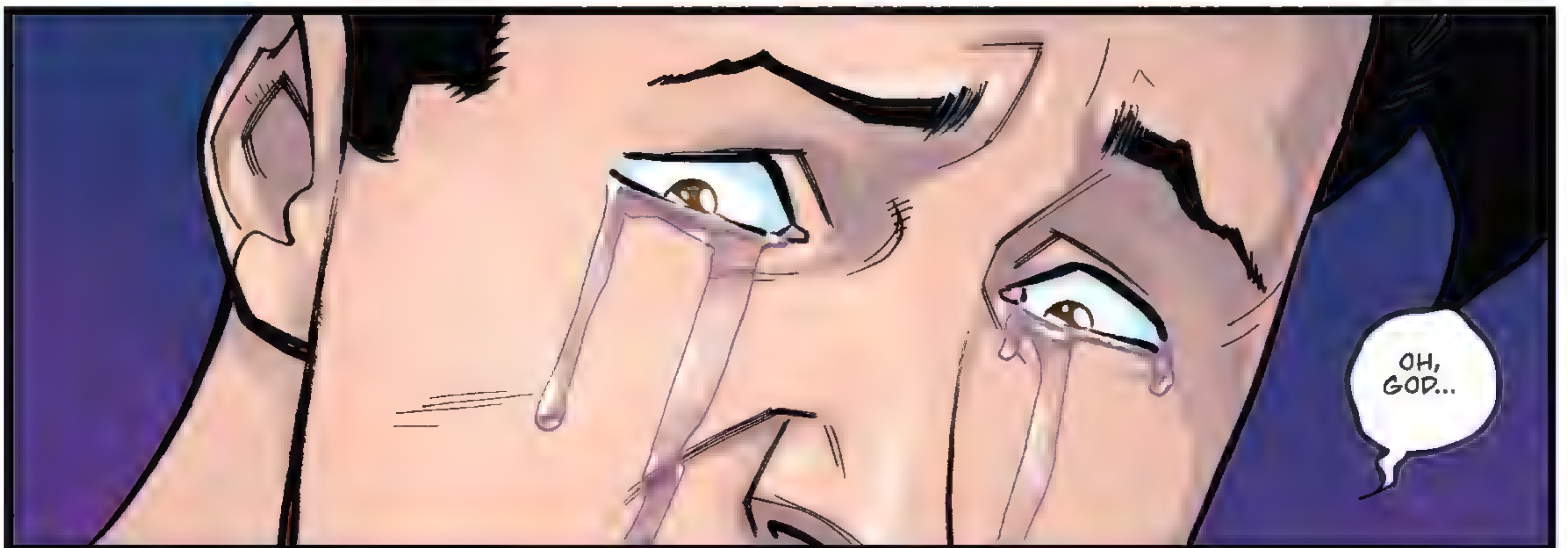
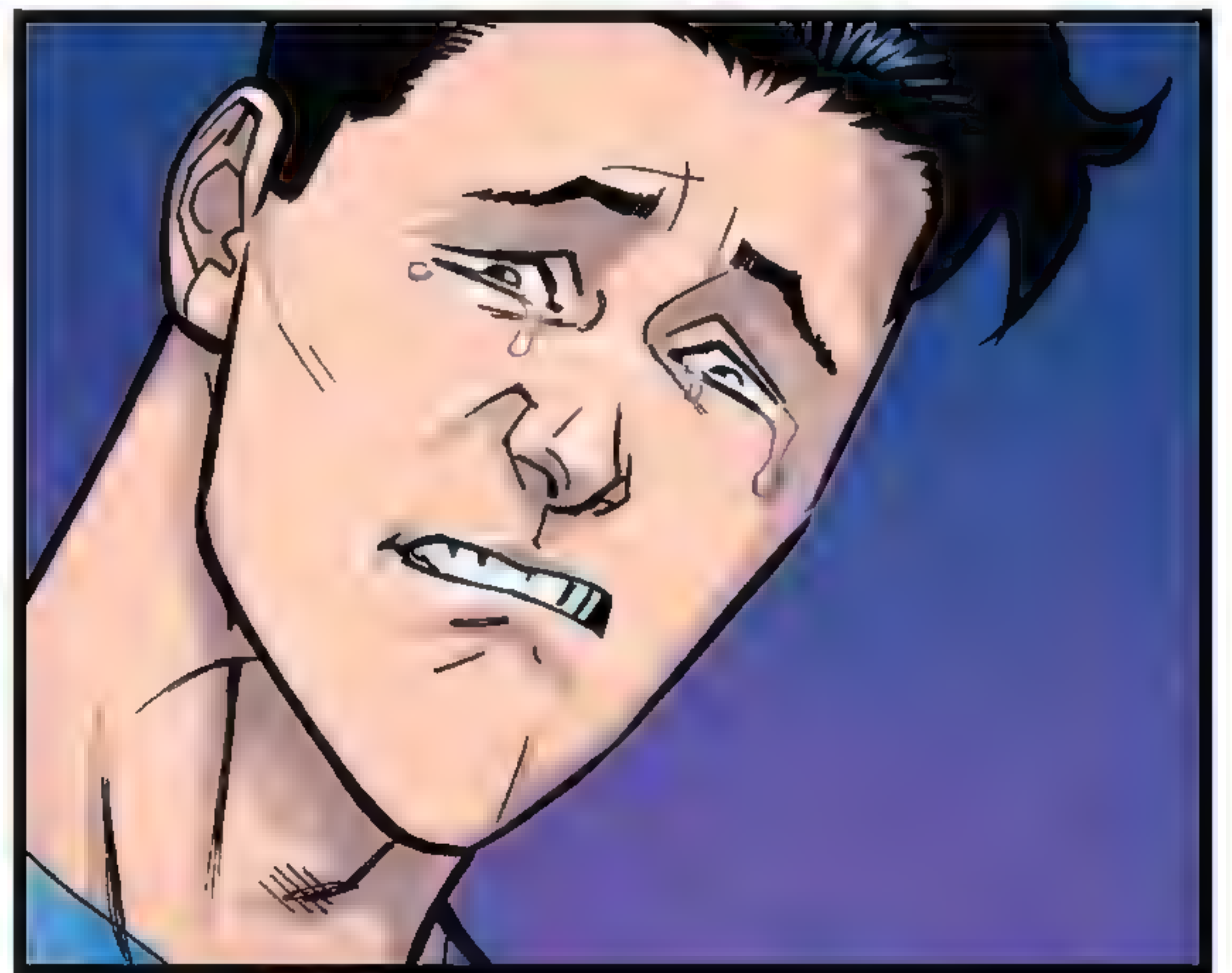
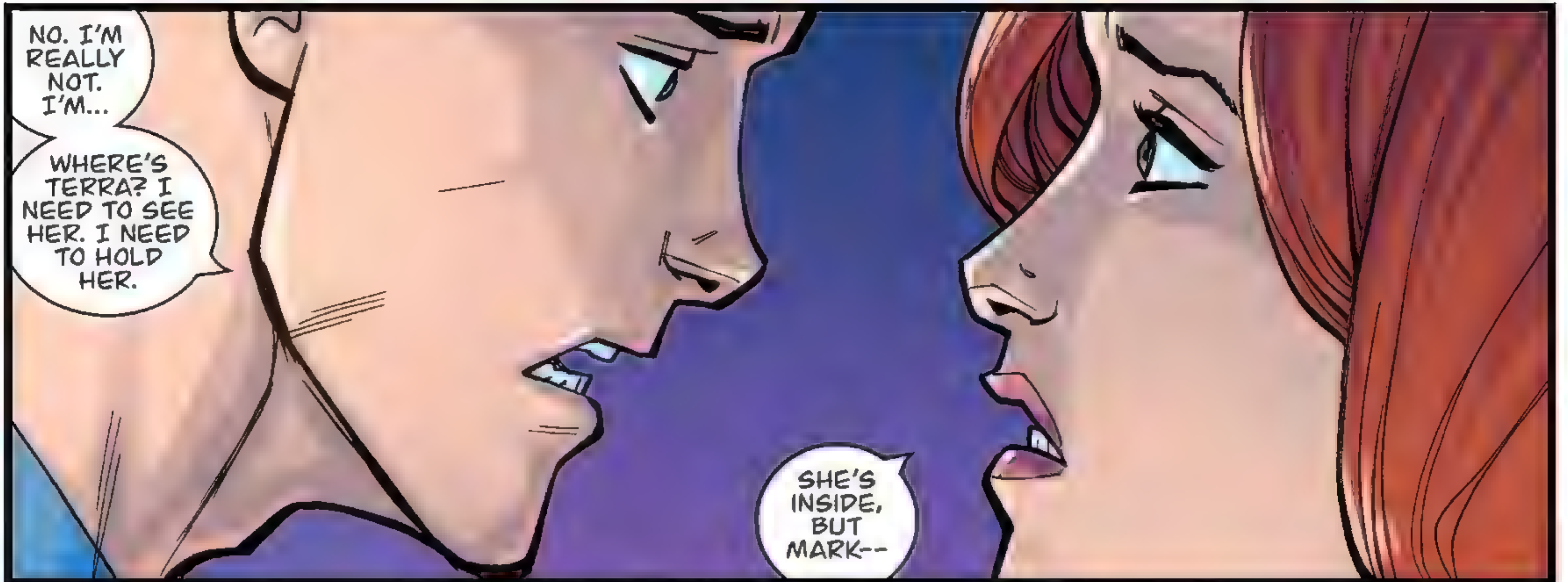


OH,
GOD...









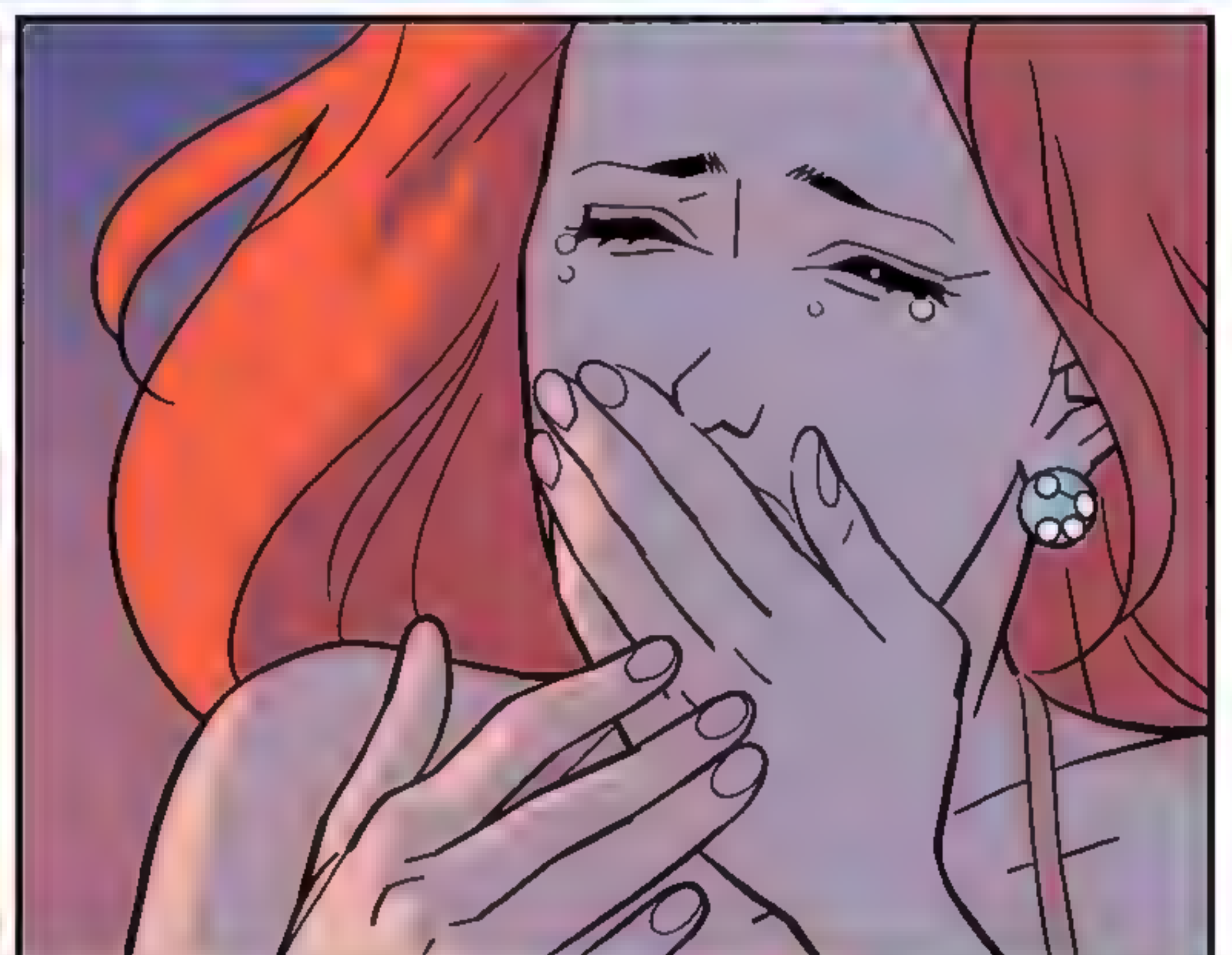


ARE
YOU MY
DADDY?



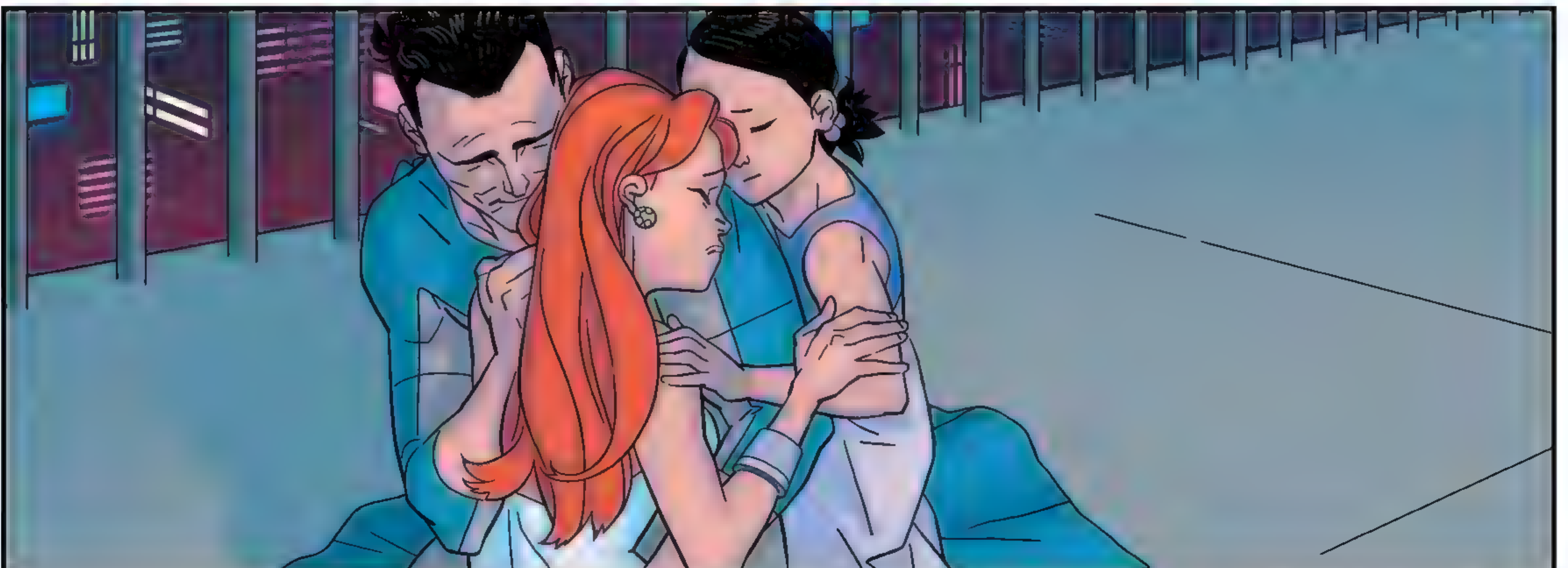
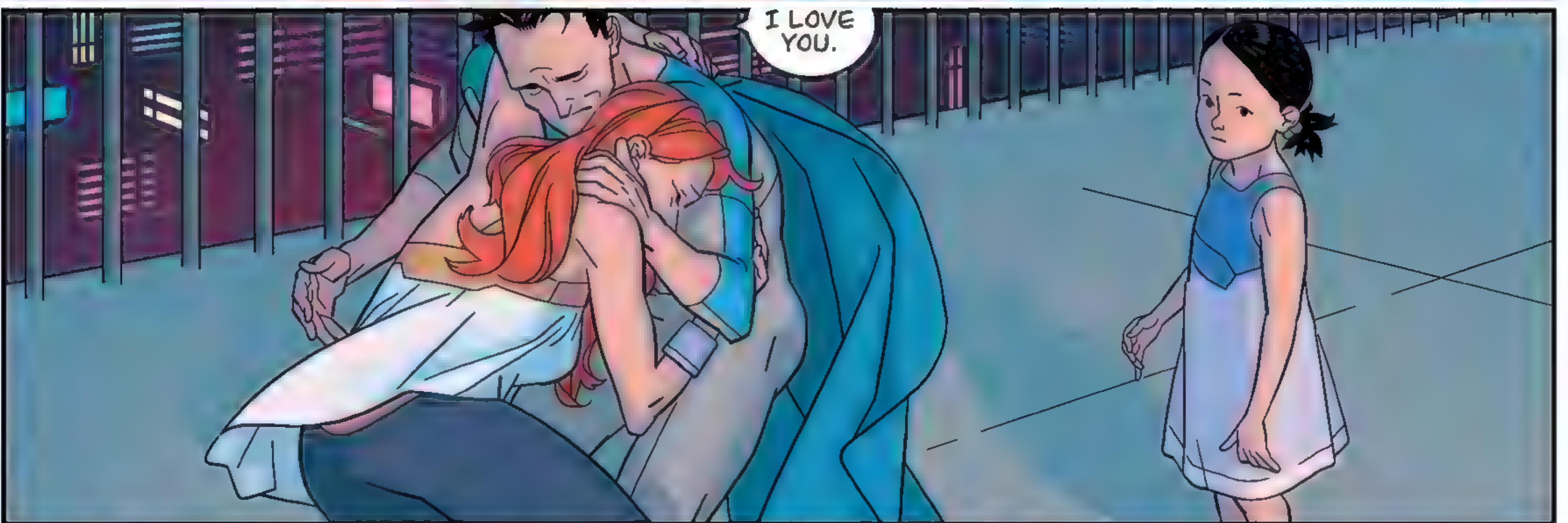
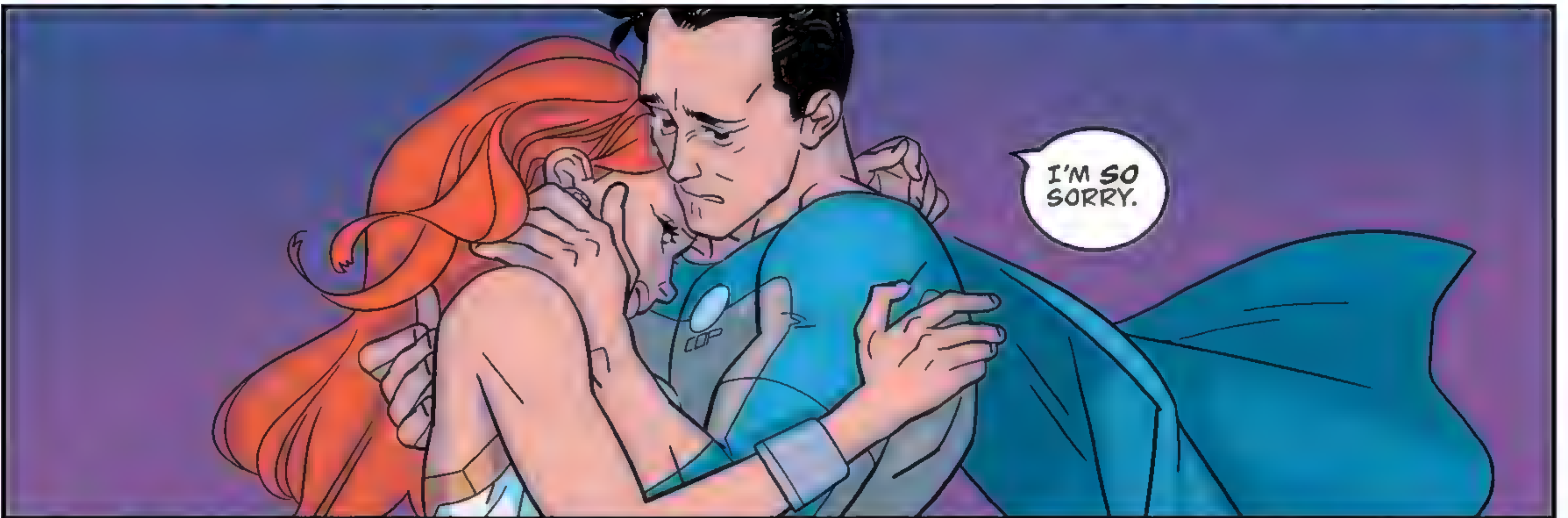
CHAPTER 127

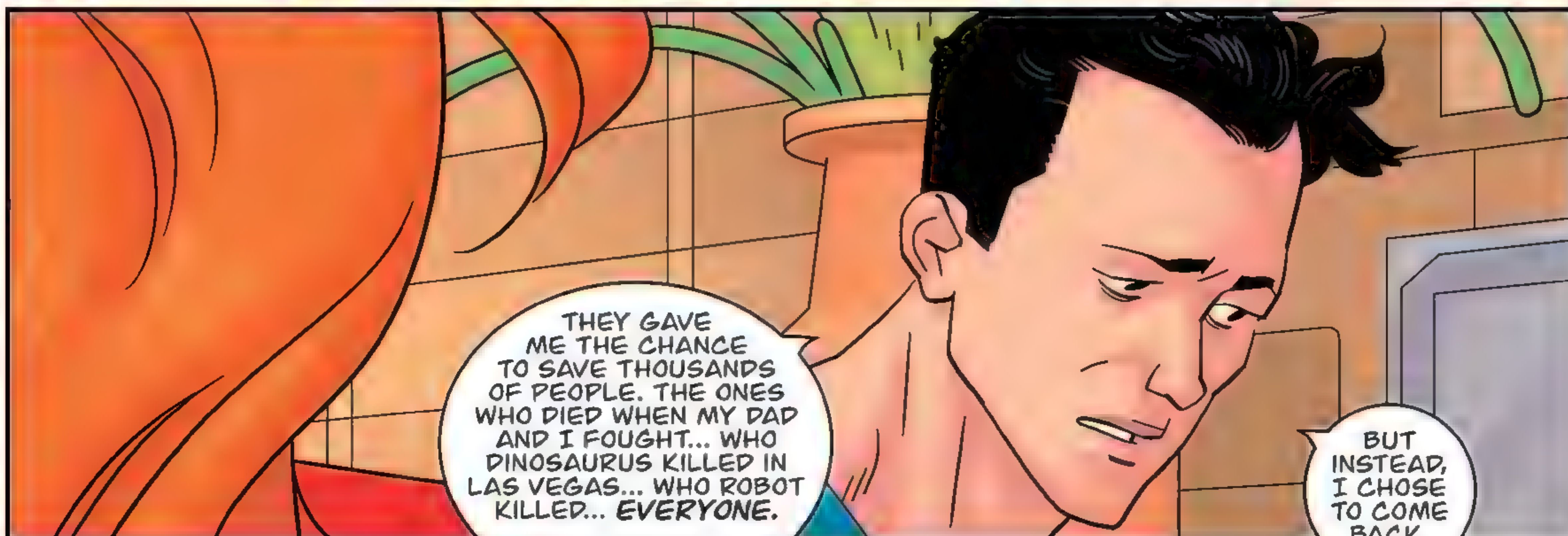
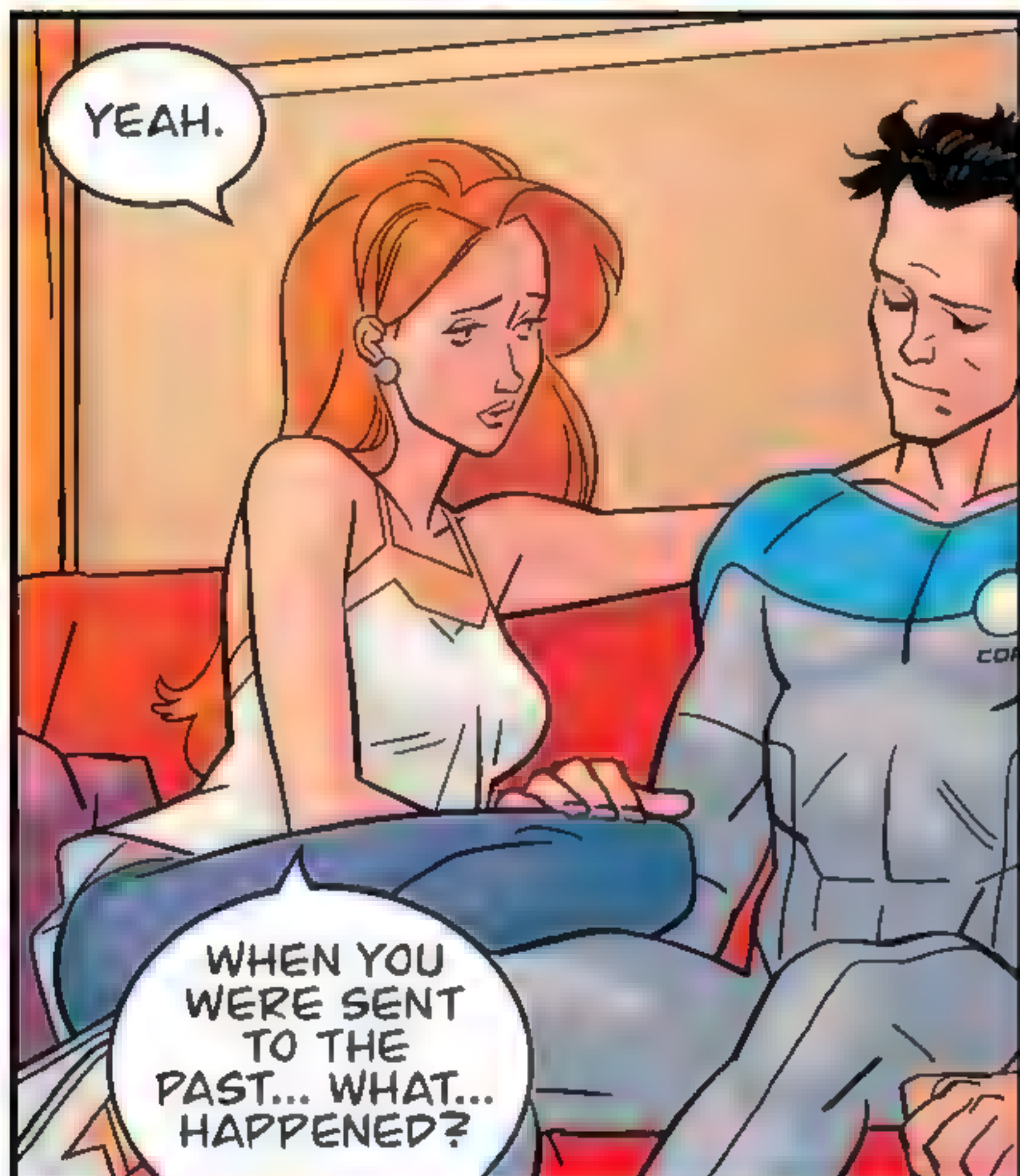






...I
STILL
LOVE
YOU.





YOU'RE NOT A HERO
BECAUSE YOU CHOSE
YOUR DAUGHTER?

I KNEW SHE WOULDN'T
BE BORN IF I STAYED.
I COULDN'T CHANCE
THAT. I HAD TO
COME BACK.

BUT NOW
THAT I'M
HERE...

I'VE MISSED SO
MUCH. I DON'T
EVEN... I DON'T
EVEN KNOW
WHERE TO
START.

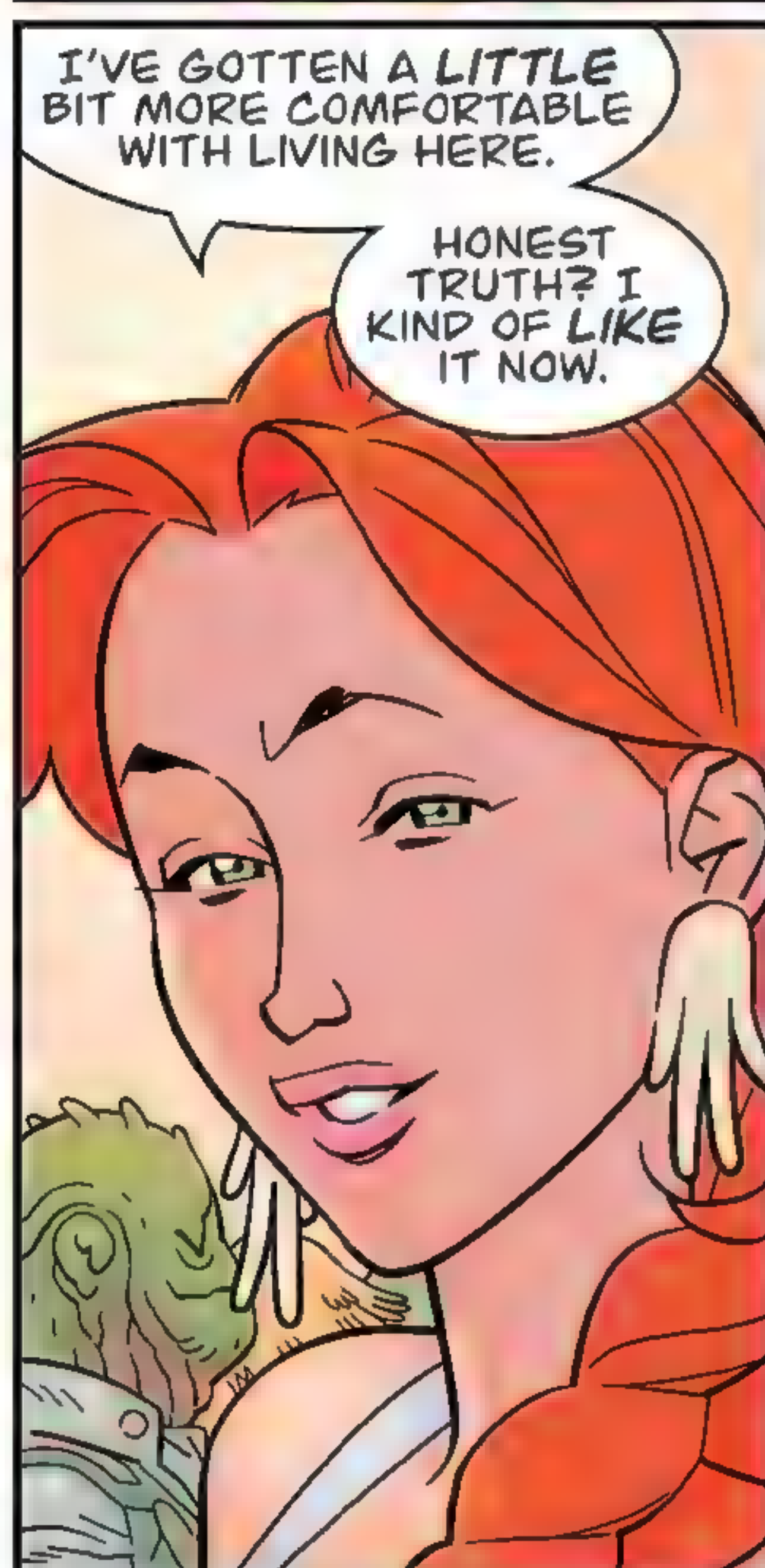
START
HERE.

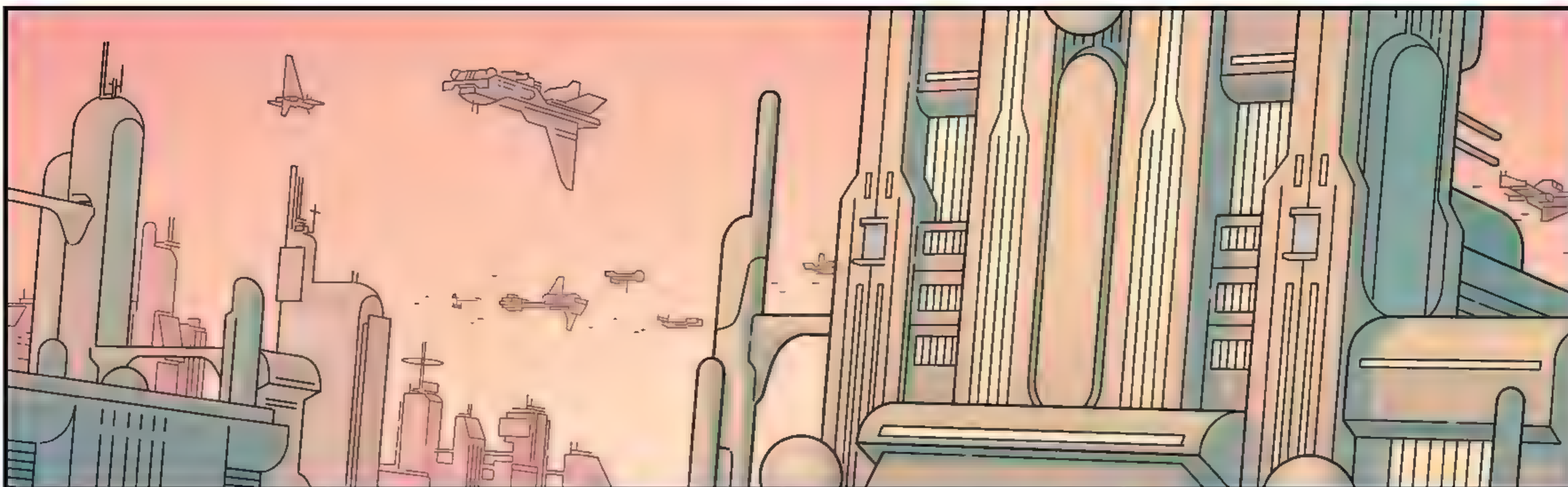
START
WITH
ME.

I'M SORRY. I FEEL
LIKE I SCREWED
EVERYTHING
UP.

YOU
DIDN'T.
YOU'RE
BACK
NOW.

WE'RE...
TOGETHER.





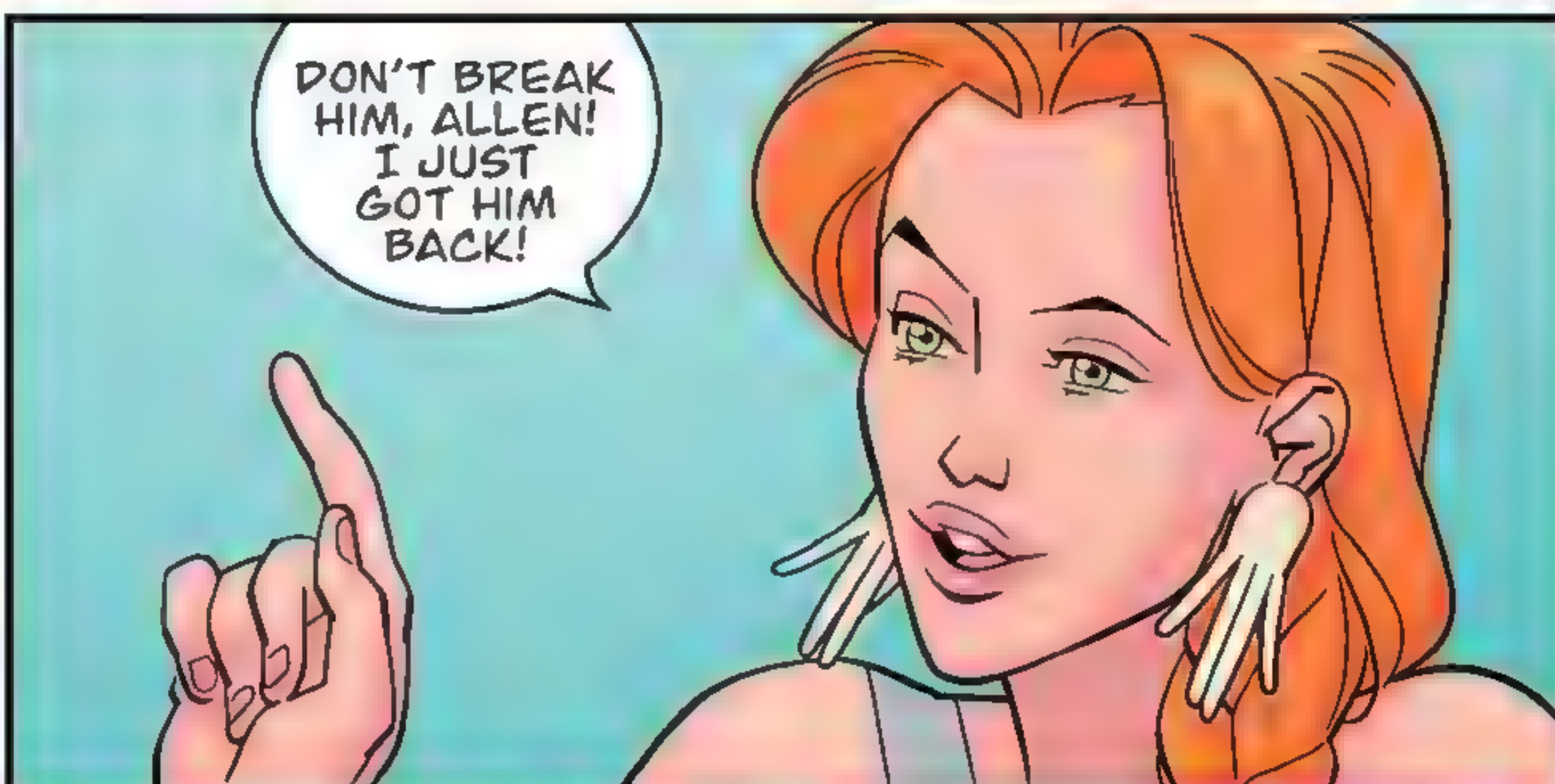
HOLY CRAP!

HOLY CRAP!

HOLY CRAP!

I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU'RE HERE!

WHOA THERE!

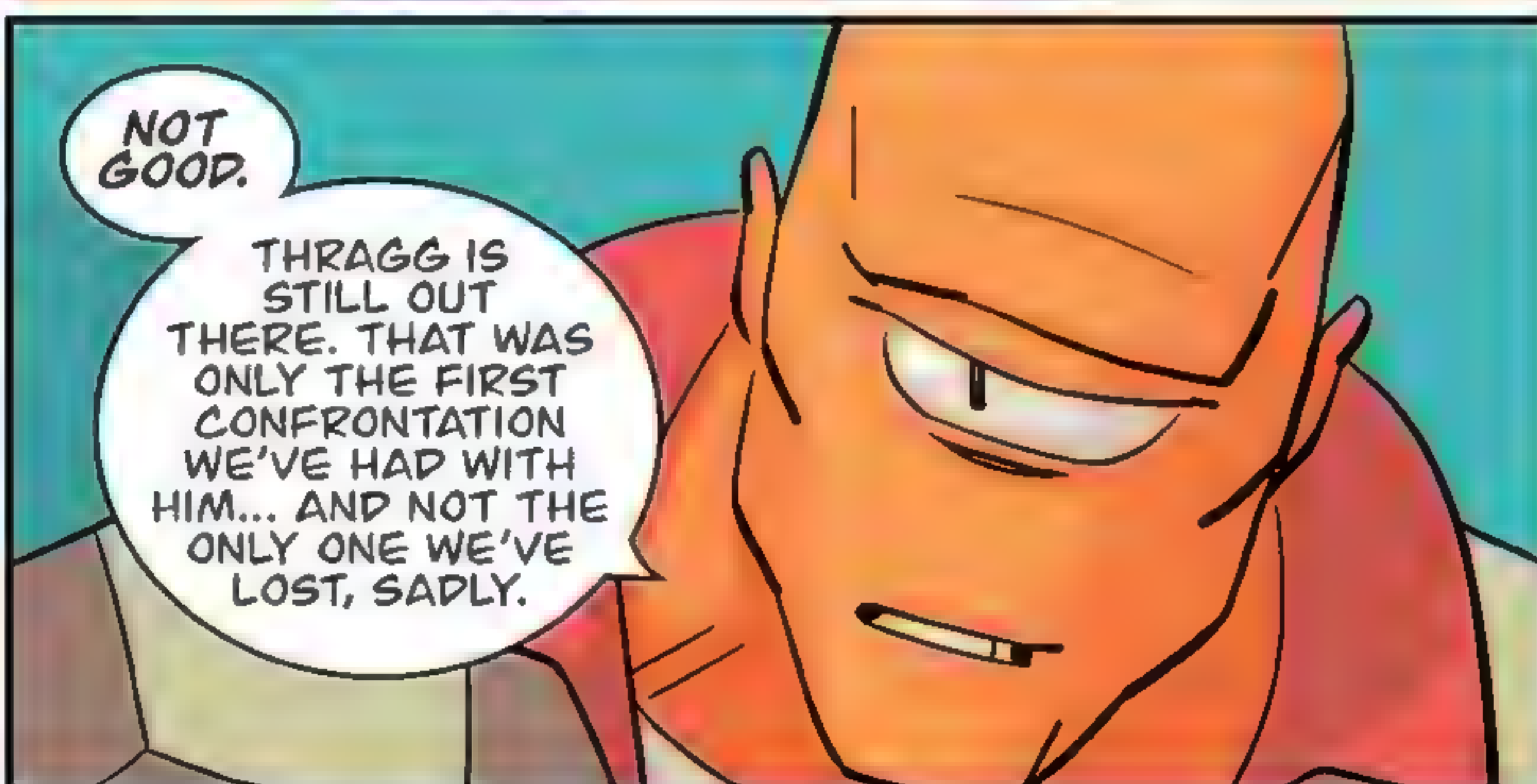


DON'T BREAK HIM, ALLEN! I JUST GOT HIM BACK!



DID YOU READ MY REPORT? WHAT HAPPENED TO THE FLEET? I SAW ALL THAT DESTRUCTION.

HOW BAD ARE THINGS?



NOT GOOD.

THRAGG IS STILL OUT THERE. THAT WAS ONLY THE FIRST CONFRONTATION WE'VE HAD WITH HIM... AND NOT THE ONLY ONE WE'VE LOST, SADLY.



I DIDN'T EVEN THINK TO ASK LAST NIGHT. IS OLIVER OKAY?

OLIVER IS FINE, NOW...
BACK ON ACTIVE DUTY.
HE DIDN'T SURVIVE
UNSCATHED... BUT
THAT WAS MANY
YEARS AGO AT
THIS POINT... AS
YOU KNOW.

THIS CAVE
YOU WERE IN...
YOU HAVE NO
CLUE WHERE
THESE
CREATURES
WENT?

NO. THEY WERE JUST GONE ONCE I
CAME BACK. I COULDN'T EVEN TELL
TIME HAD PASSED, ASIDE FROM
THE EVIDENCE OF THAT
BATTLE.

I THOUGHT IT
HAD BEEN A FEW
WEEKS, SAME
TIME I SPENT IN
THE OTHER
TIMELINE.

I'LL SEND
A TEAM TO
INVESTIGATE.

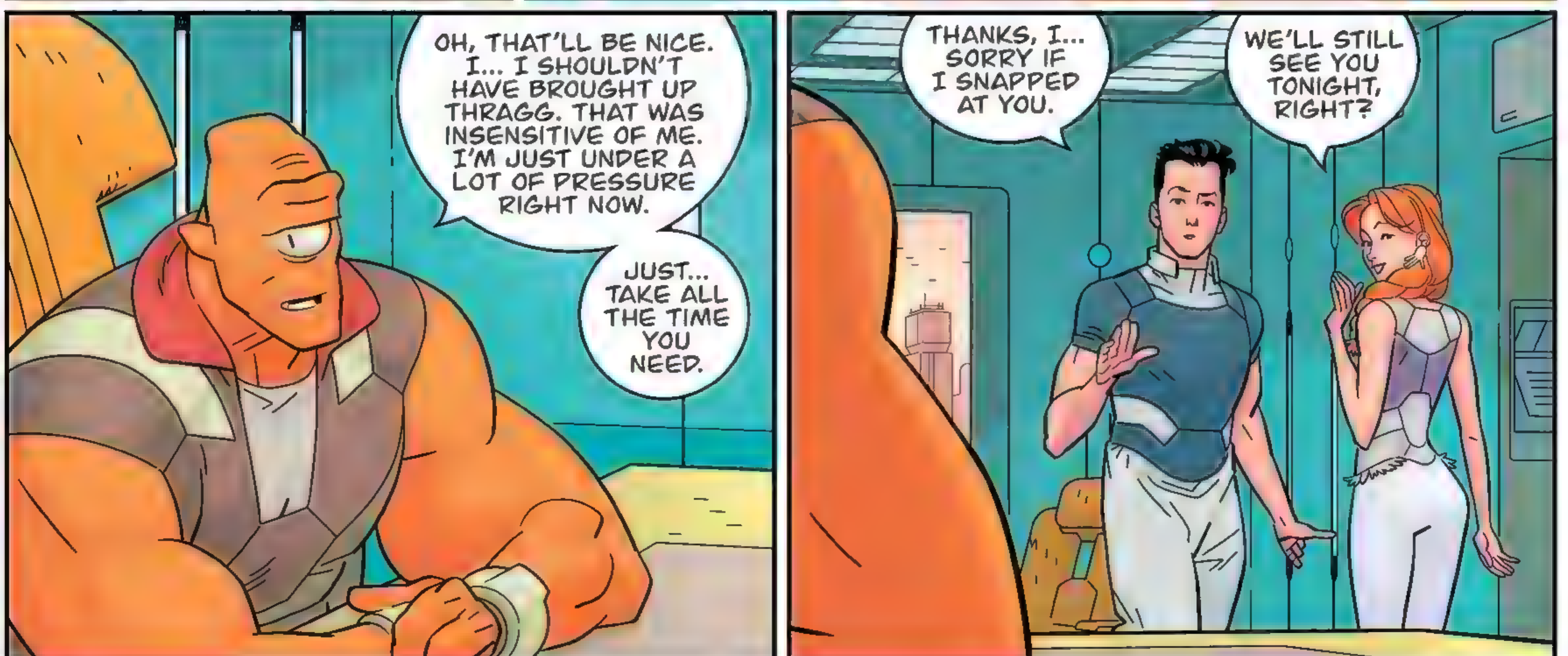
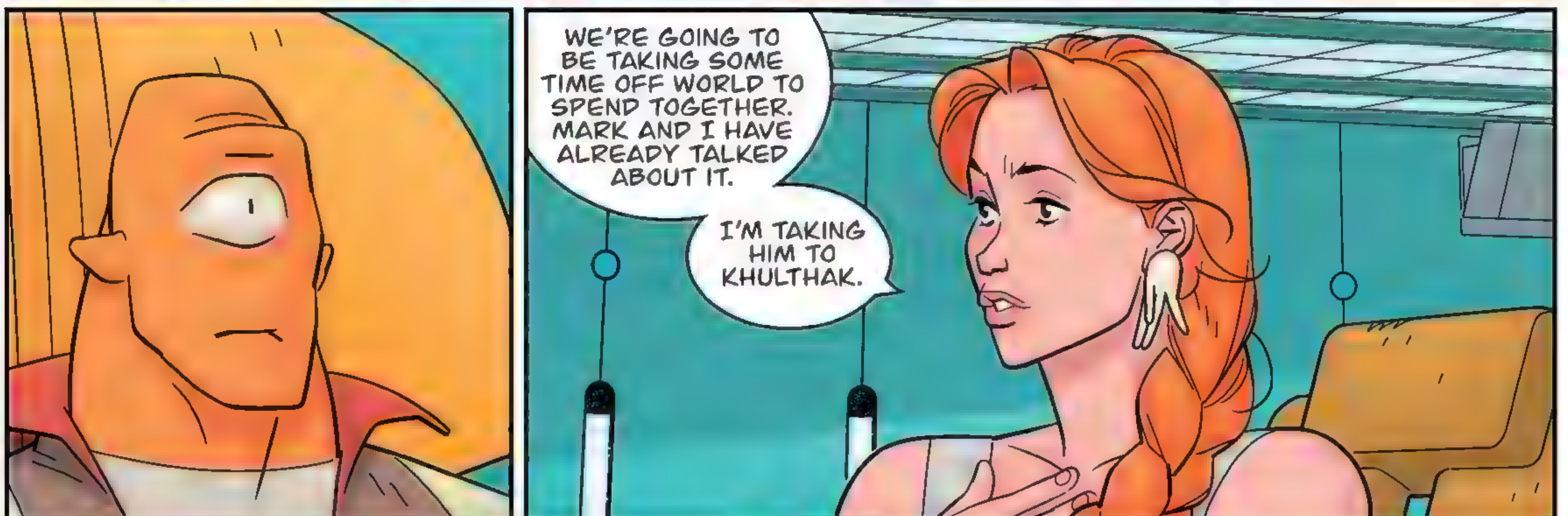
I'D DO IT
MYSELF... BUT I
CAN'T RISK GETTING
PULLED OUT OF TIME
FOR ANOTHER FIVE
YEARS. I CAN'T...
I WON'T TAKE A
RISK LIKE THAT
AGAIN.

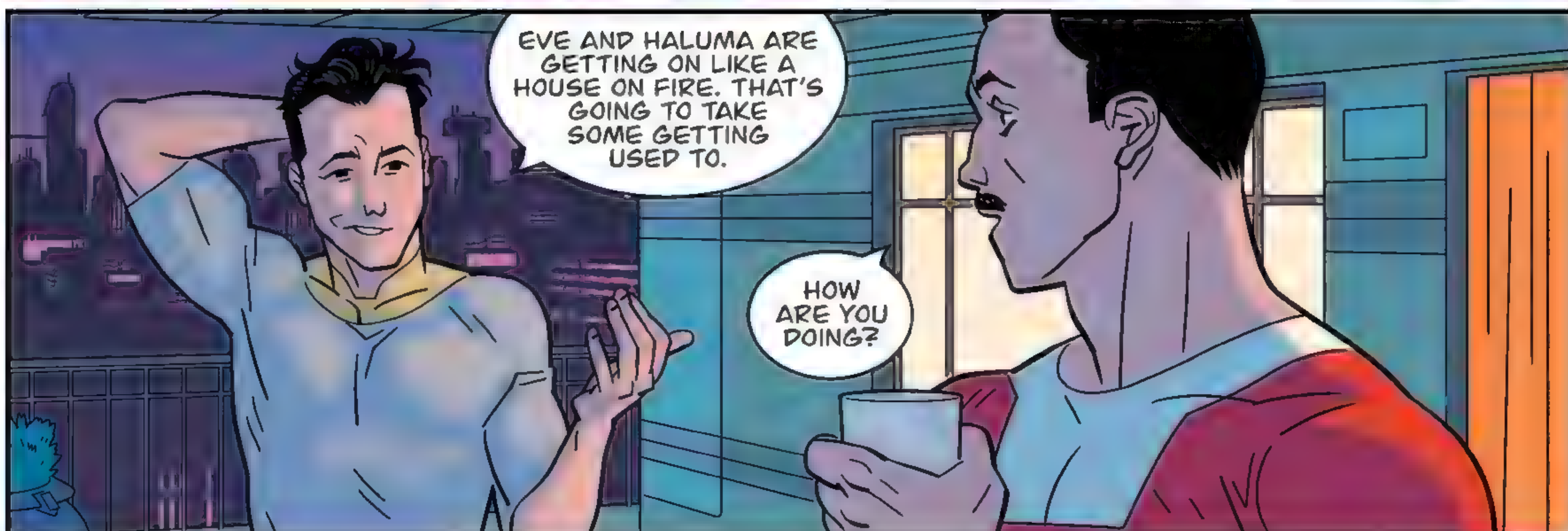
SPEAKING
OF RISK... WITH
THRAGG OUT
THERE... YOU
KNOW WHAT I'M
GOING TO
ASK.

WE
COULD
REALLY
USE
YOU.

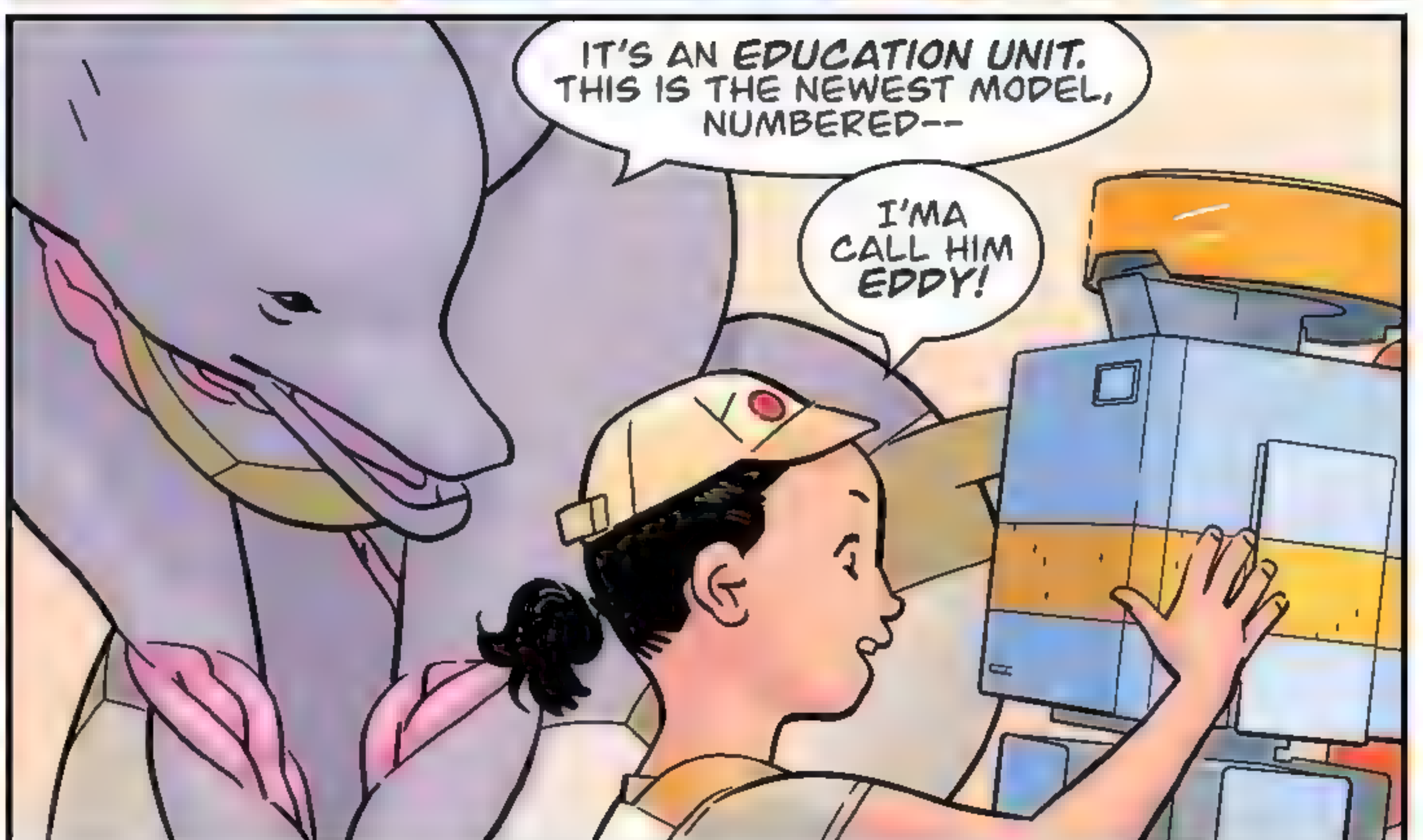
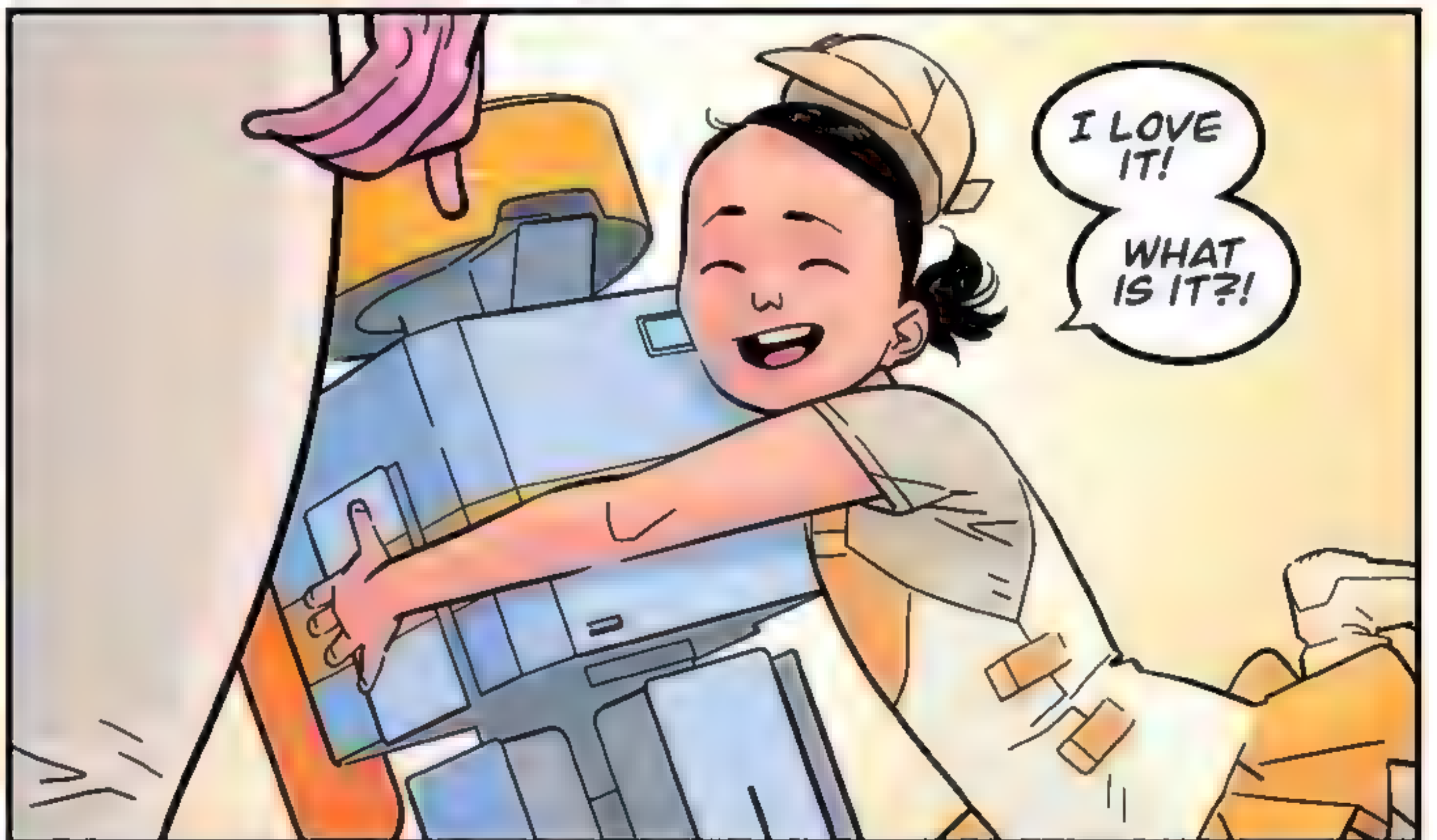
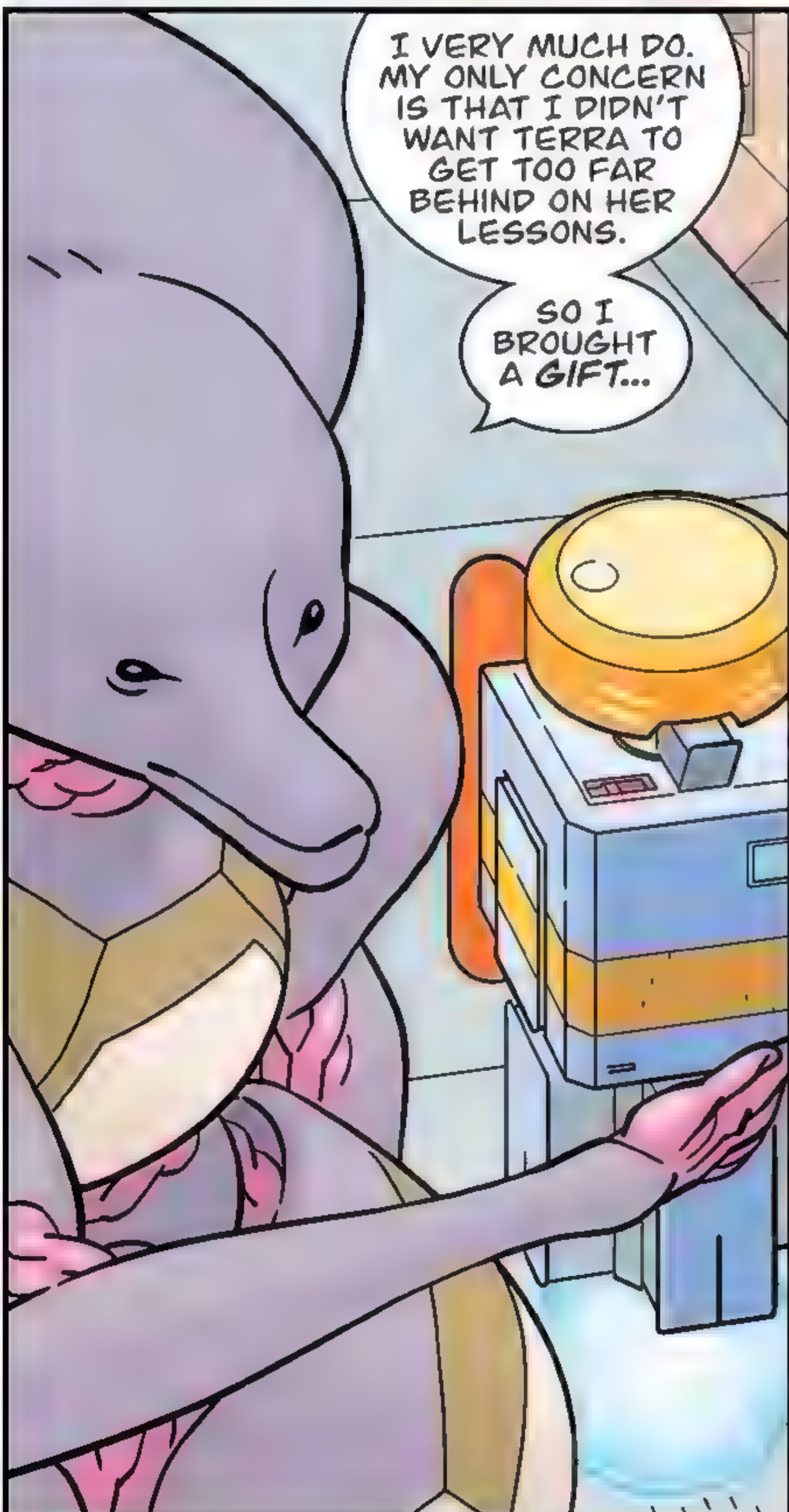
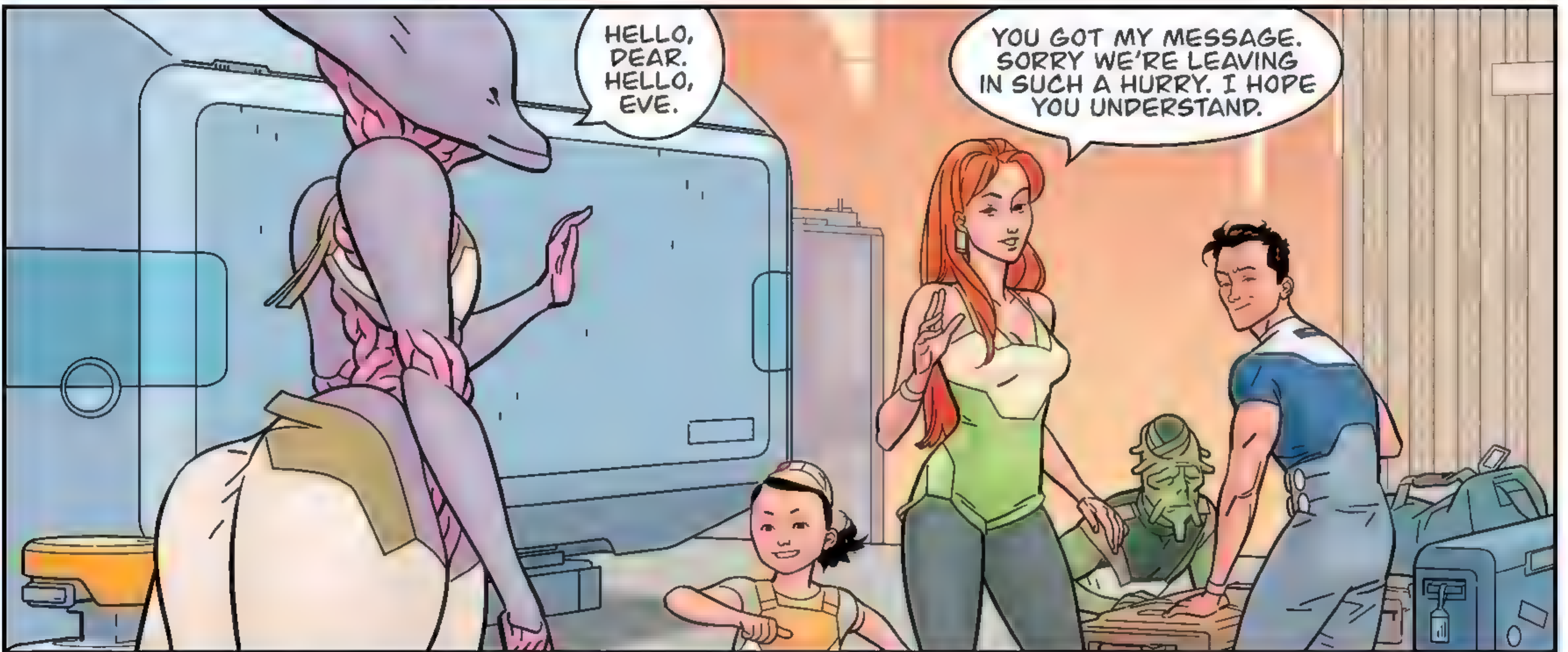
I'M...
DONE.

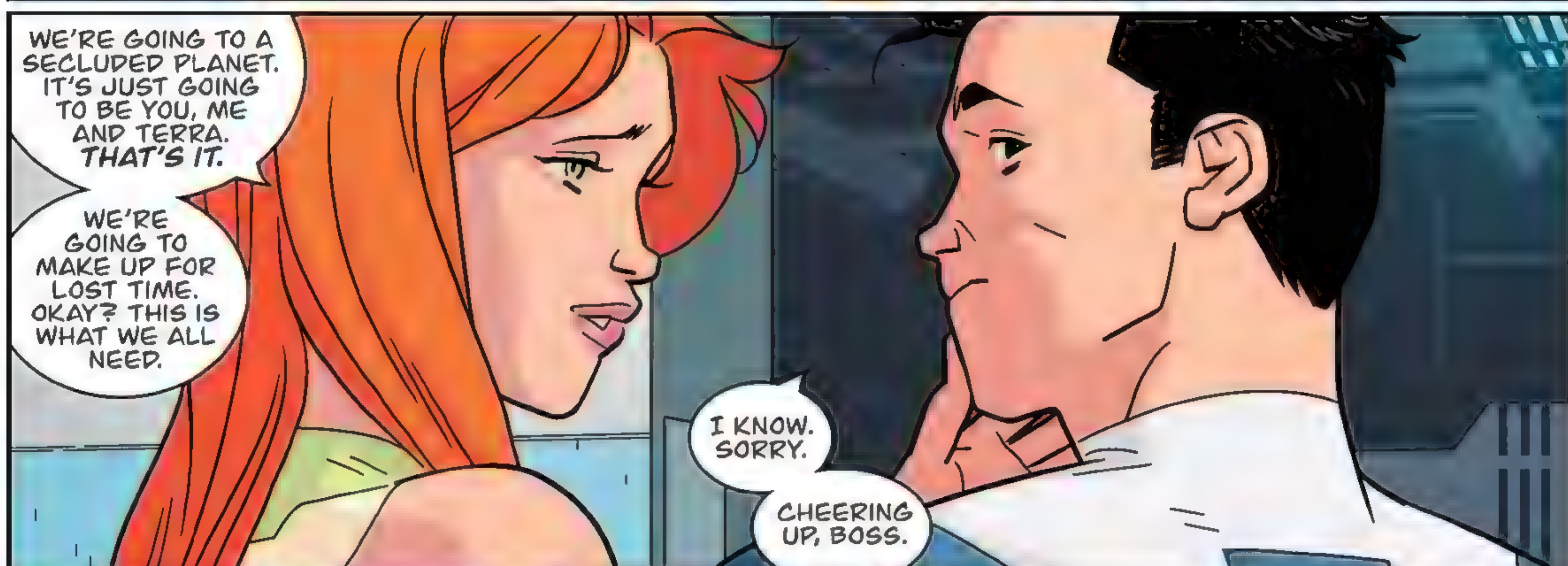
I'M
NEVER
COMING
BACK.

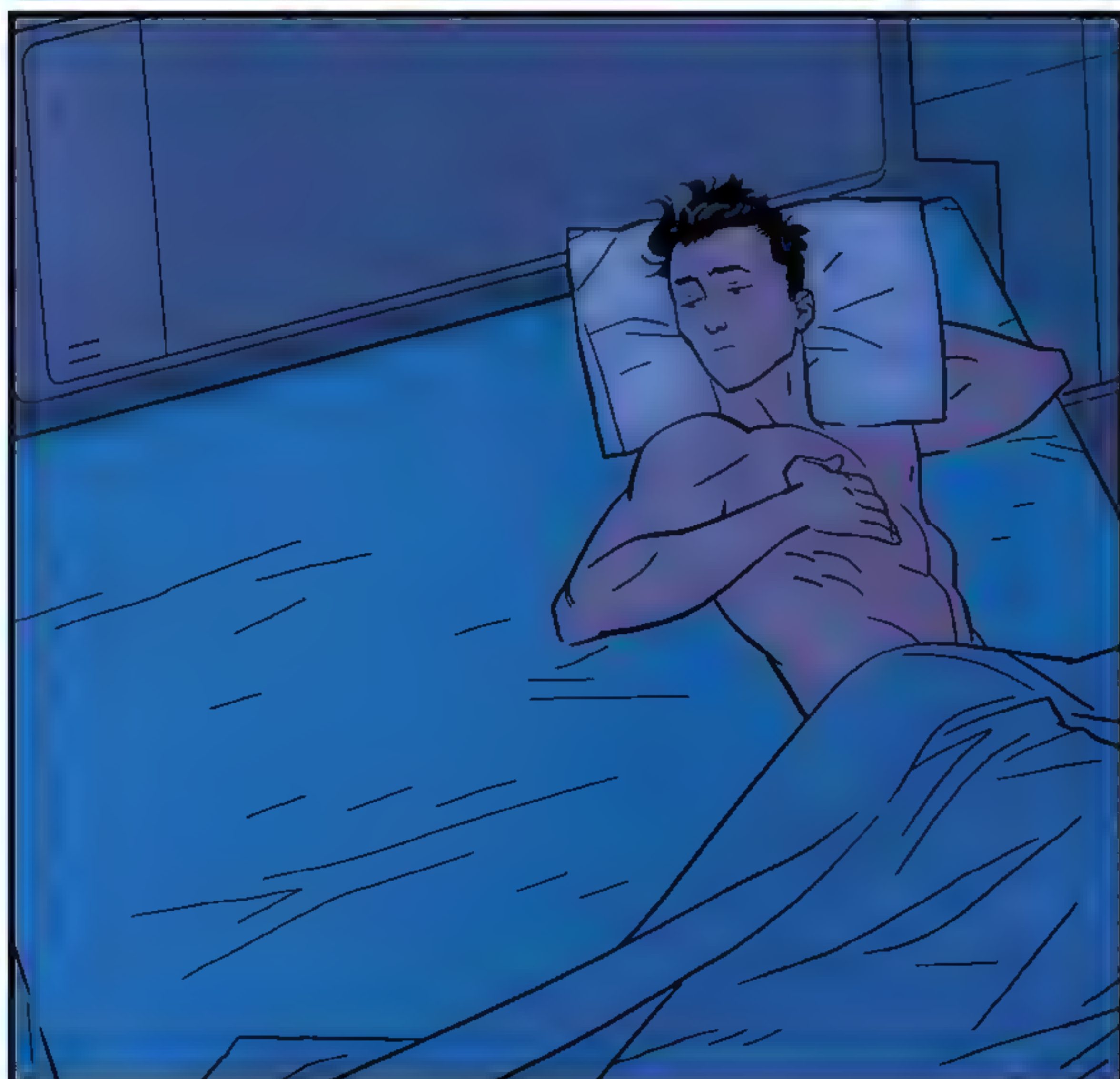
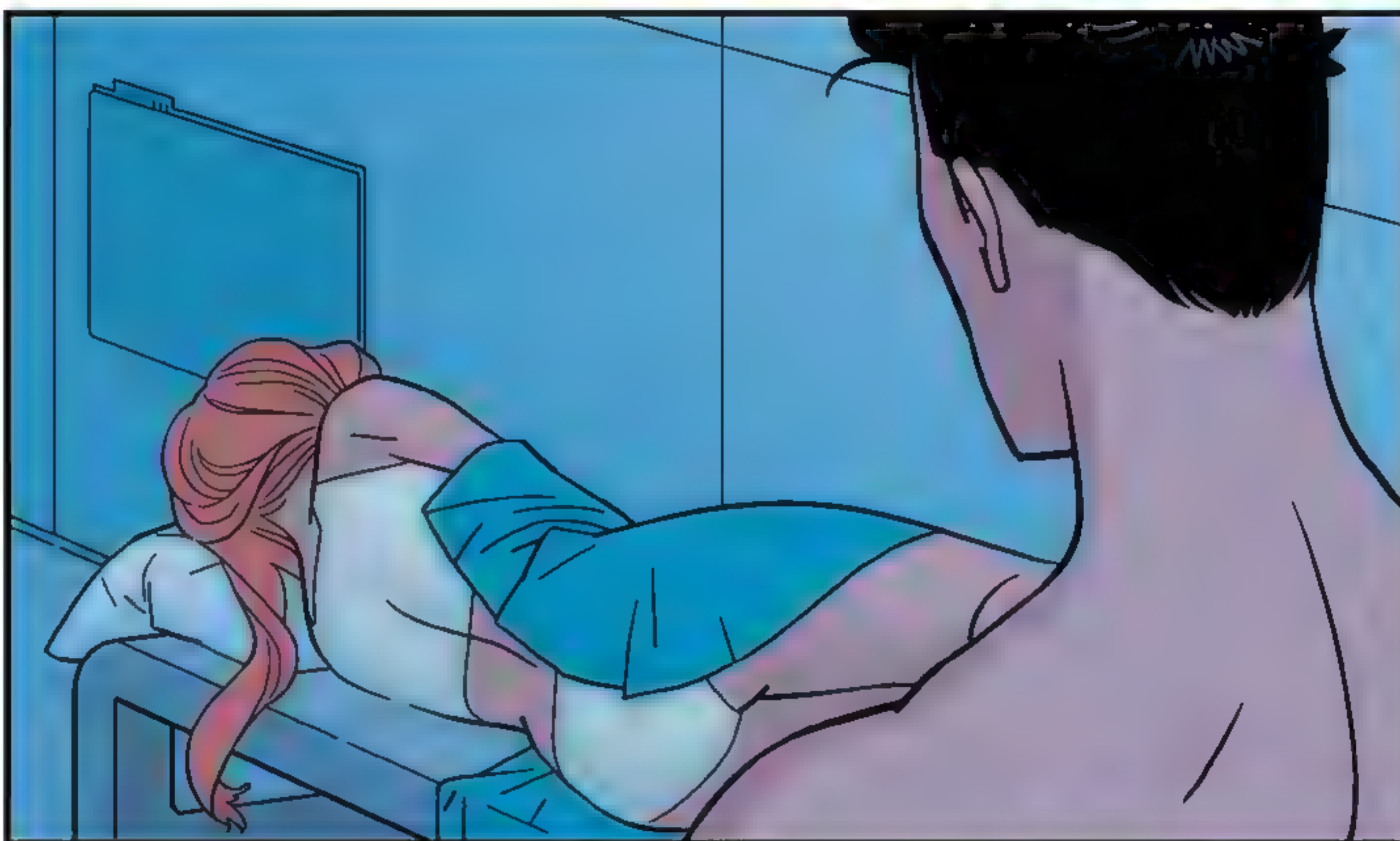
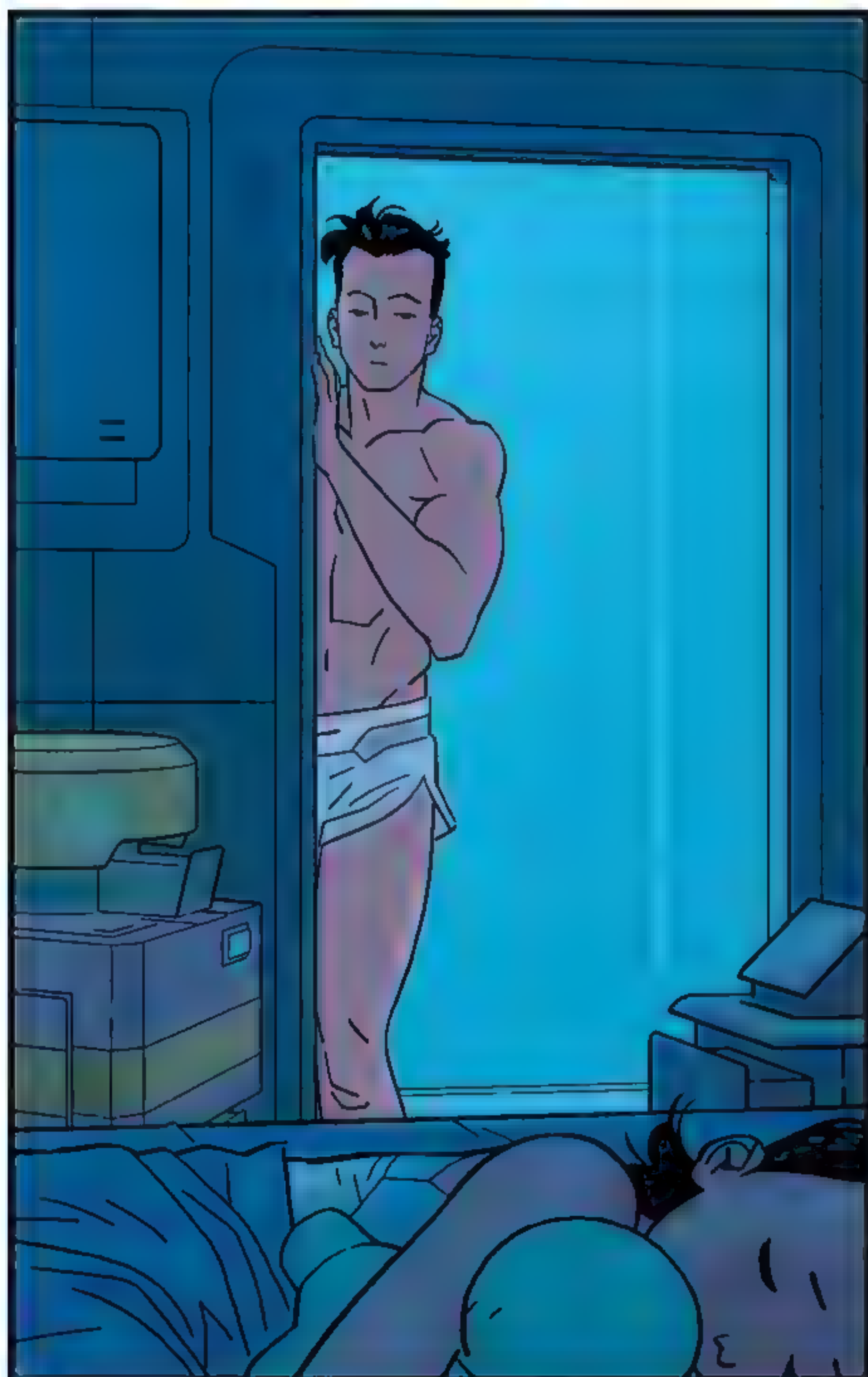


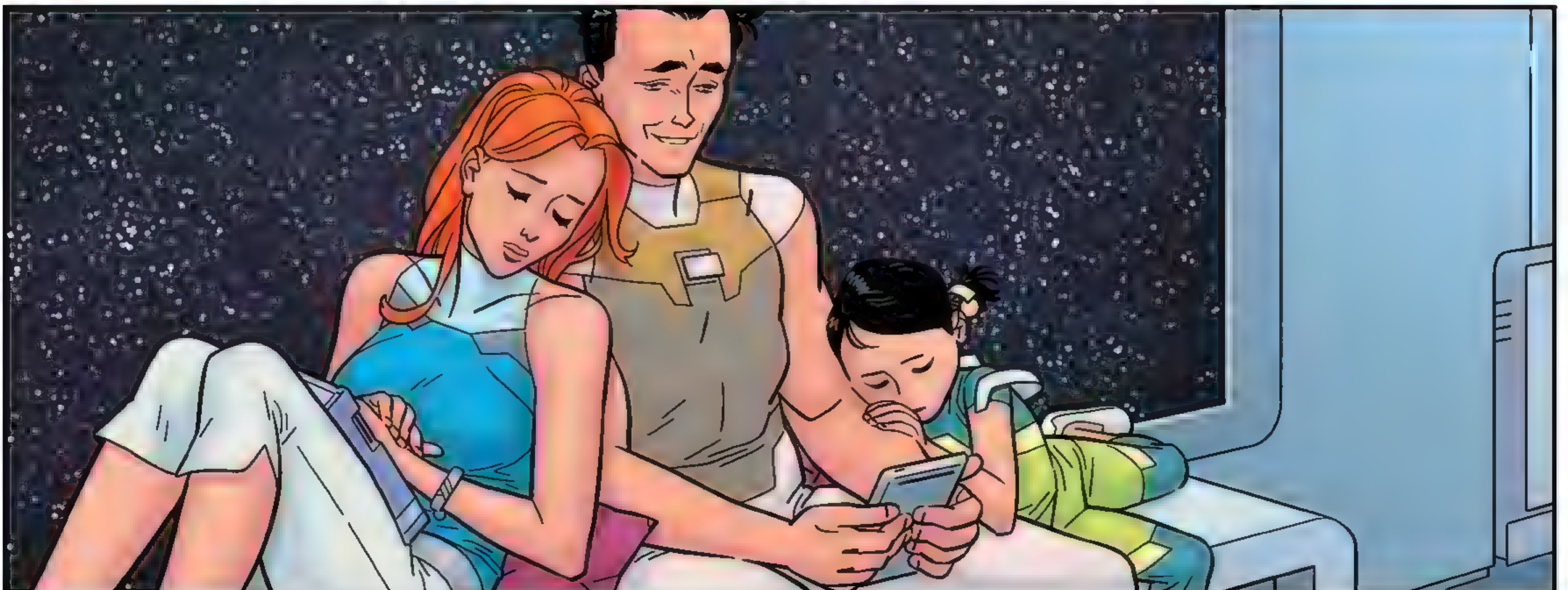
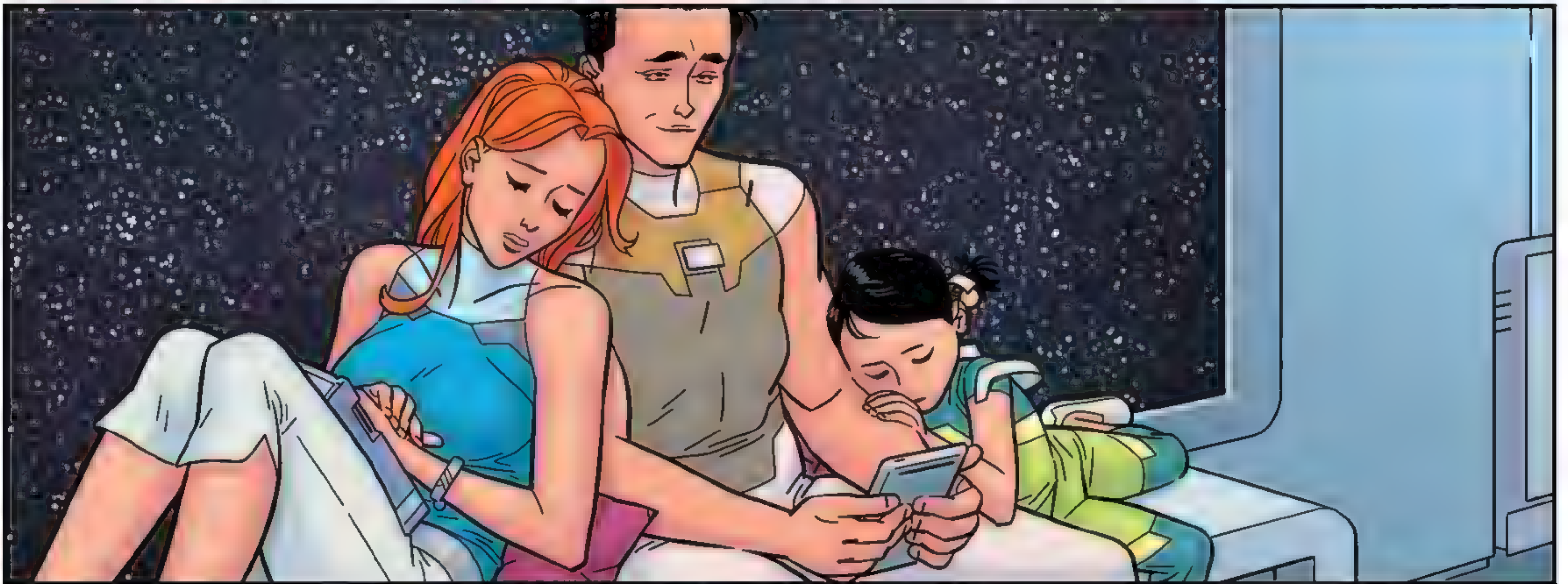
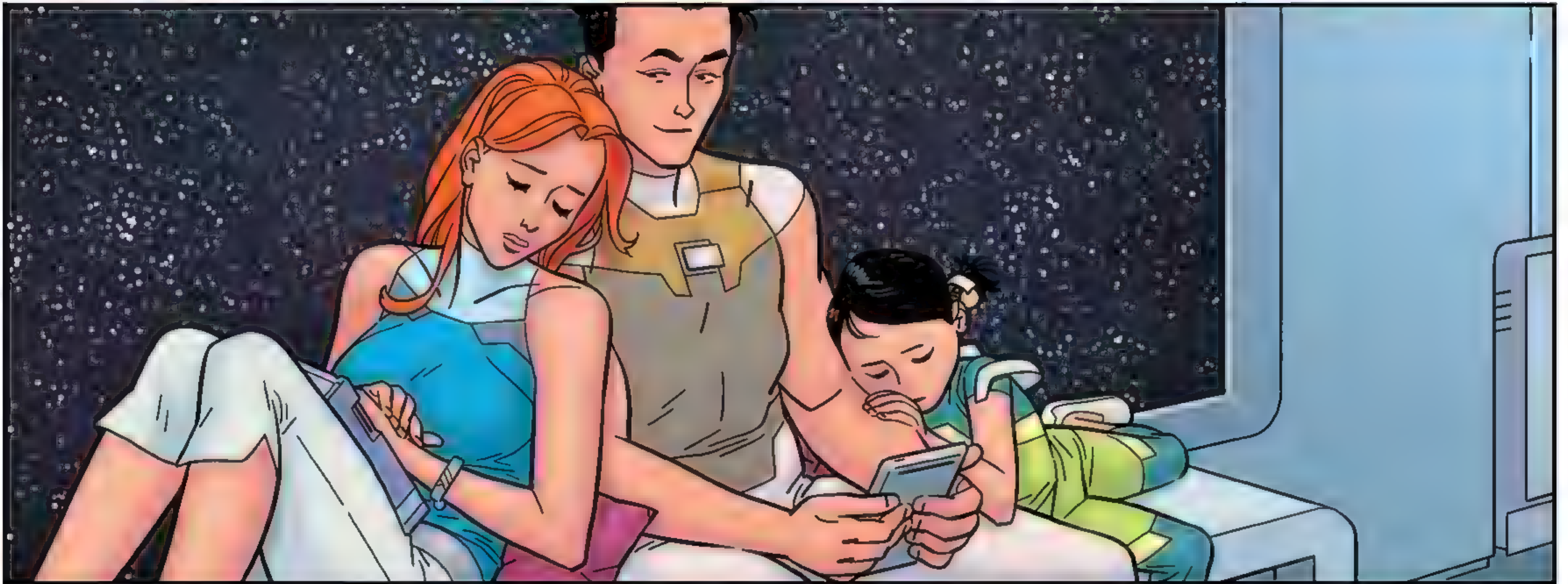
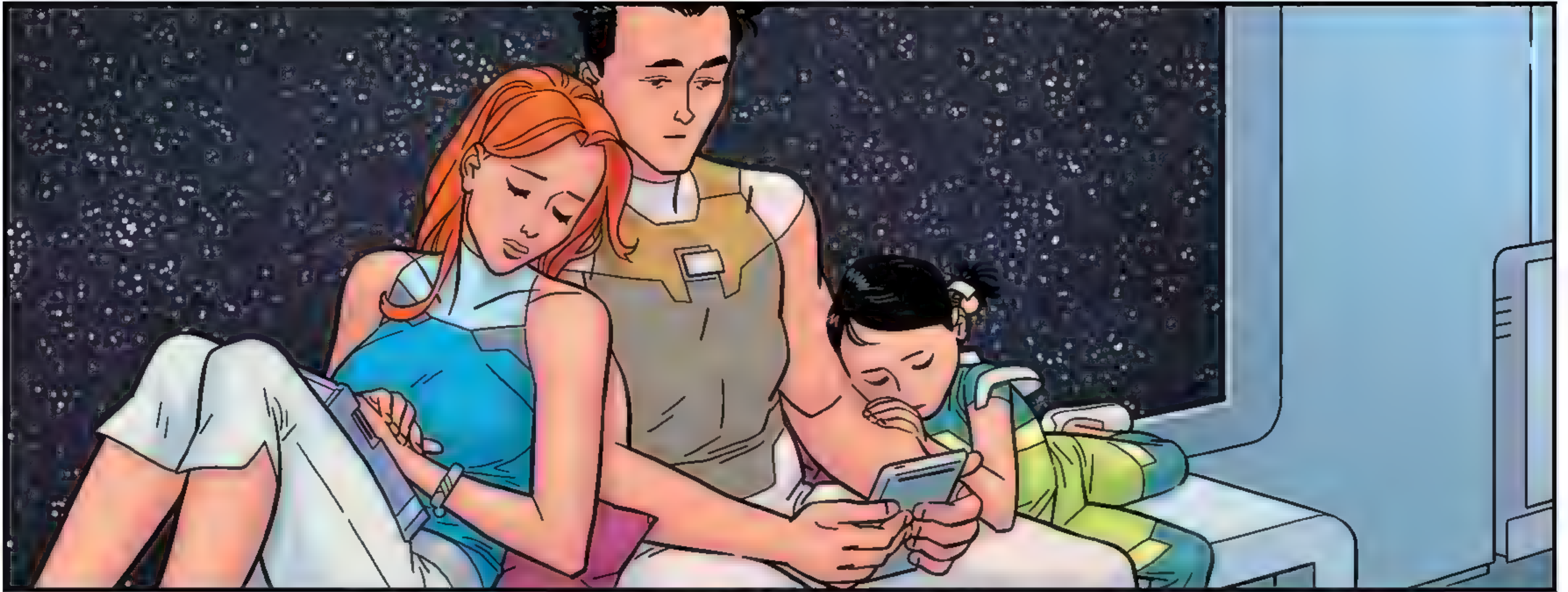


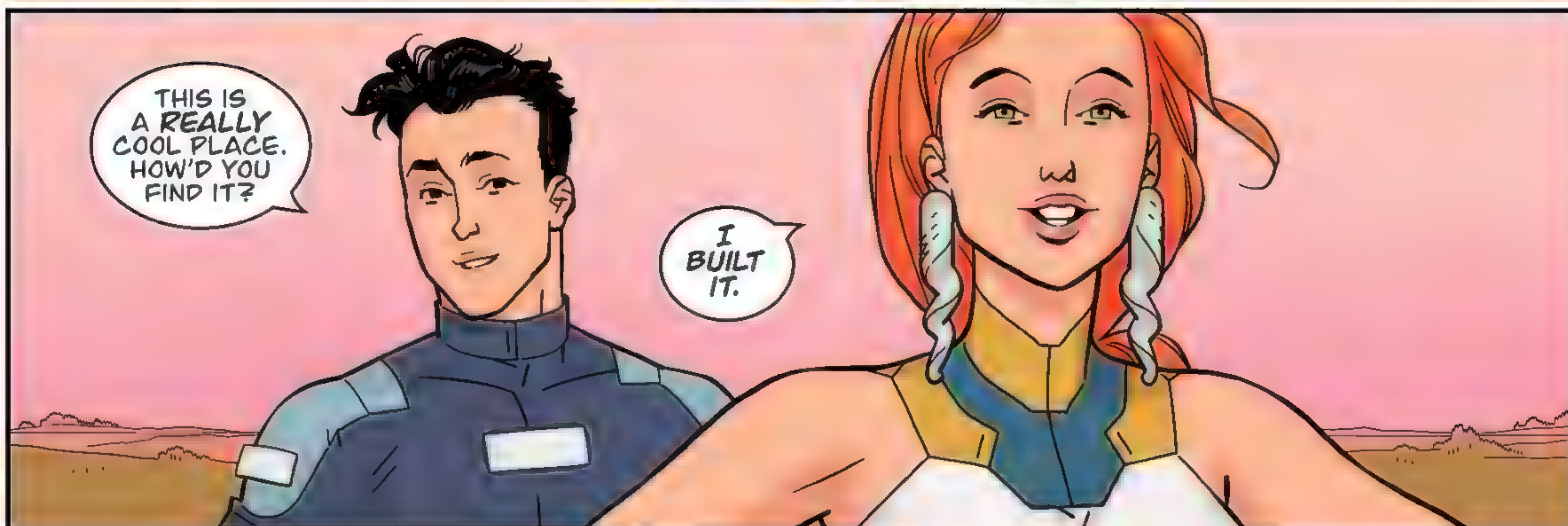
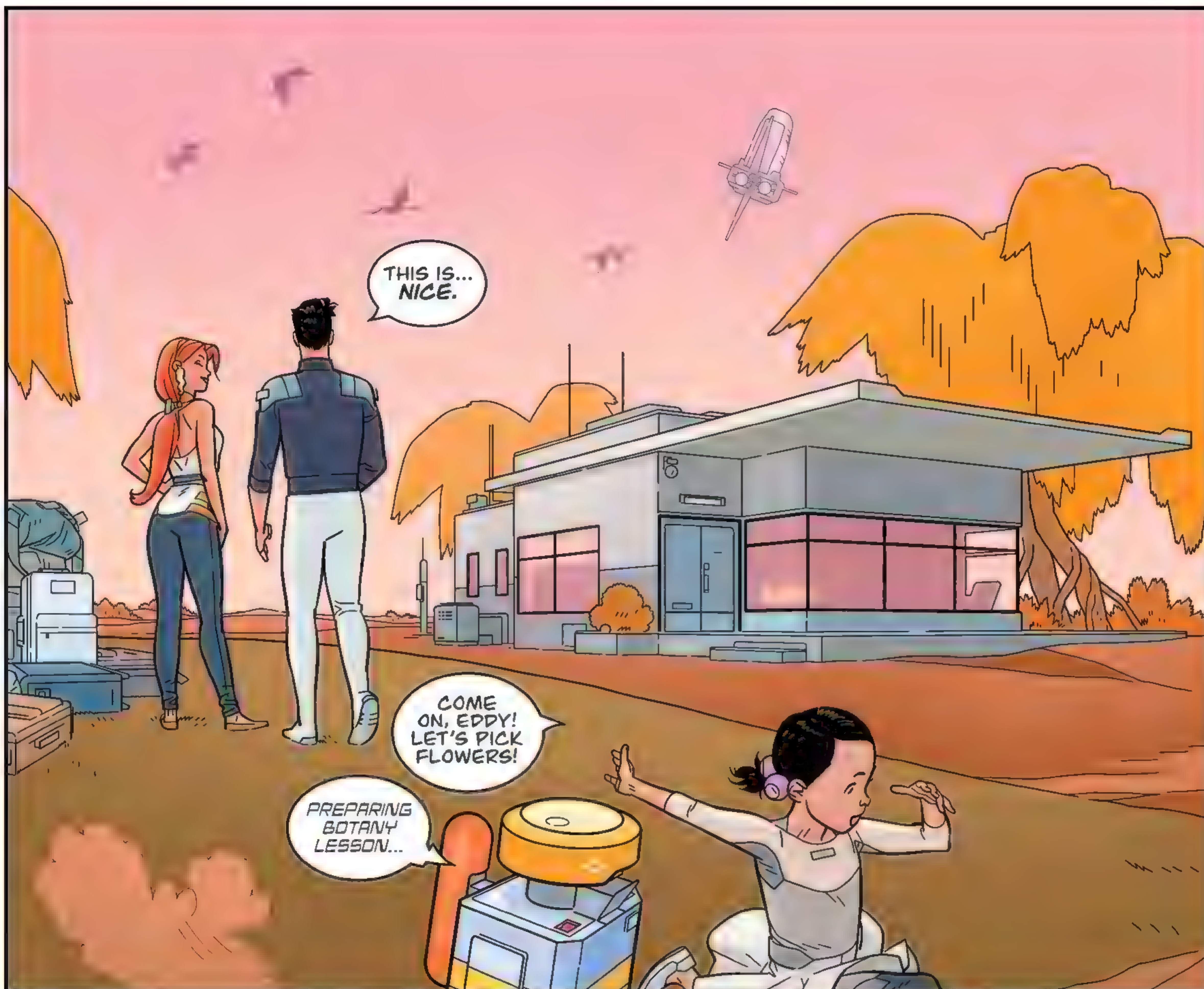


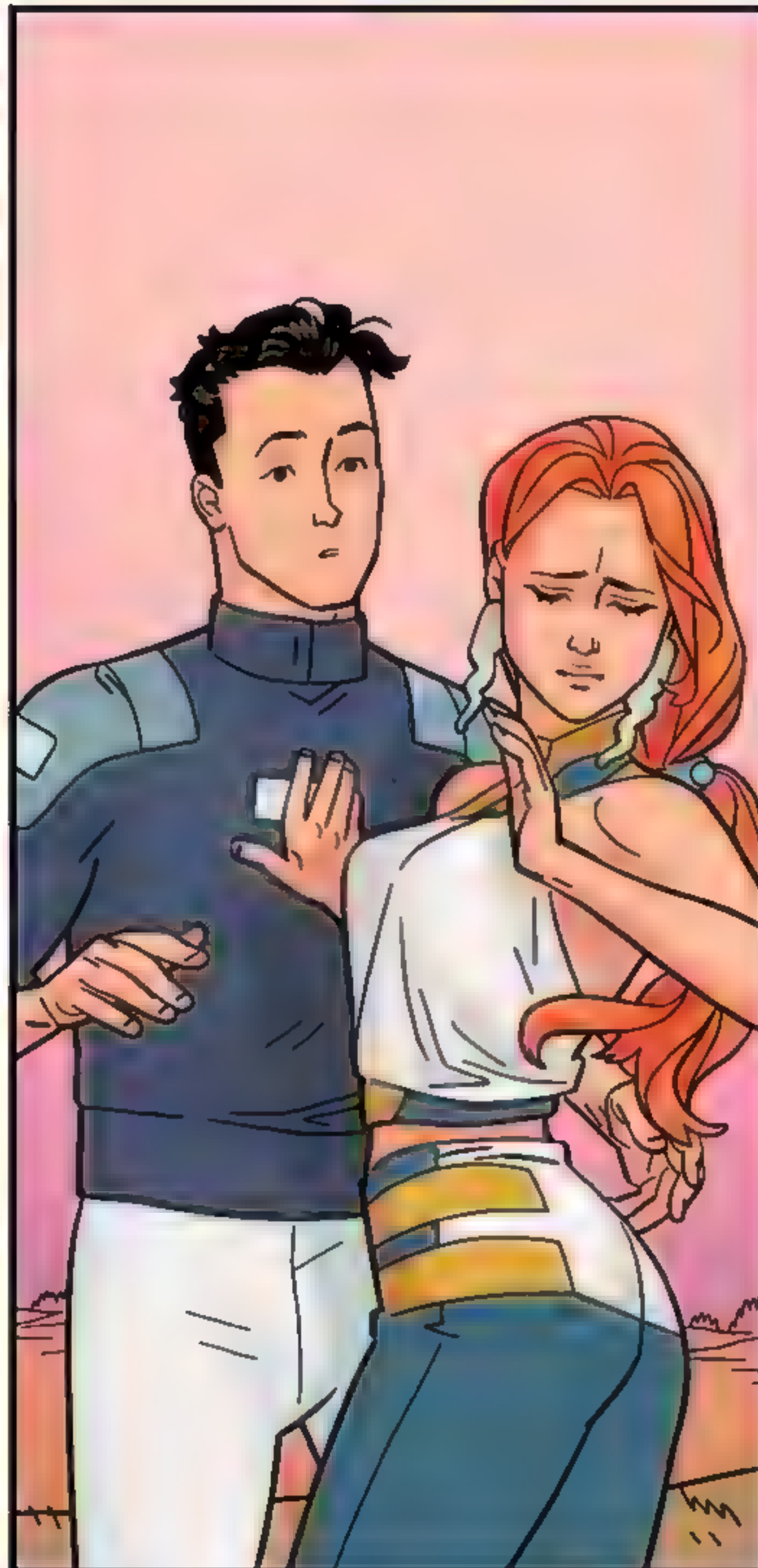
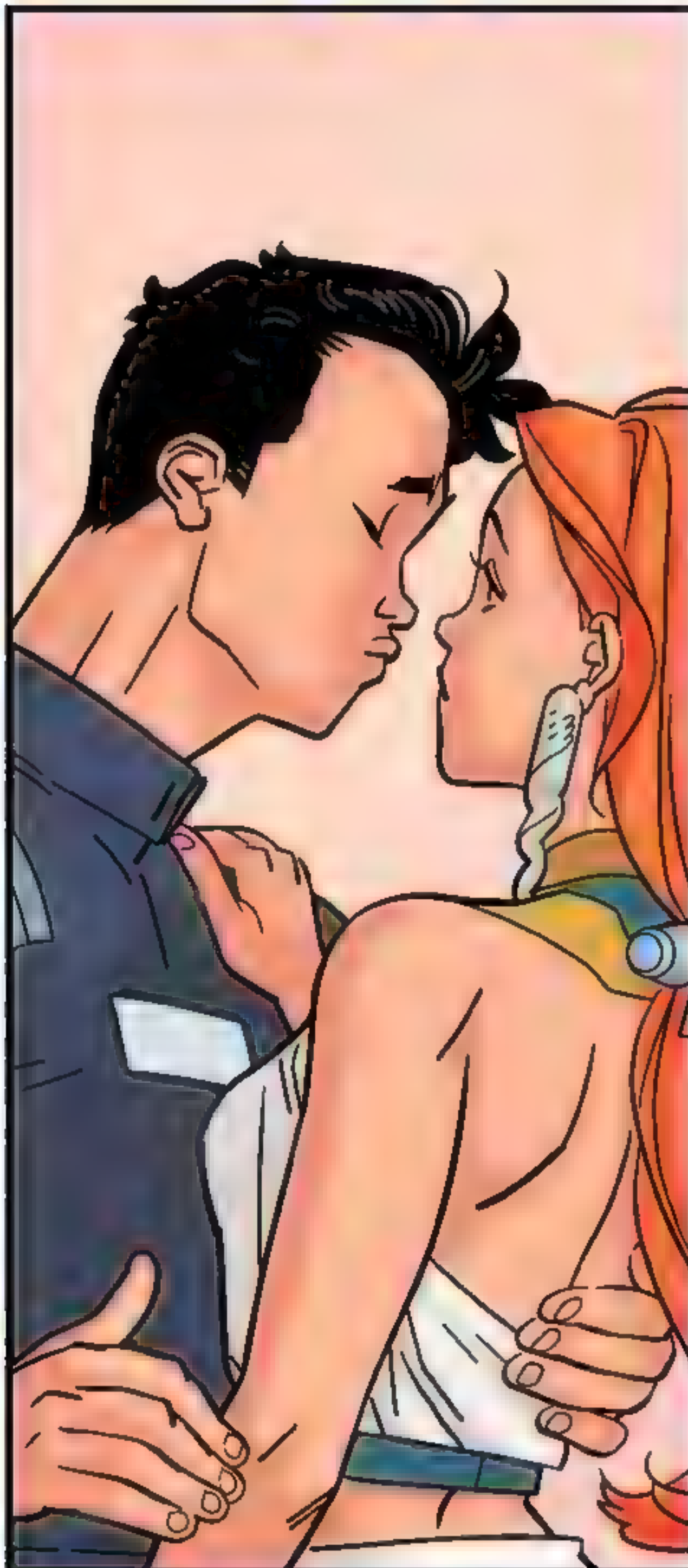
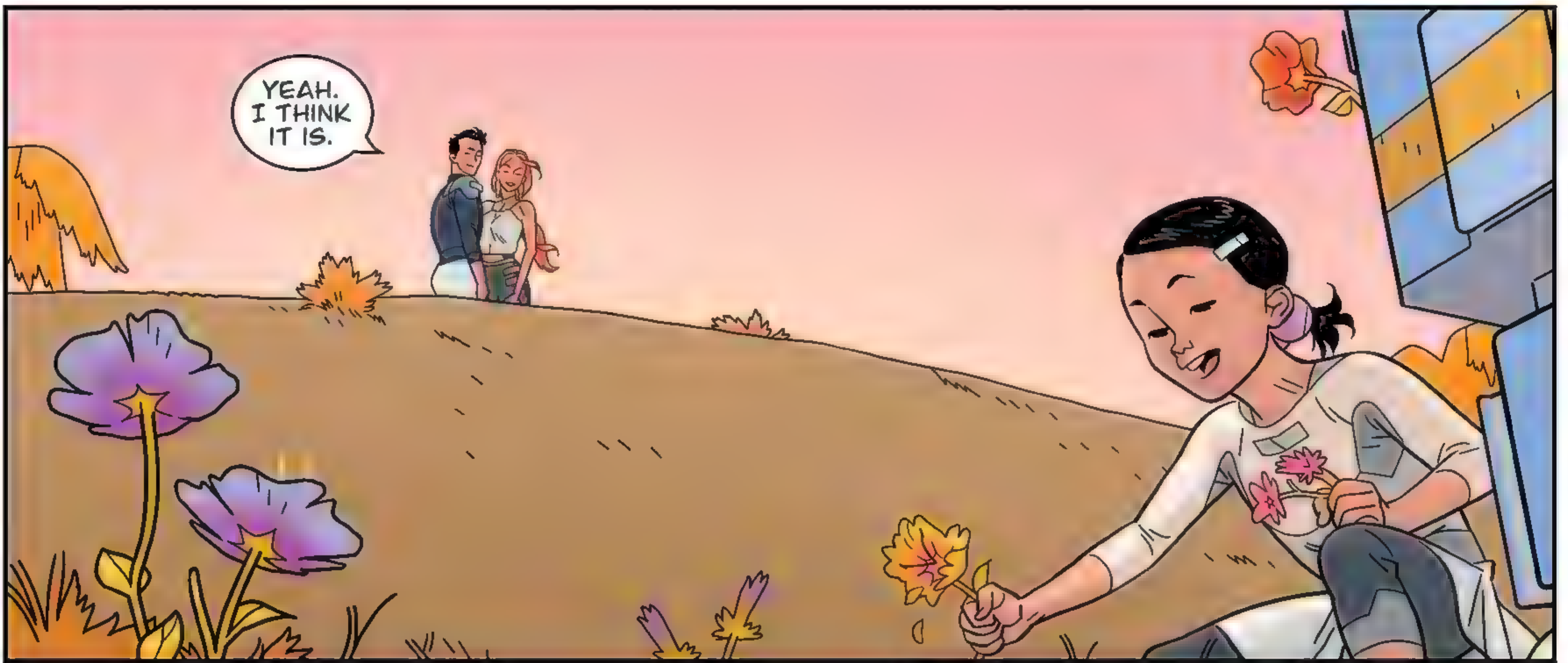


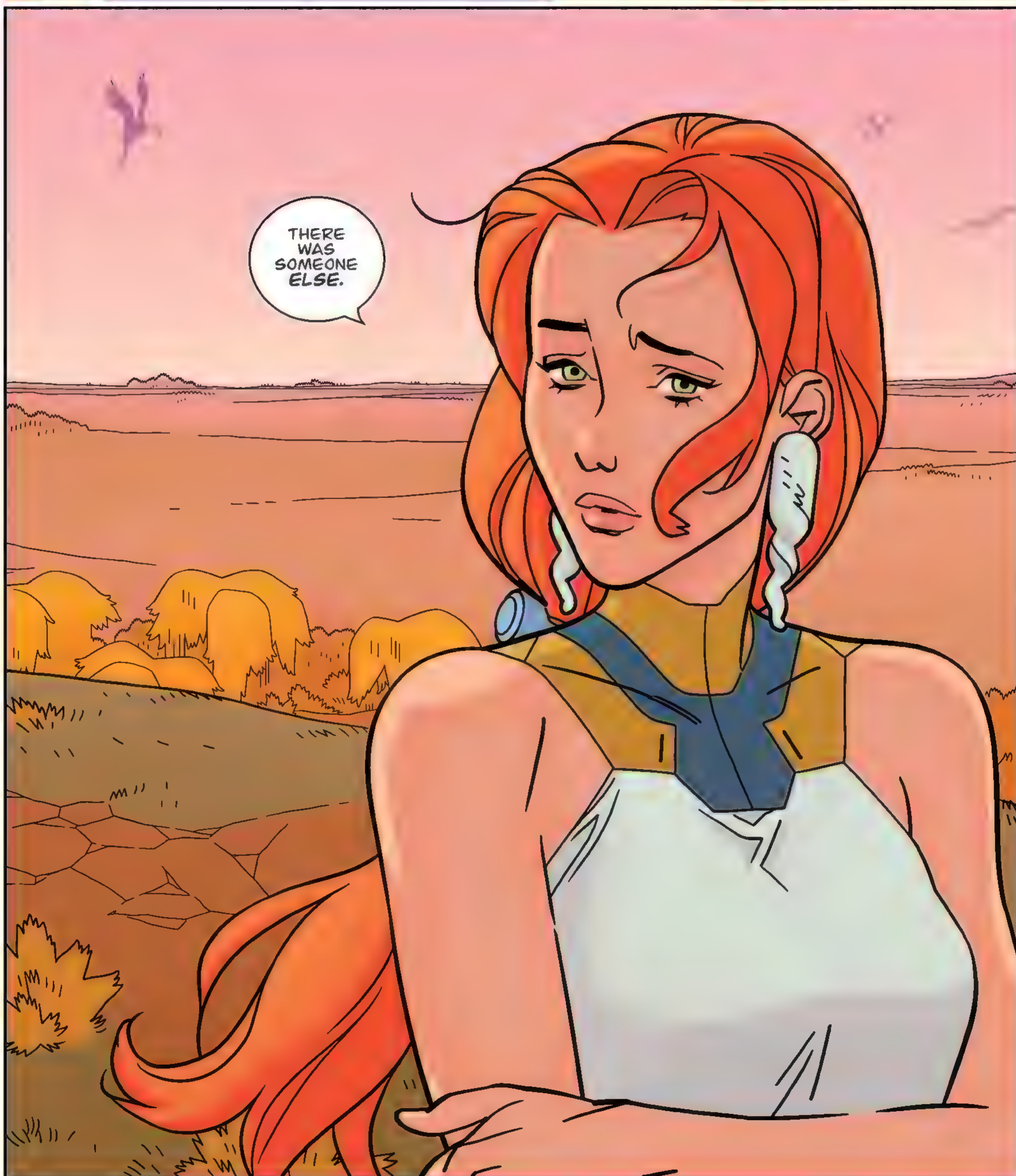


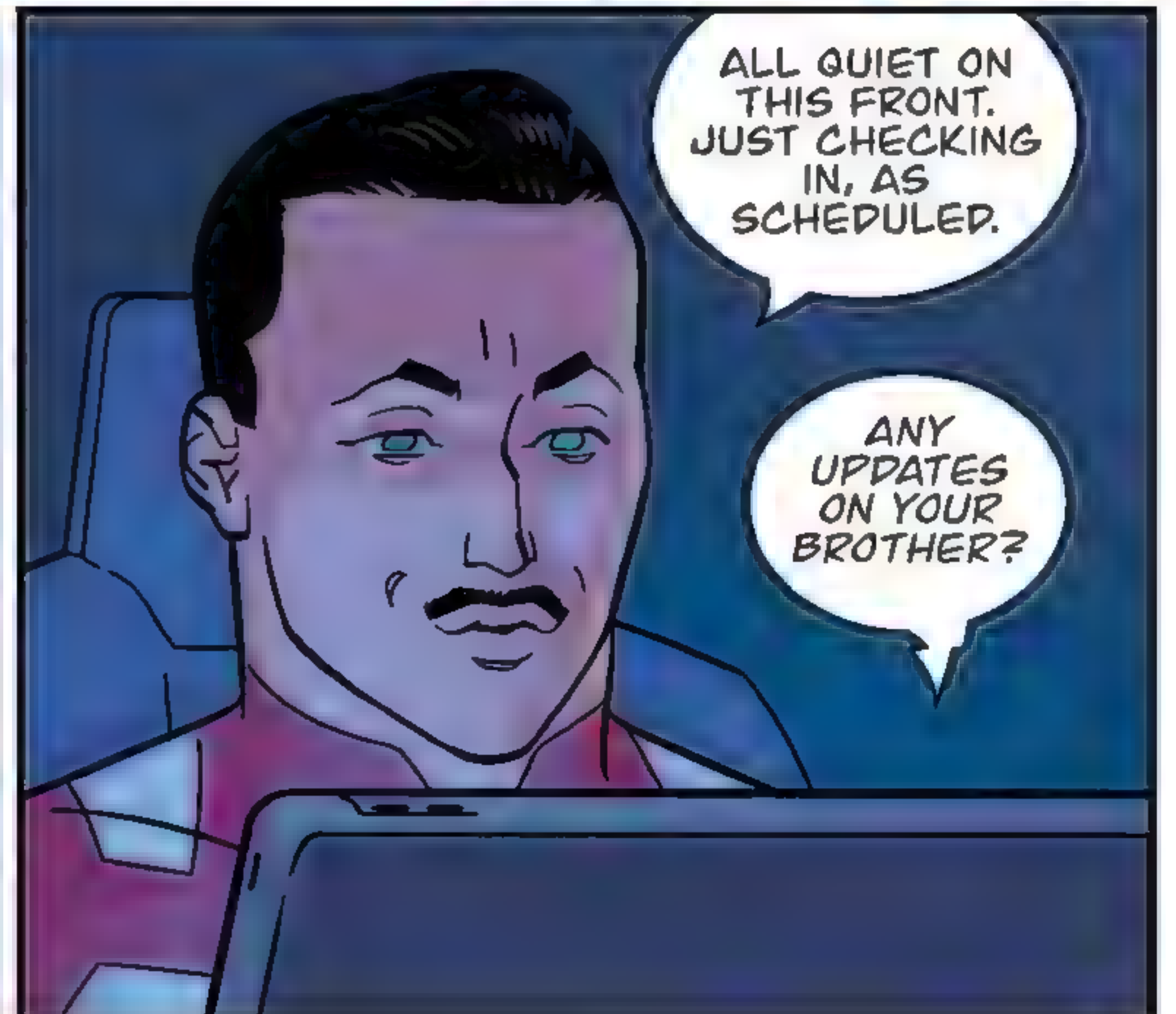
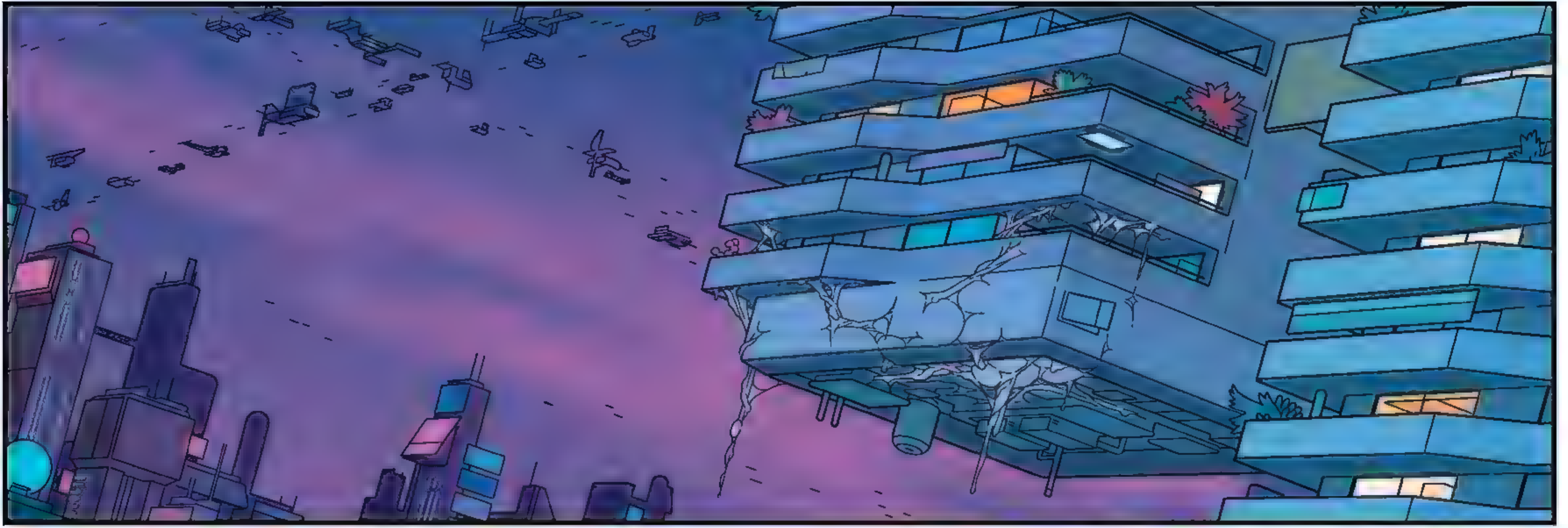










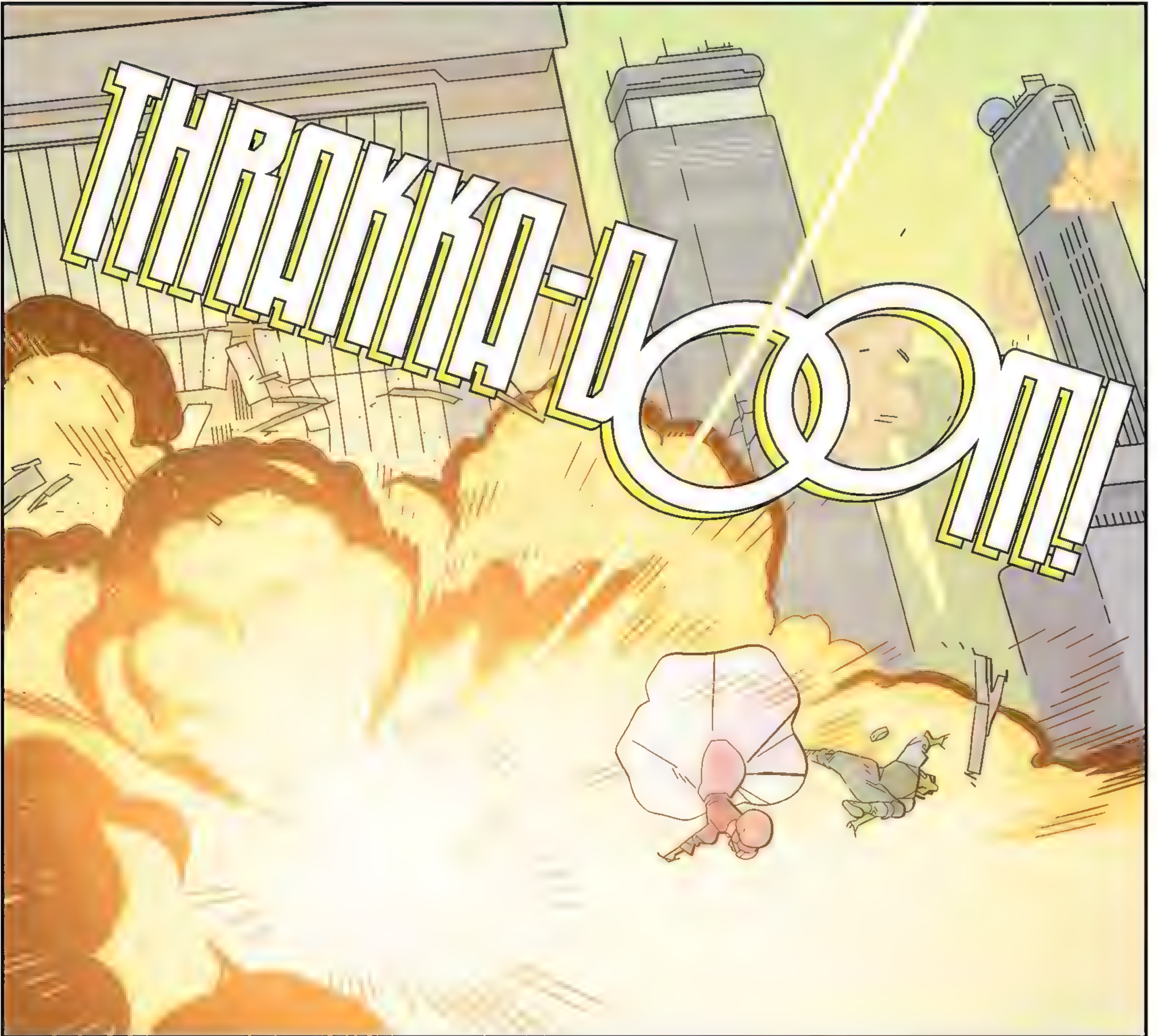
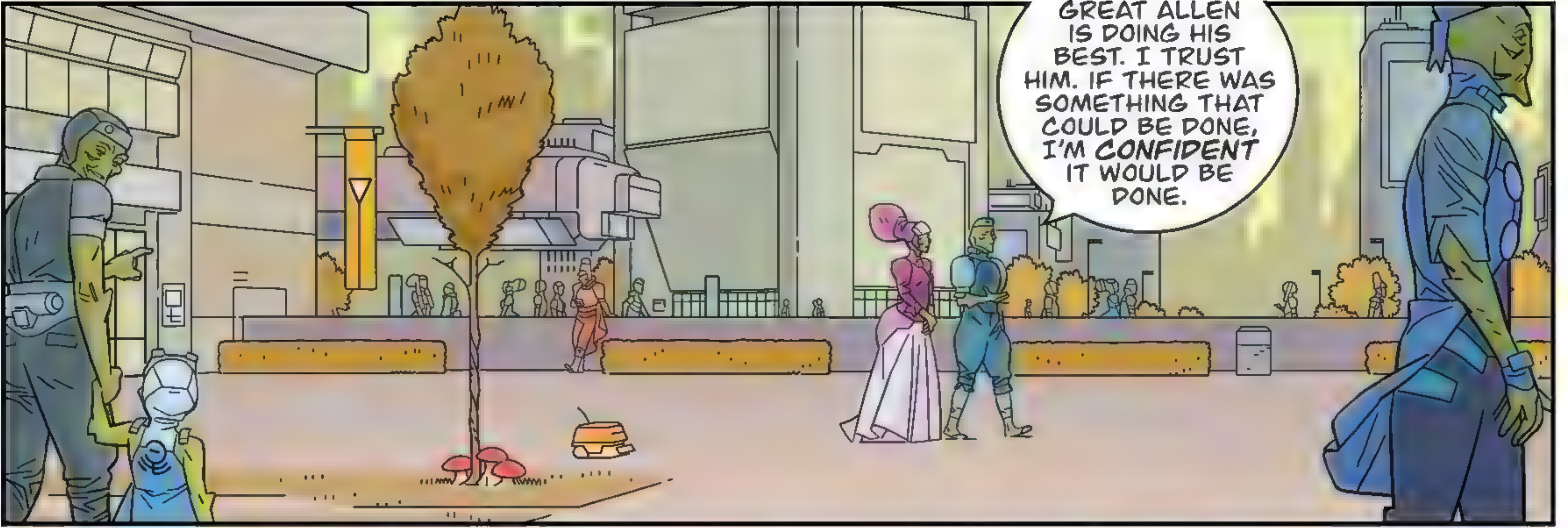






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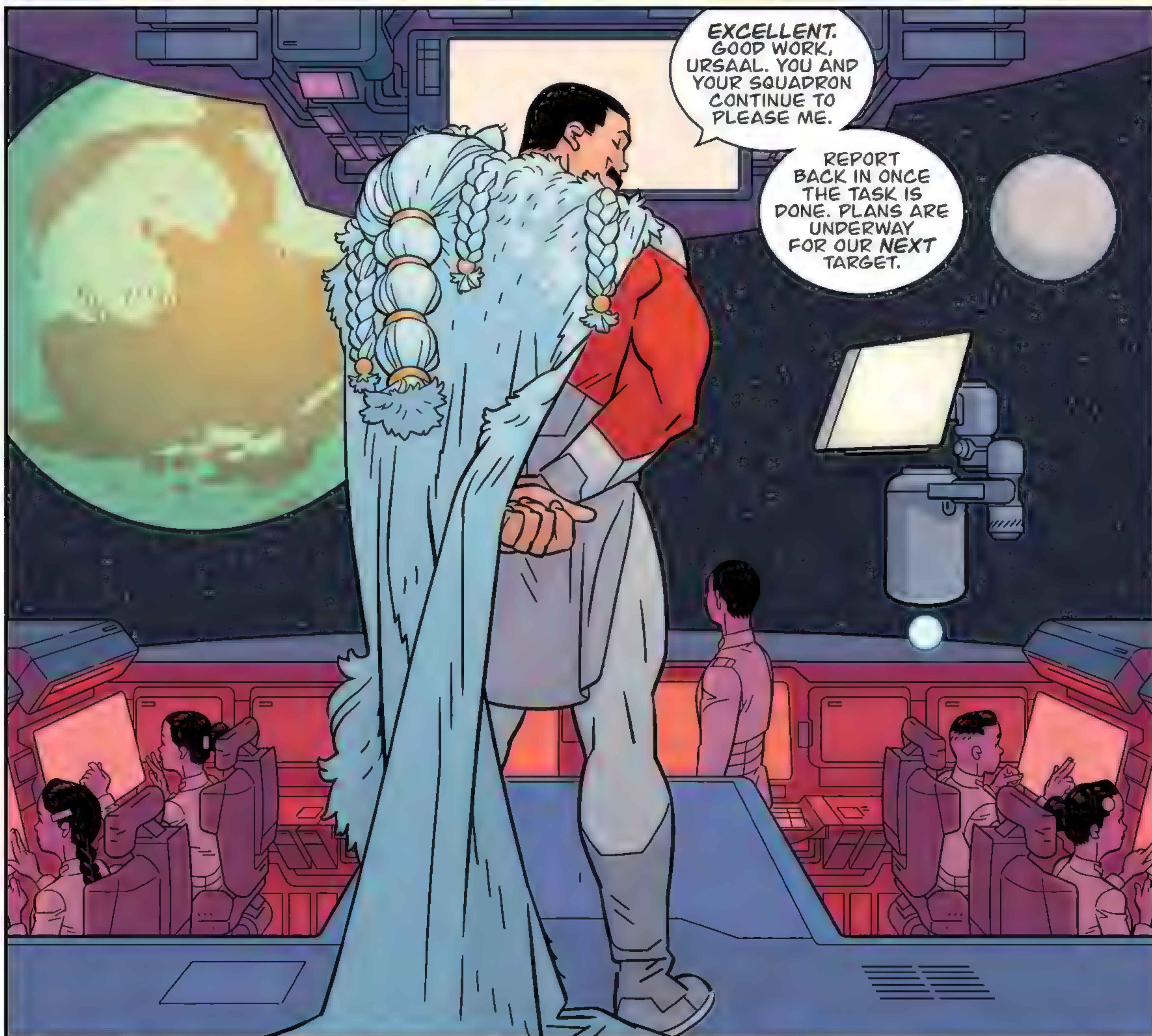






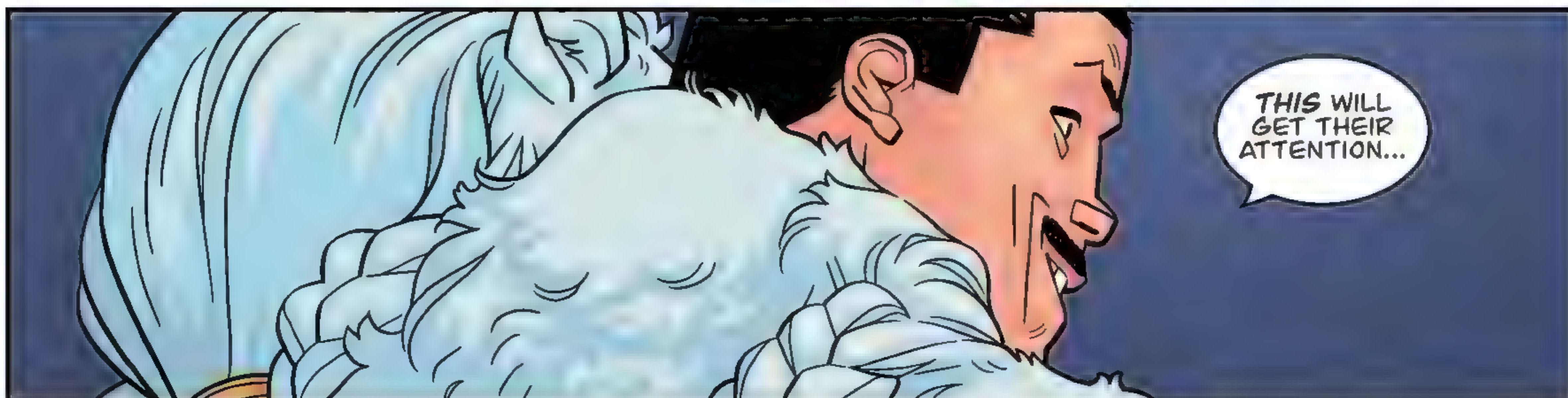
ALL GOES
ACCORDING
TO PLAN,
FATHER.

WE'LL
HAVE COMPLETE
CONTROL OF THIS
PLANET IN A
MATTER OF
MINUTES.

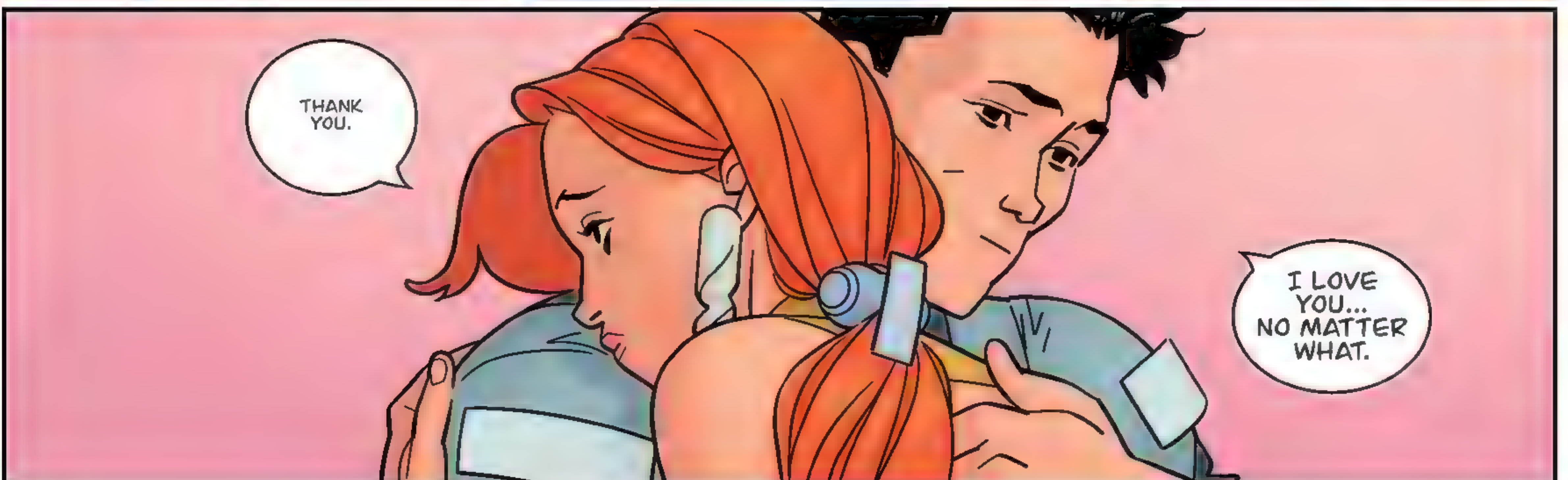
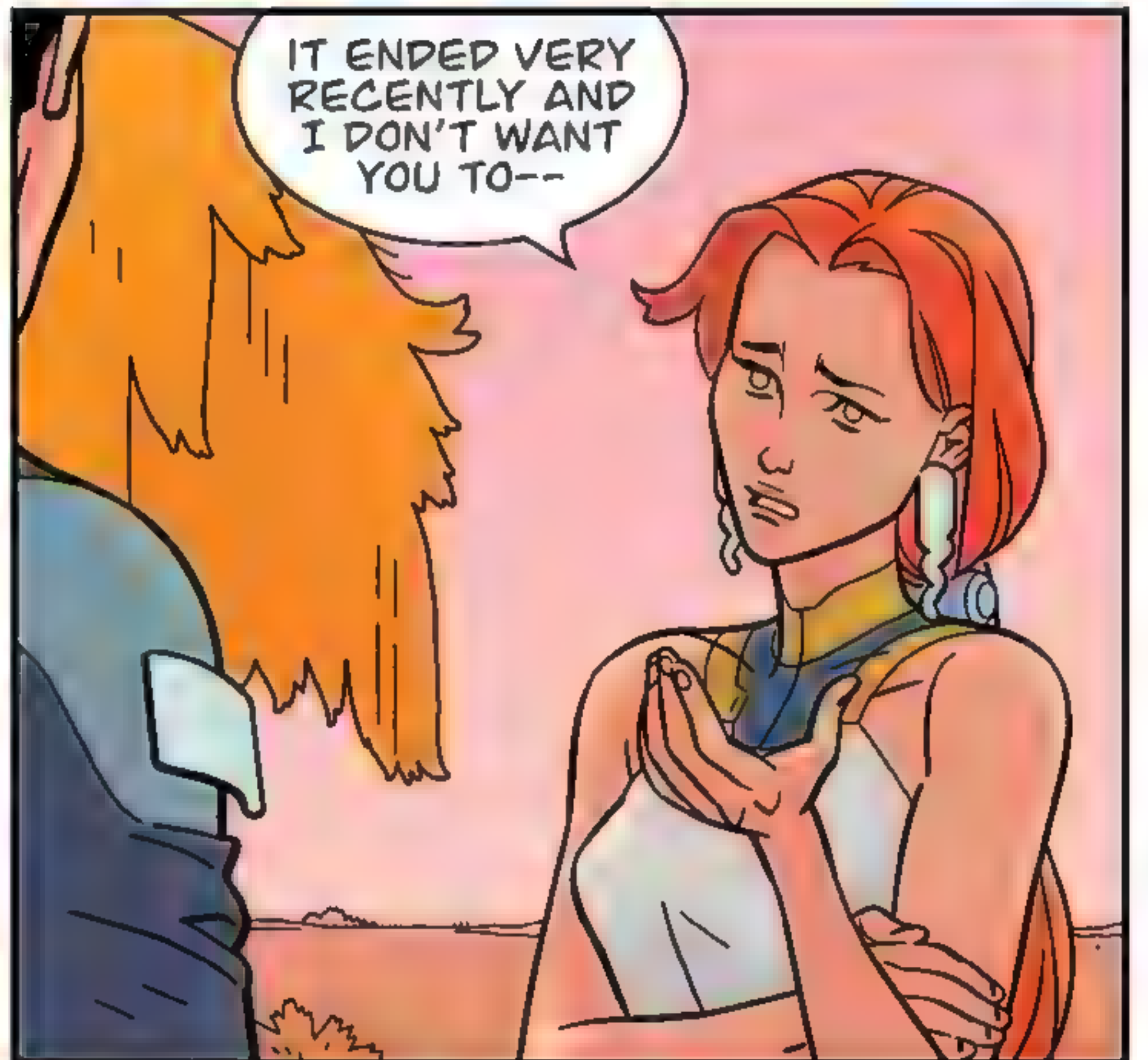
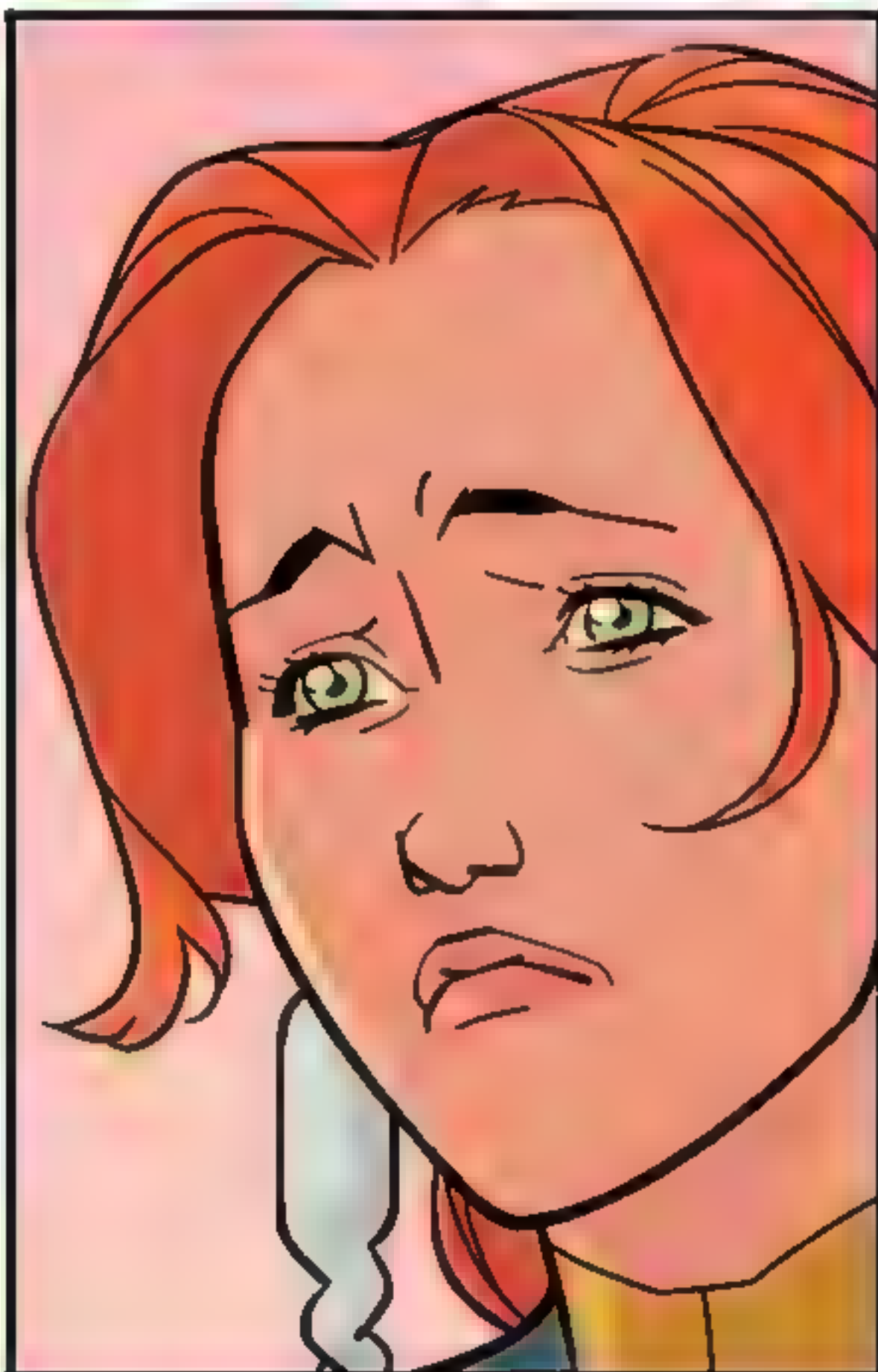
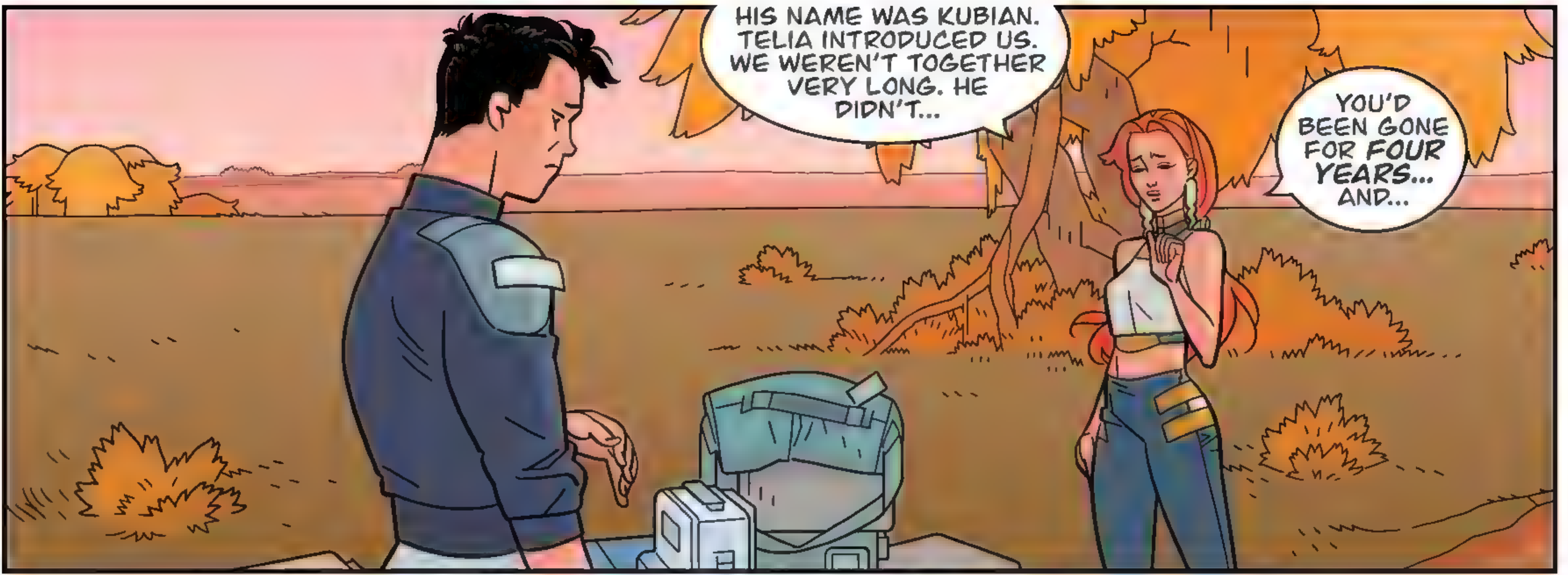


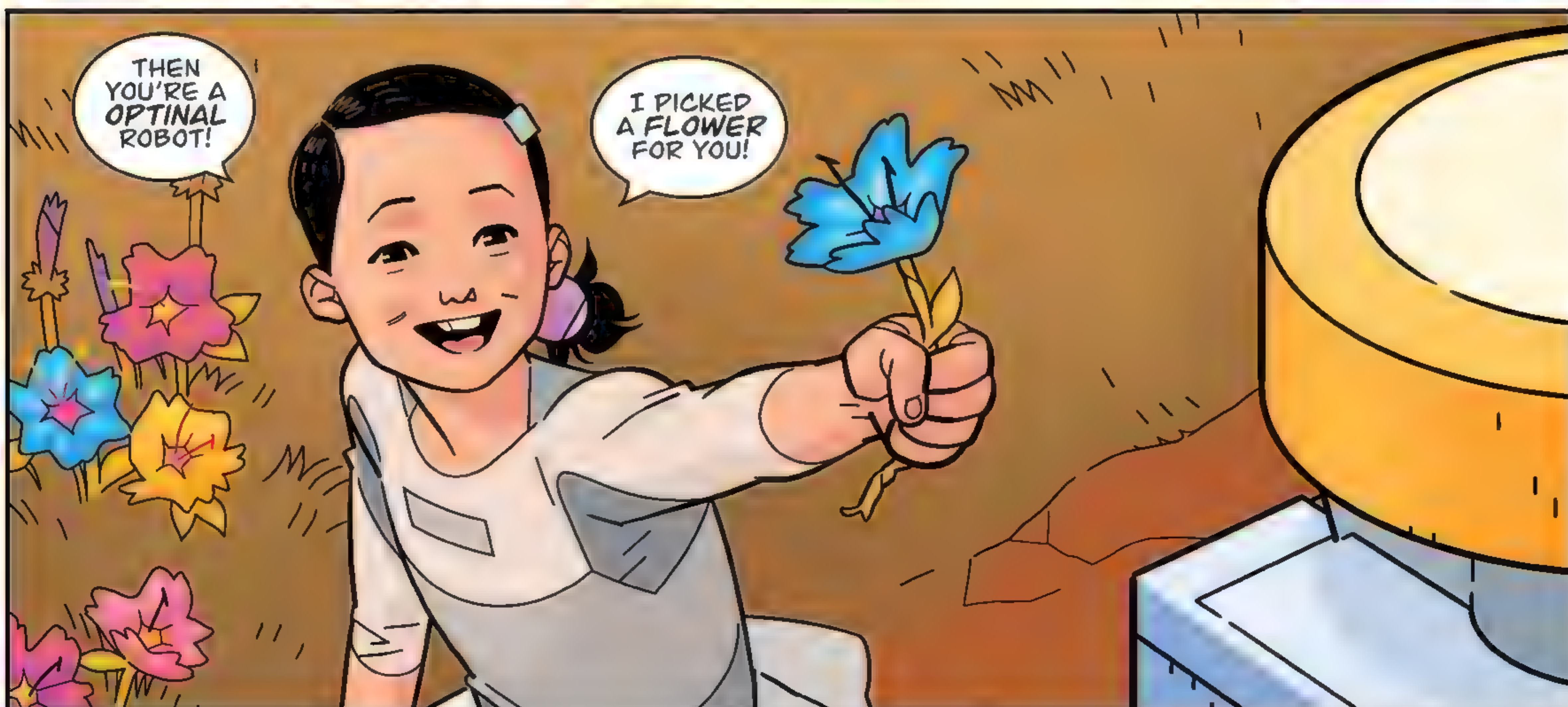
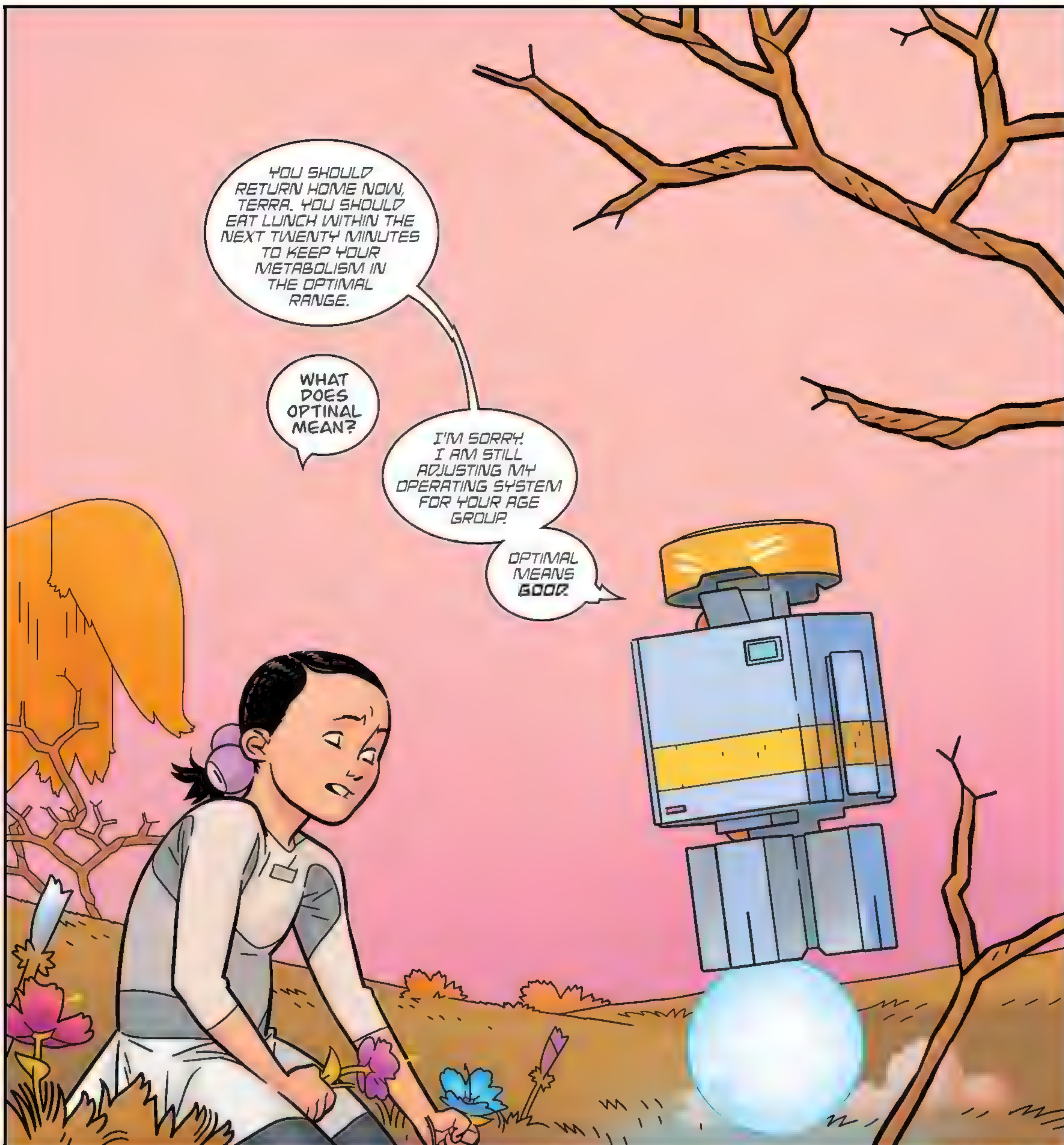
EXCELLENT.
GOOD WORK,
URSAAL. YOU AND
YOUR SQUADRON
CONTINUE TO
PLEASE ME.

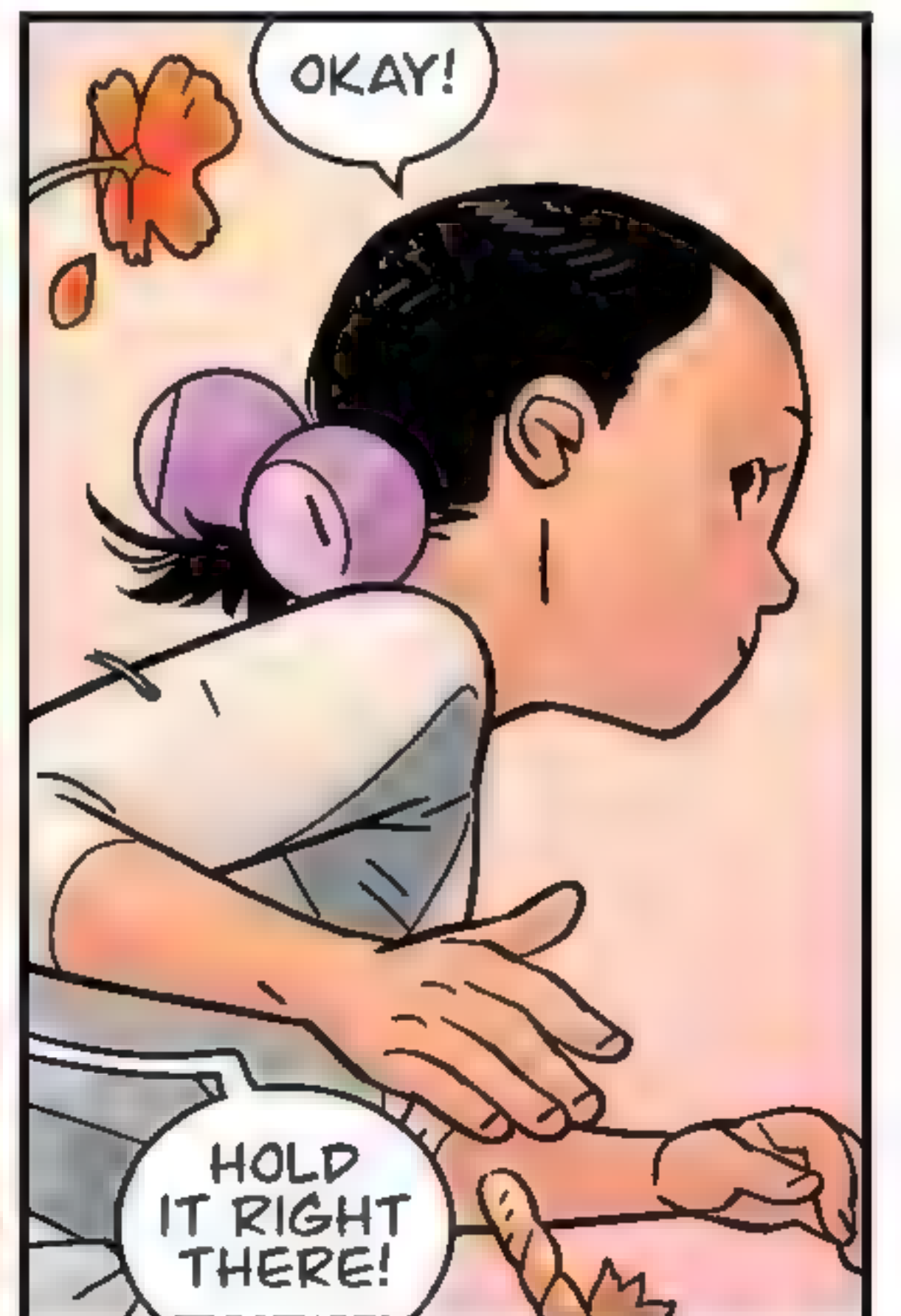
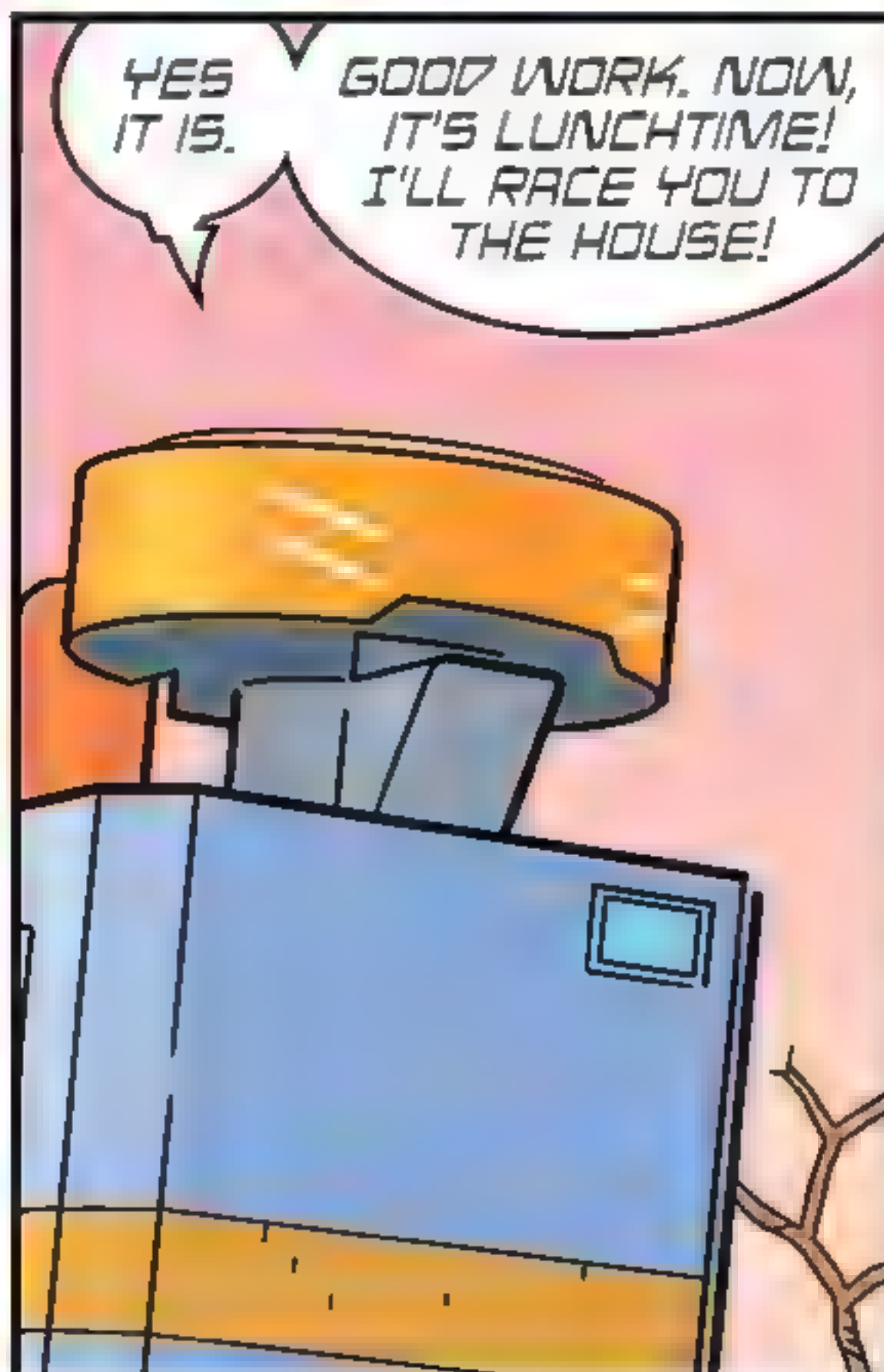
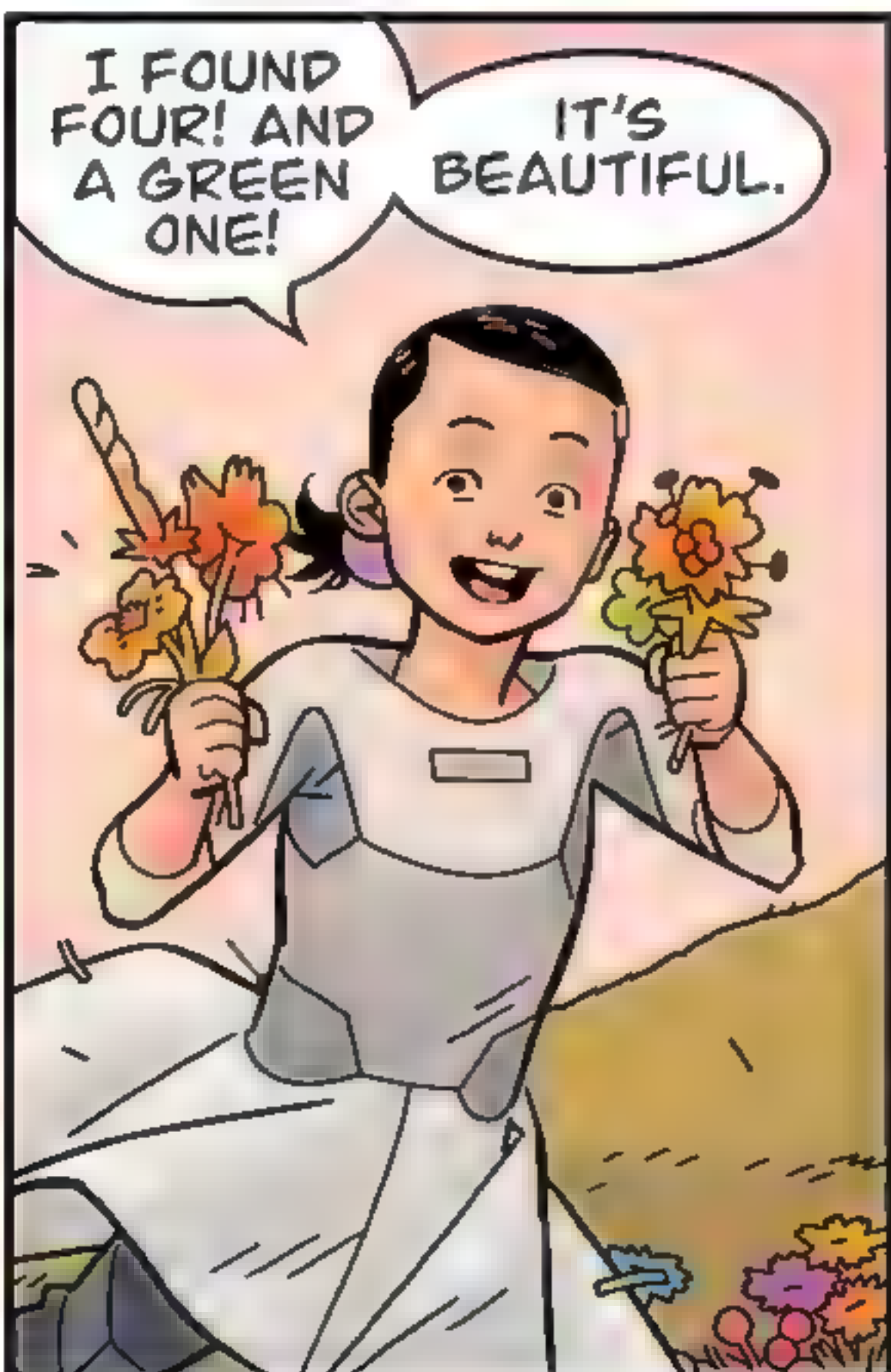
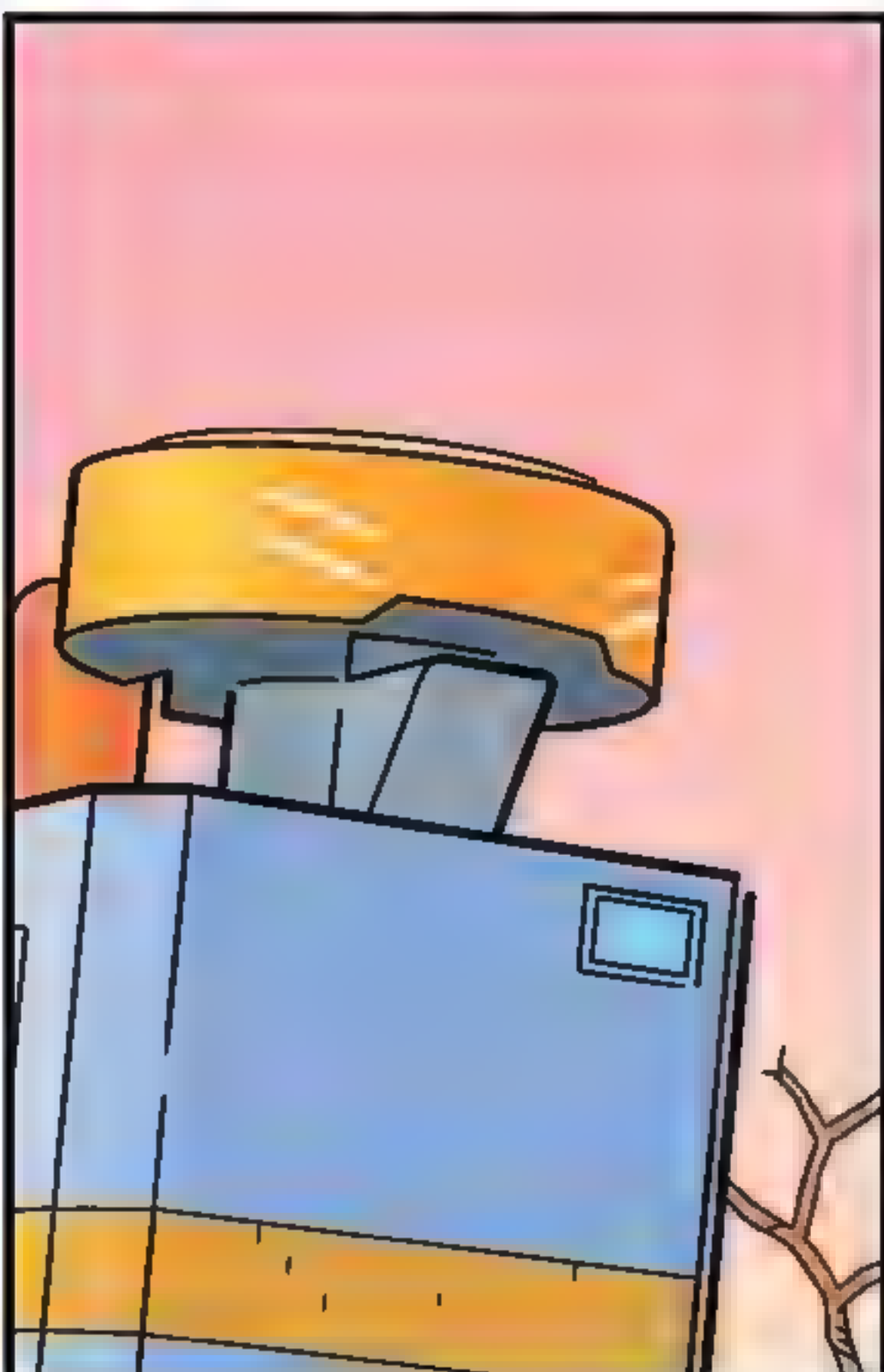
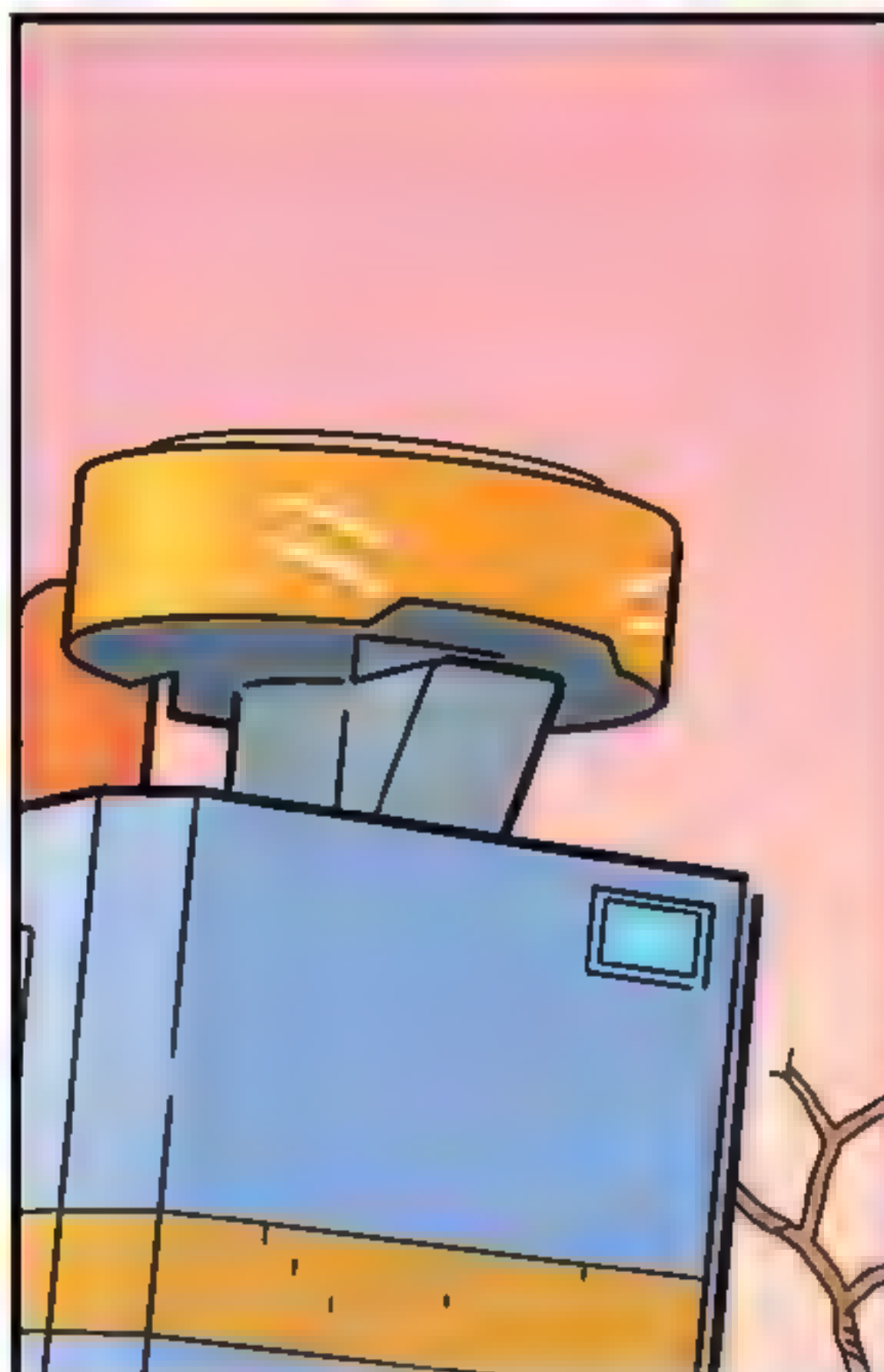
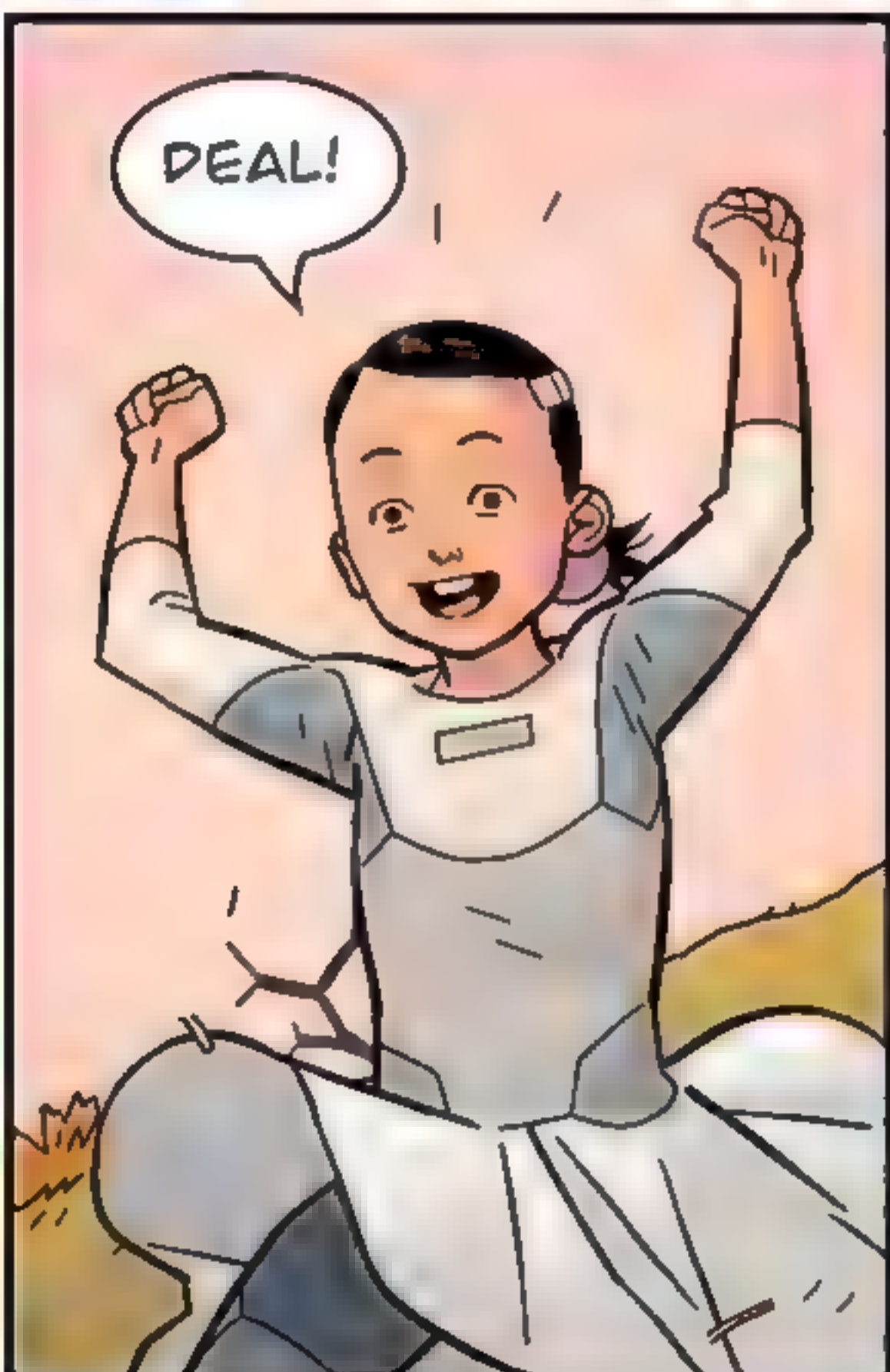
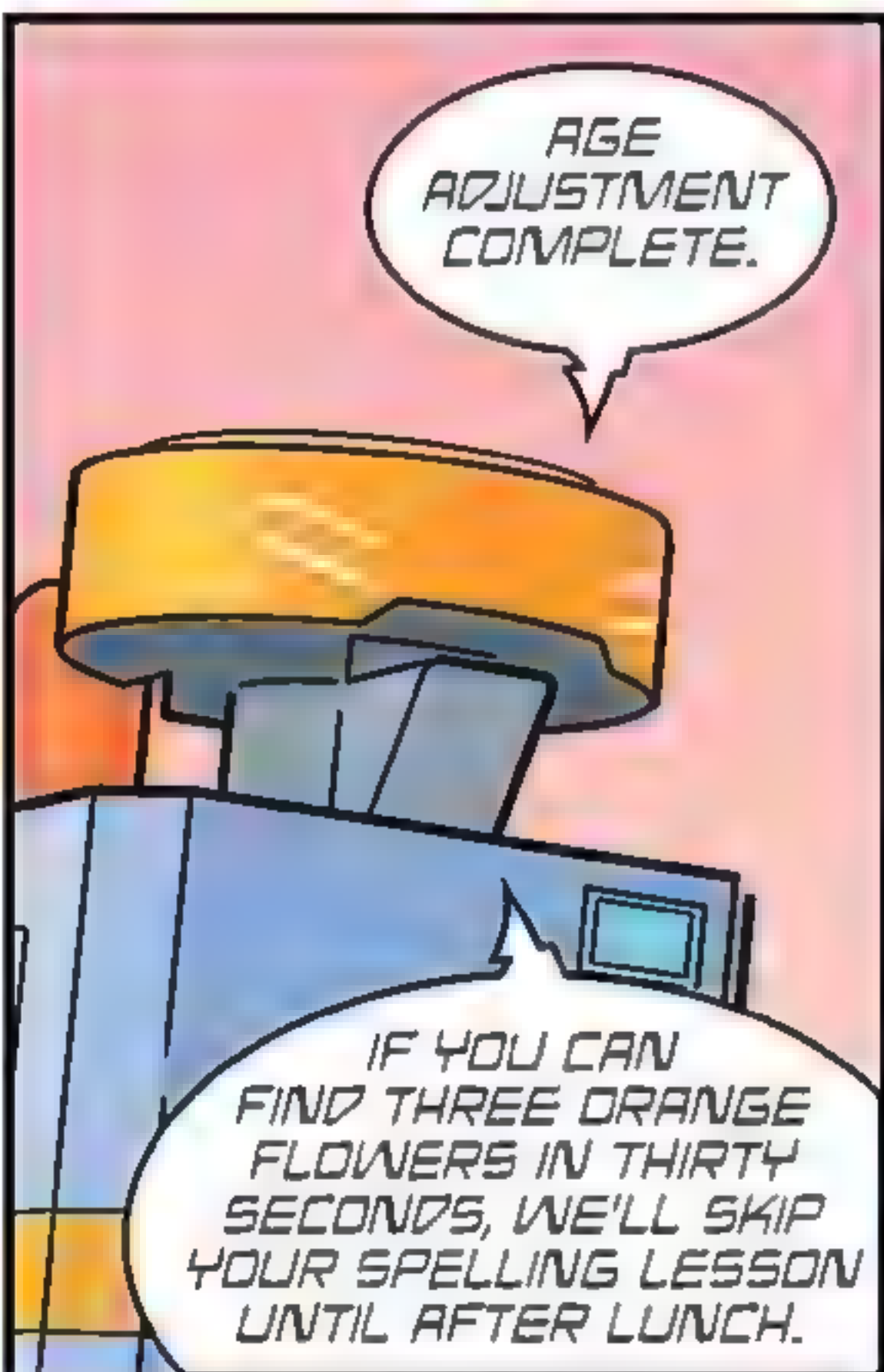
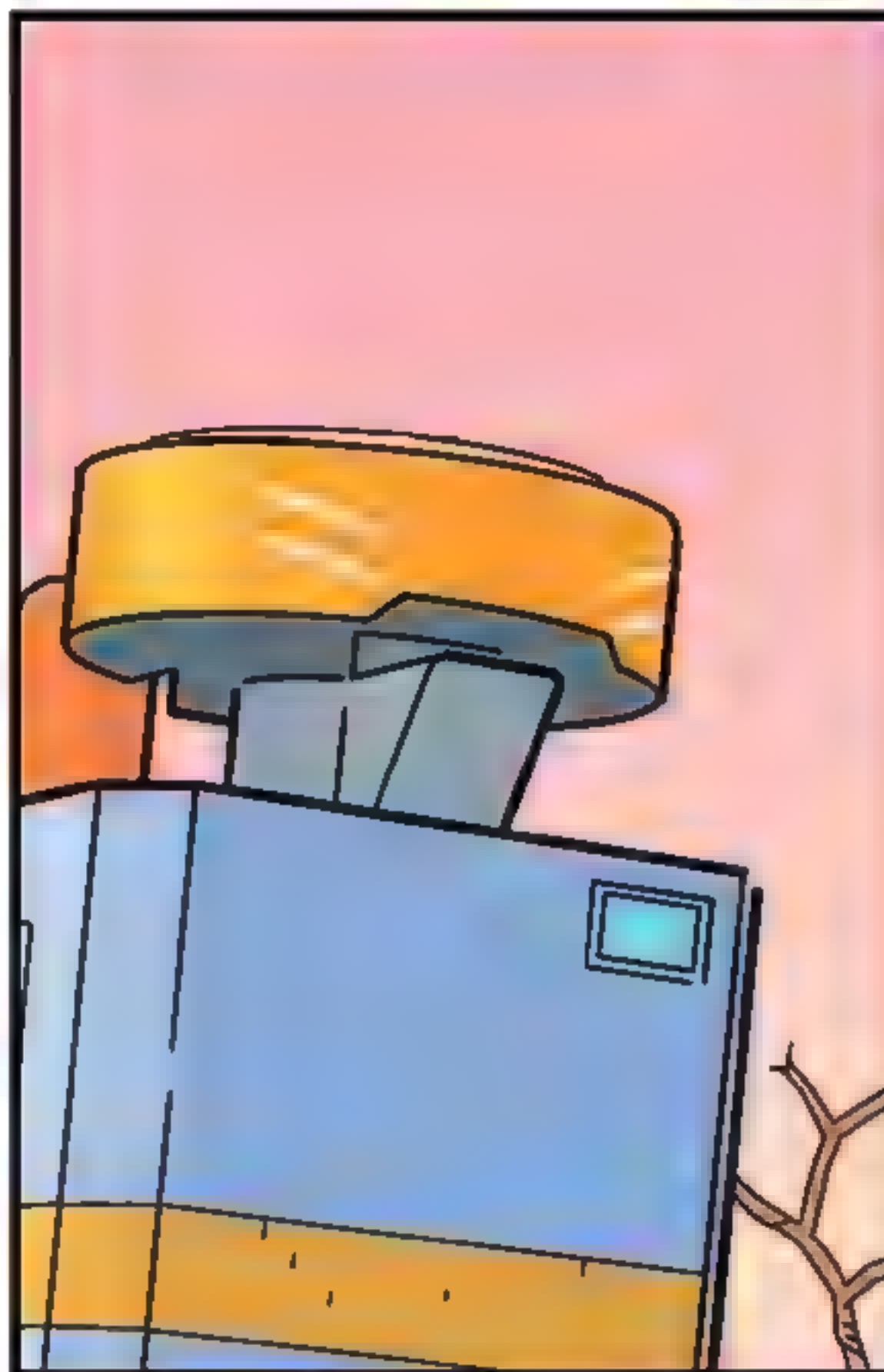
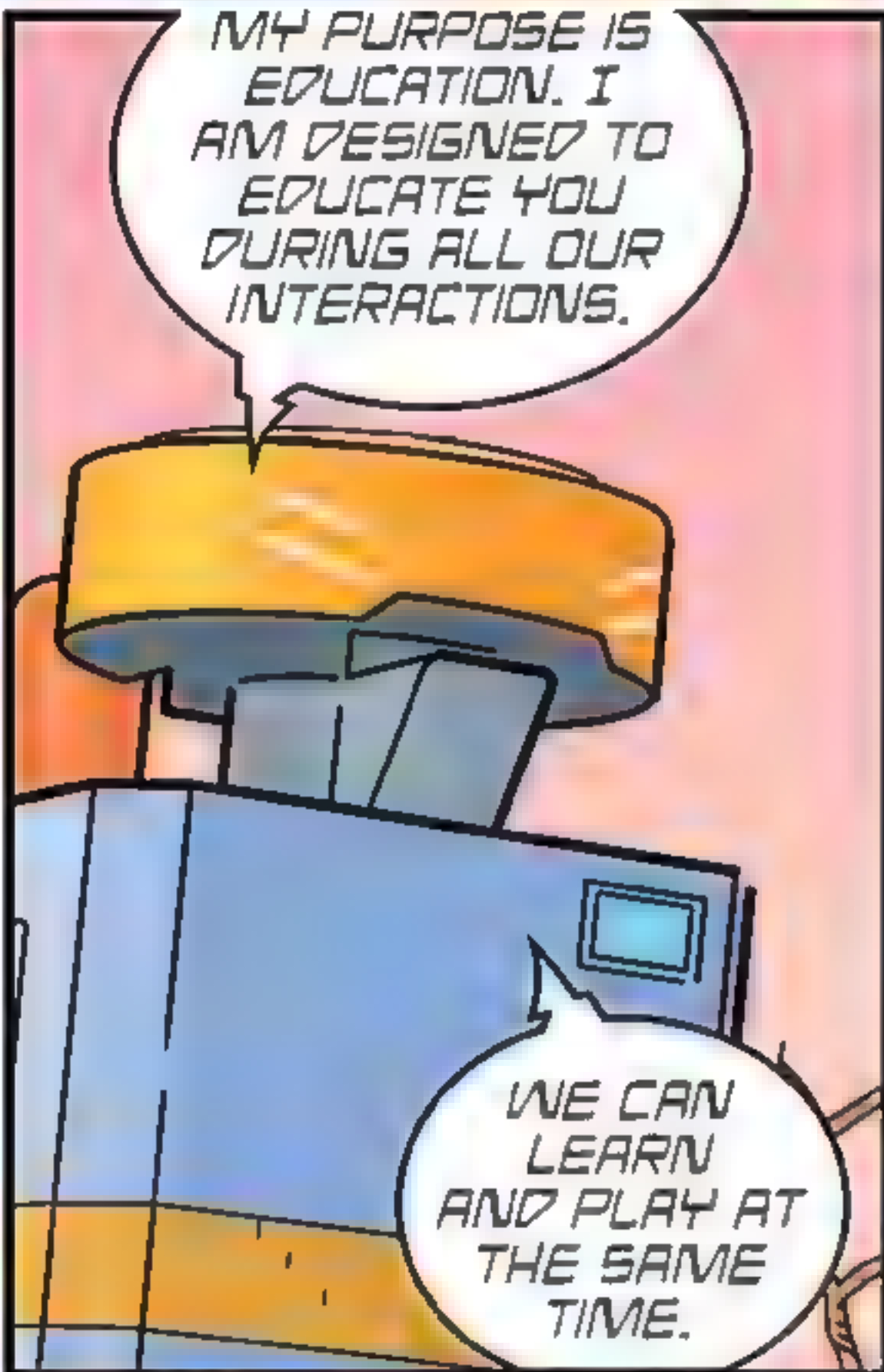
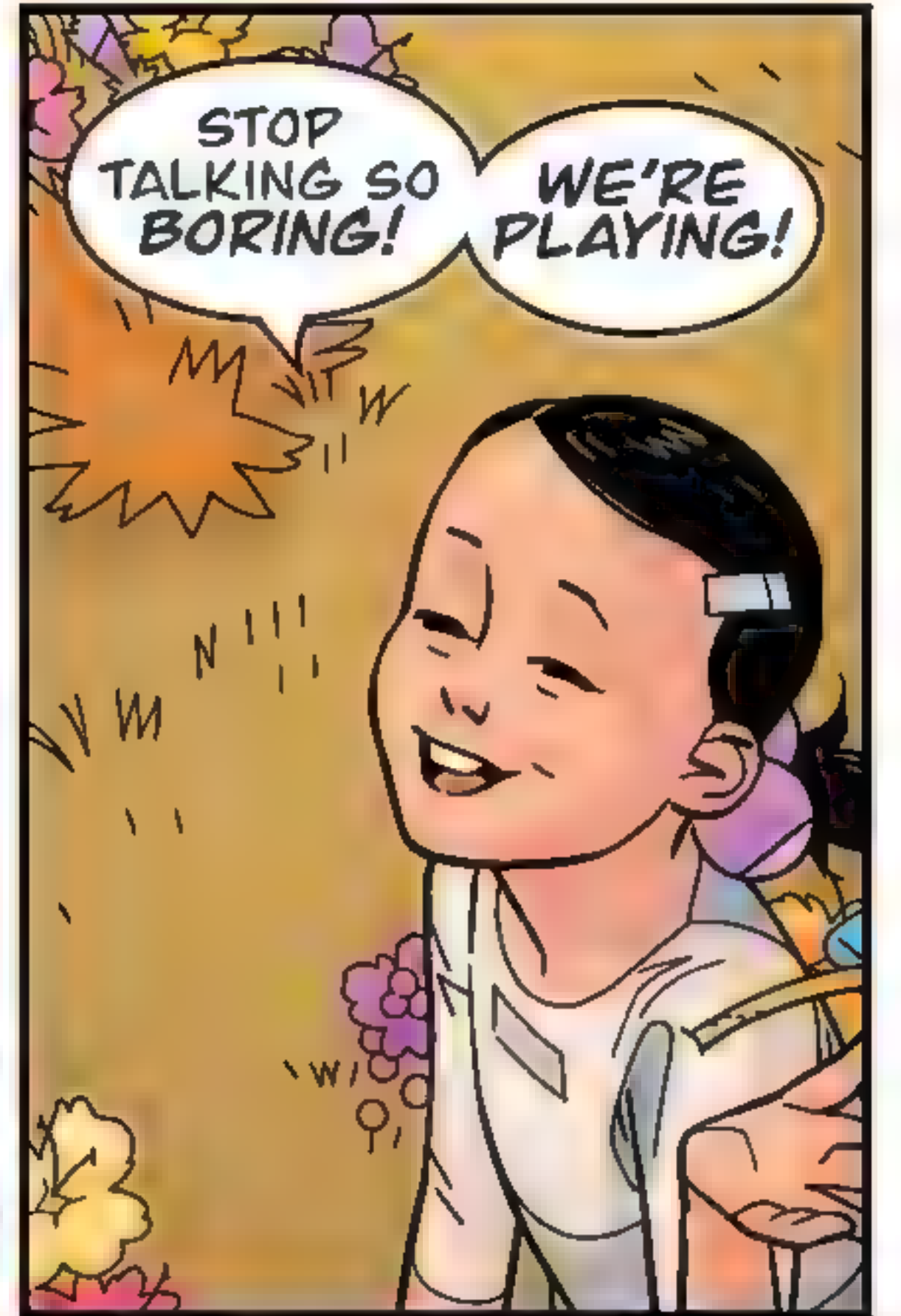
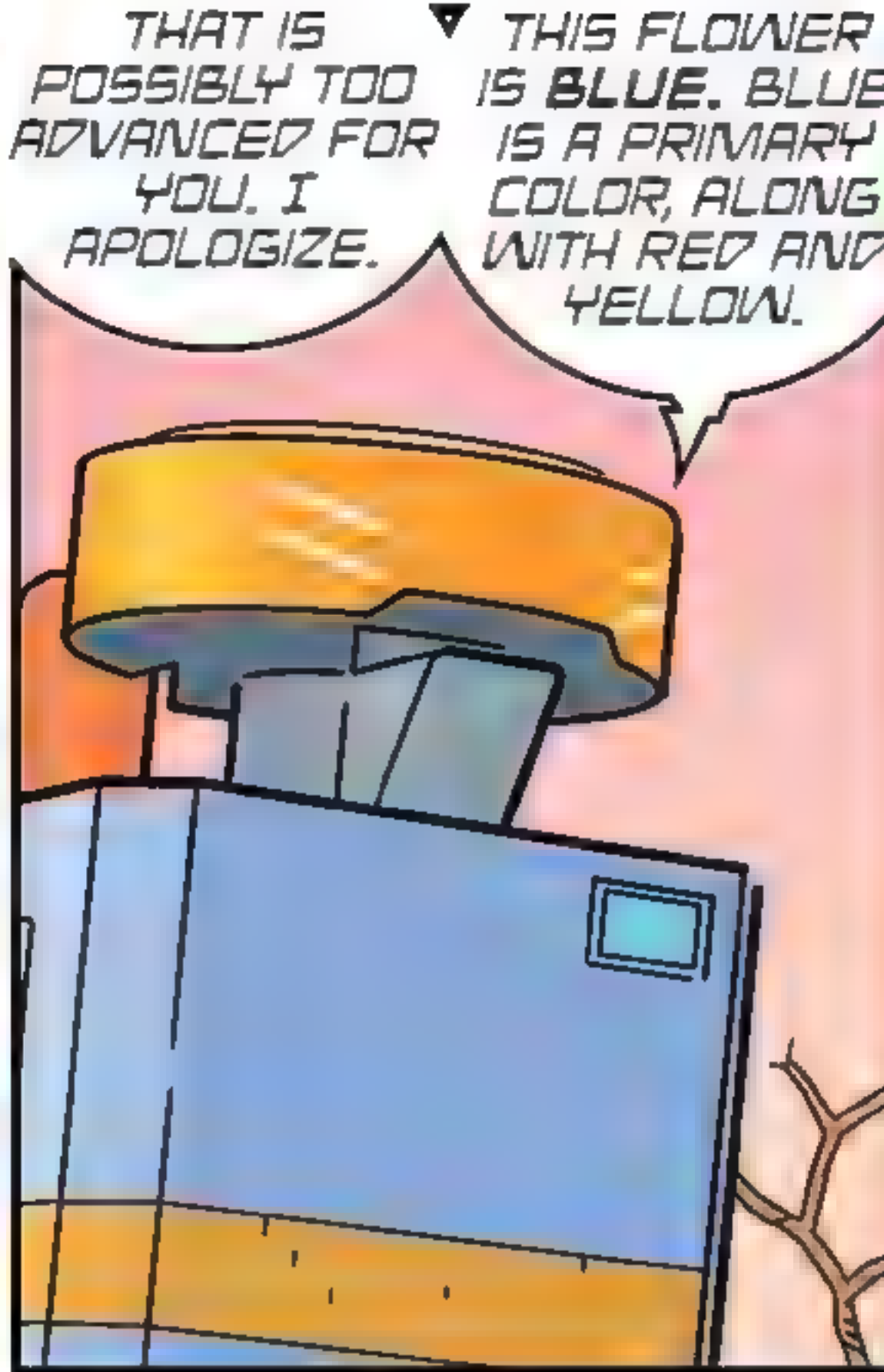
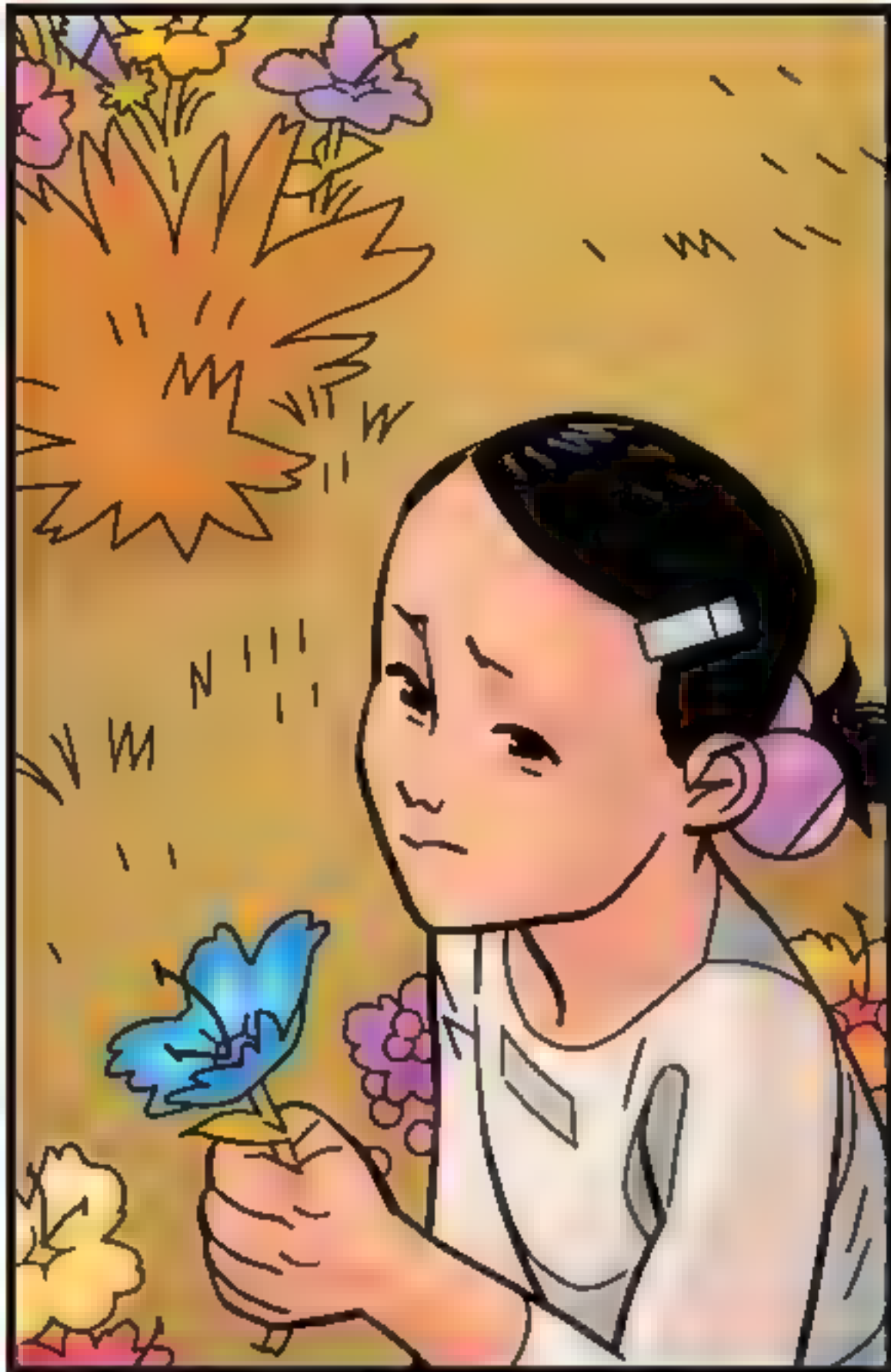
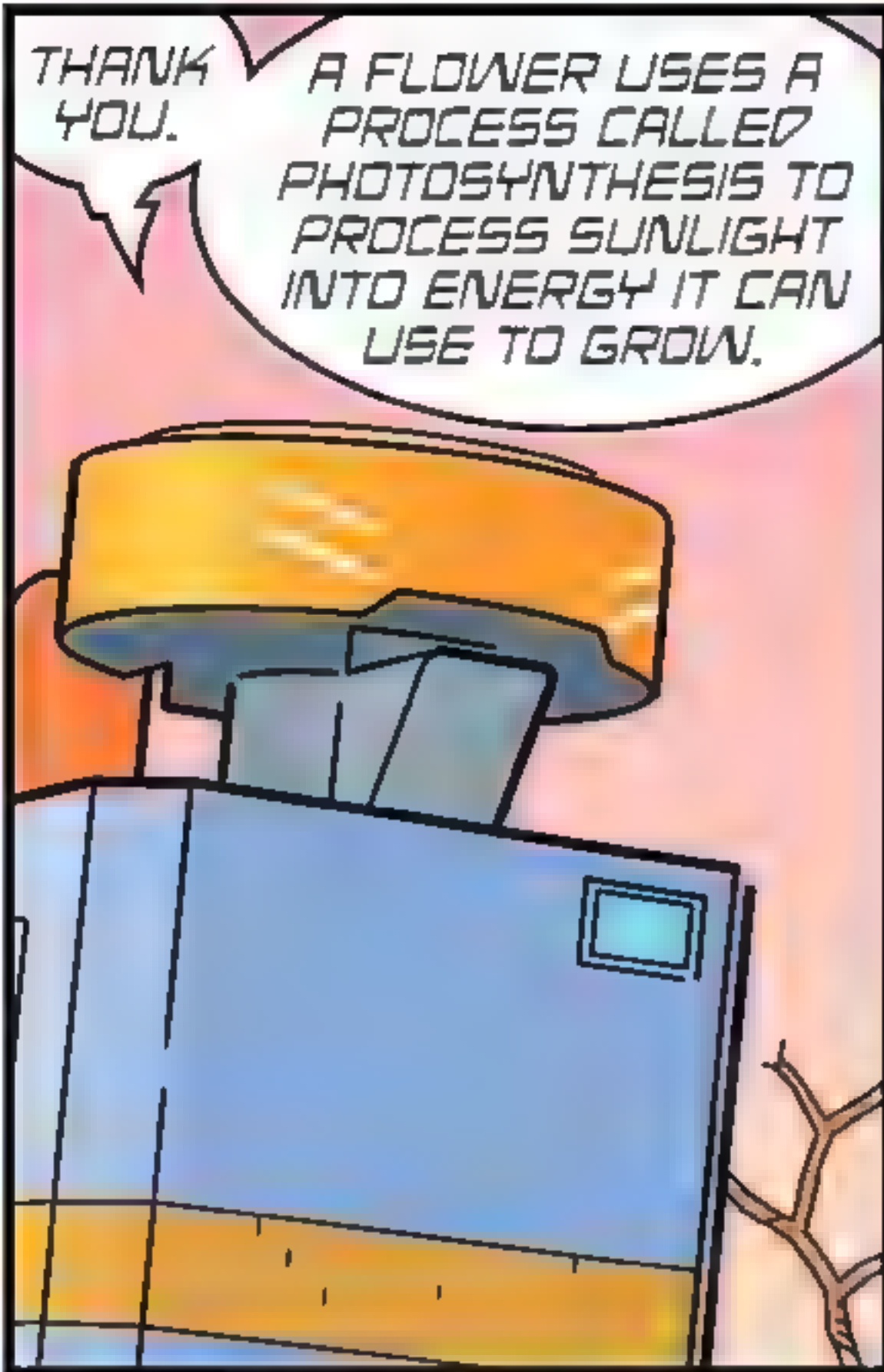
REPORT
BACK IN ONCE
THE TASK IS
DONE. PLANS ARE
UNDERWAY
FOR OUR NEXT
TARGET.

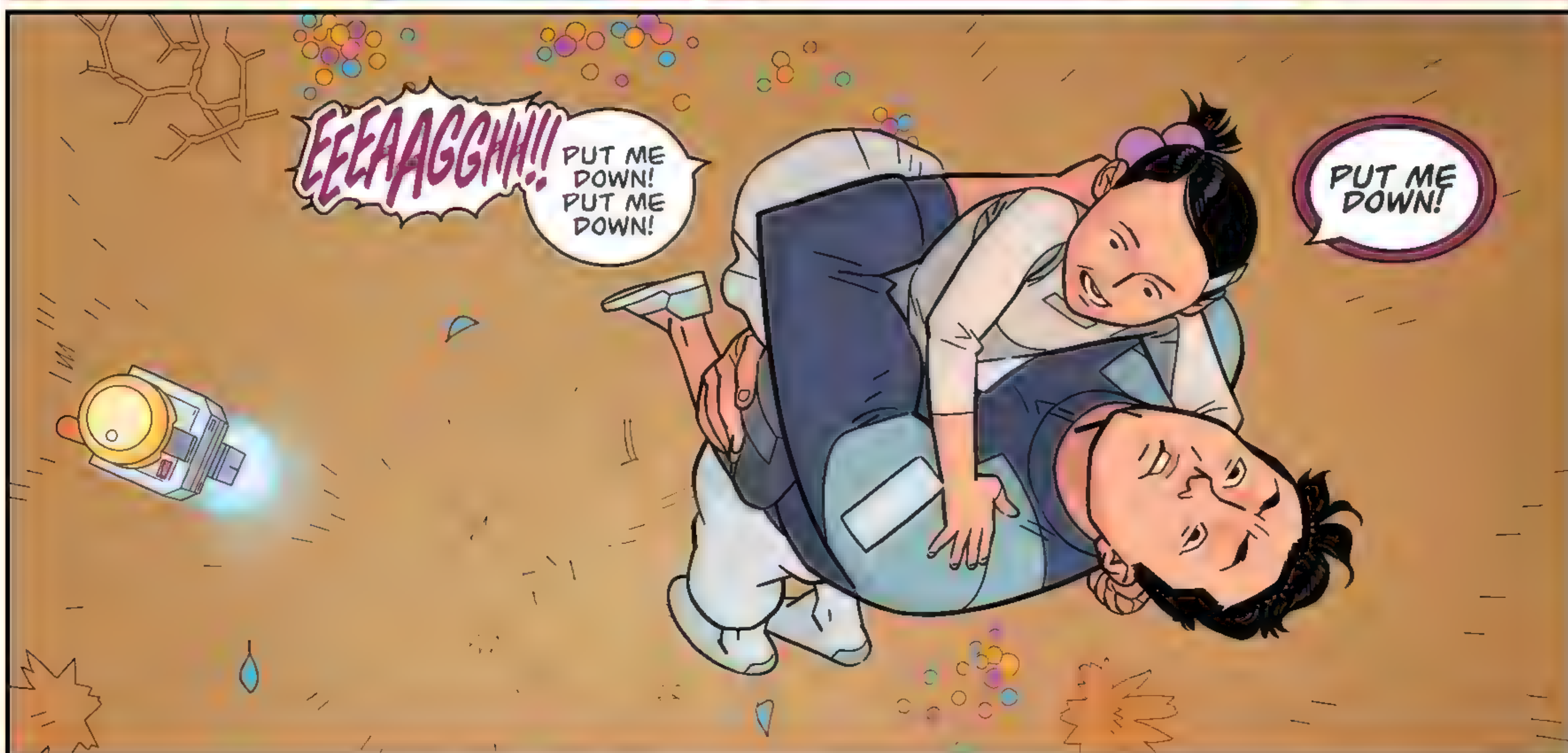
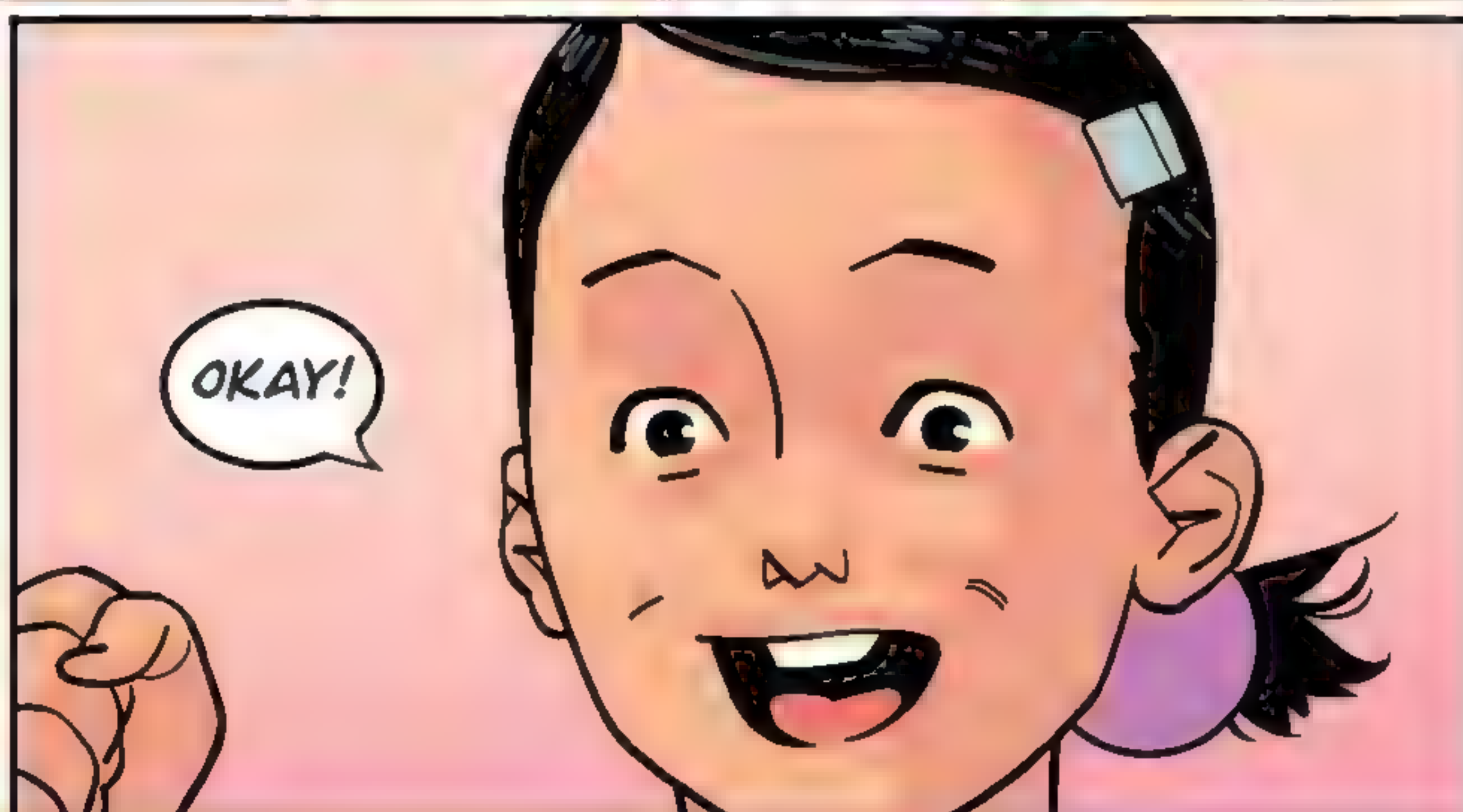
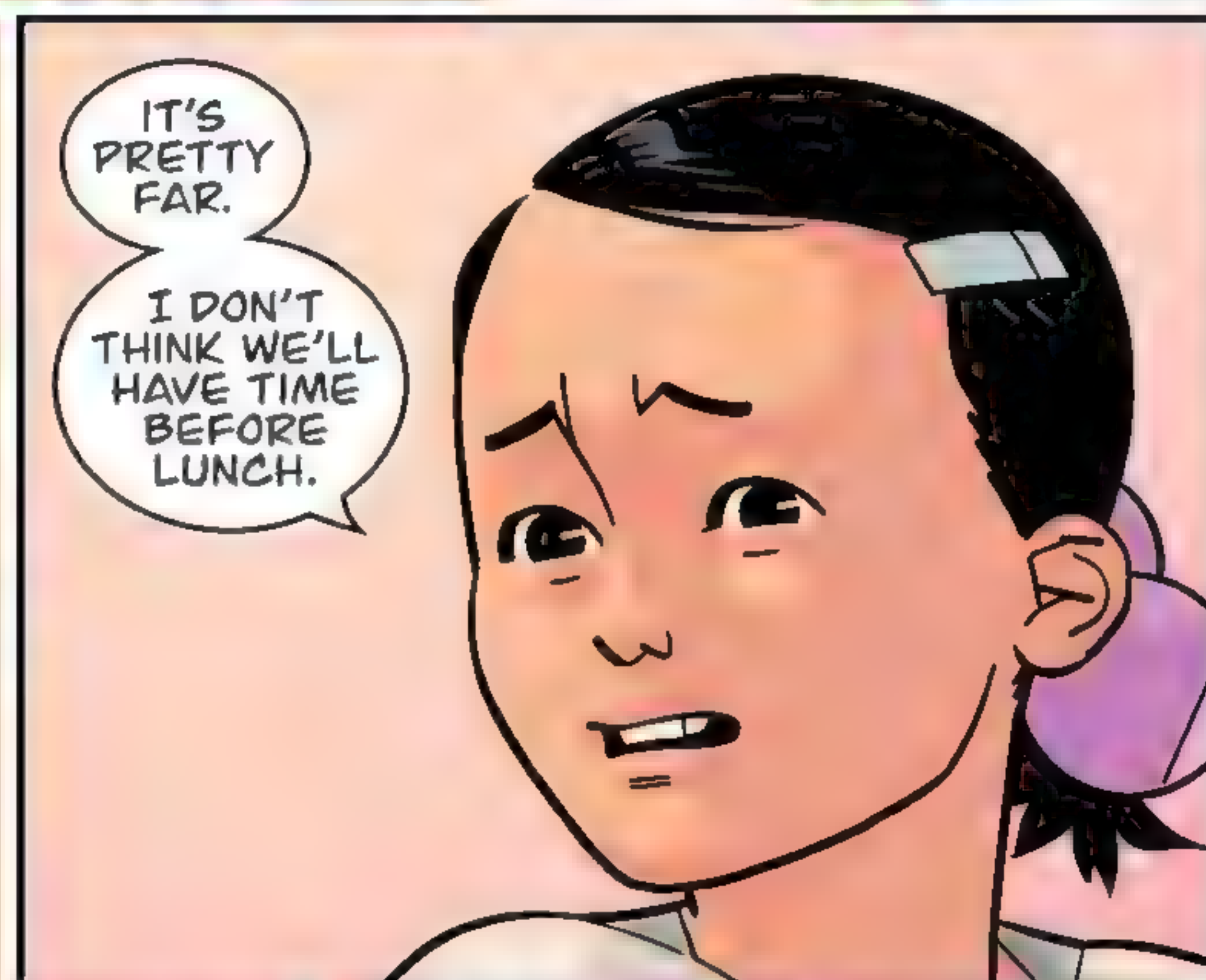
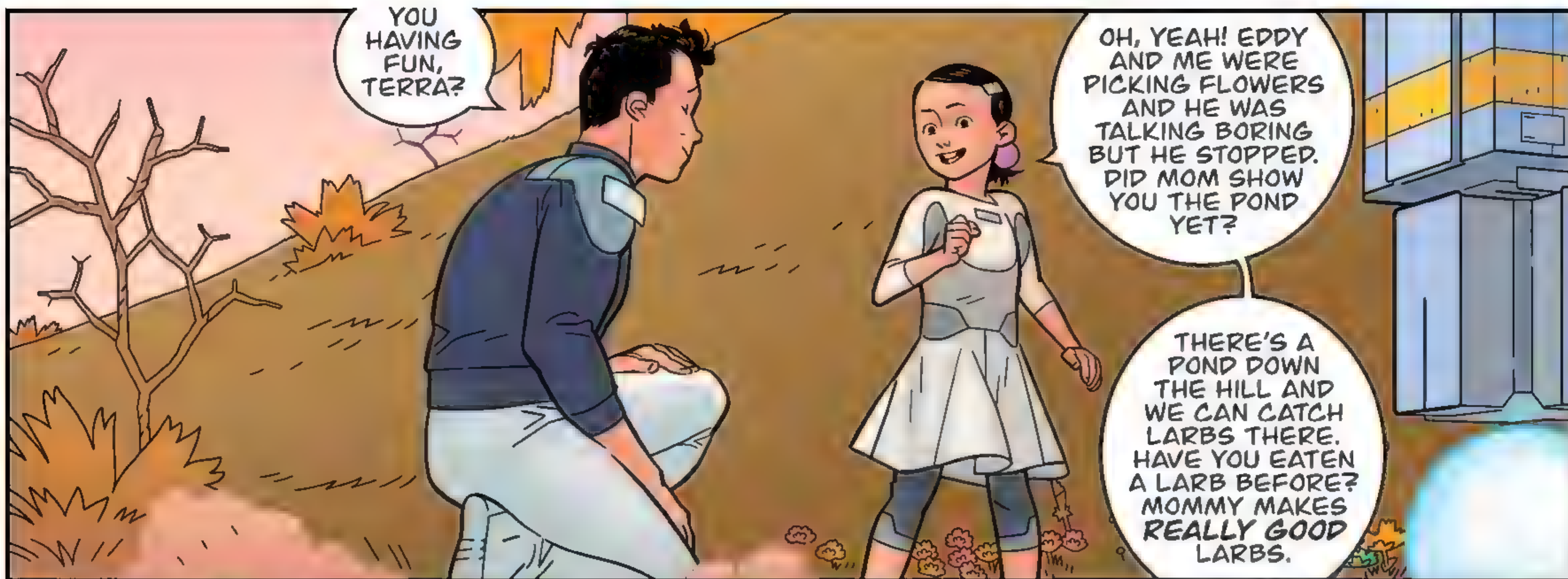


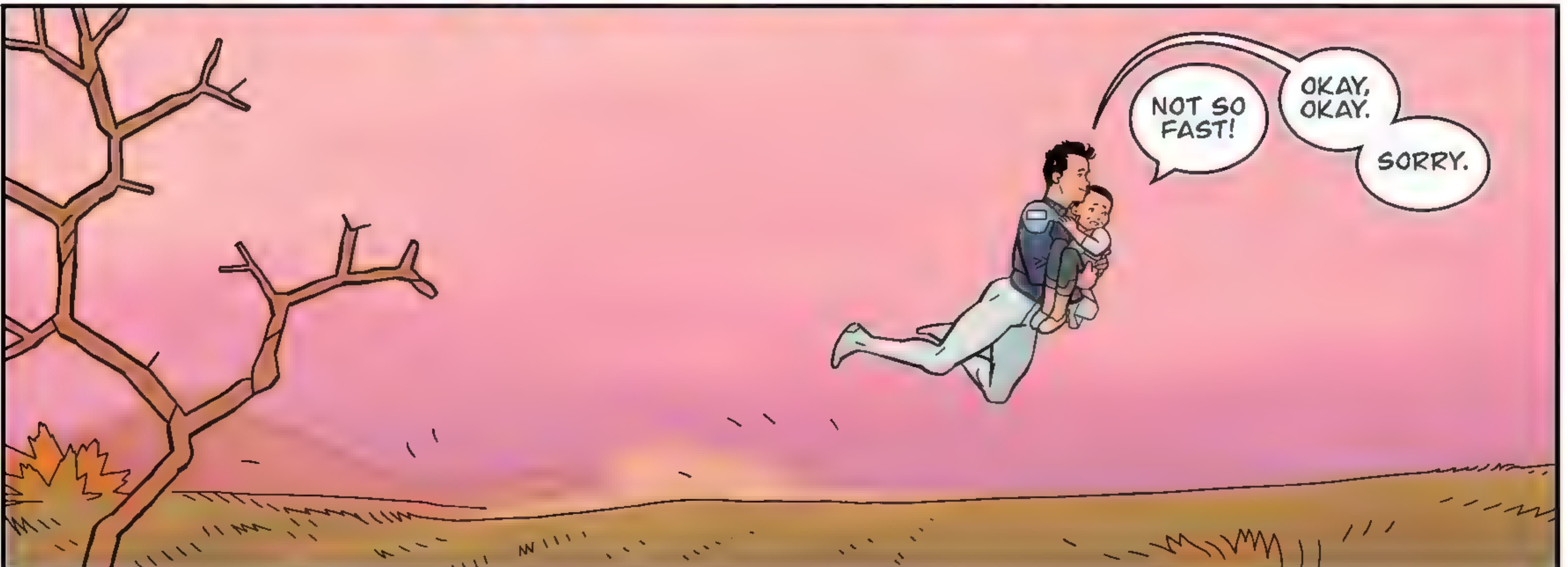
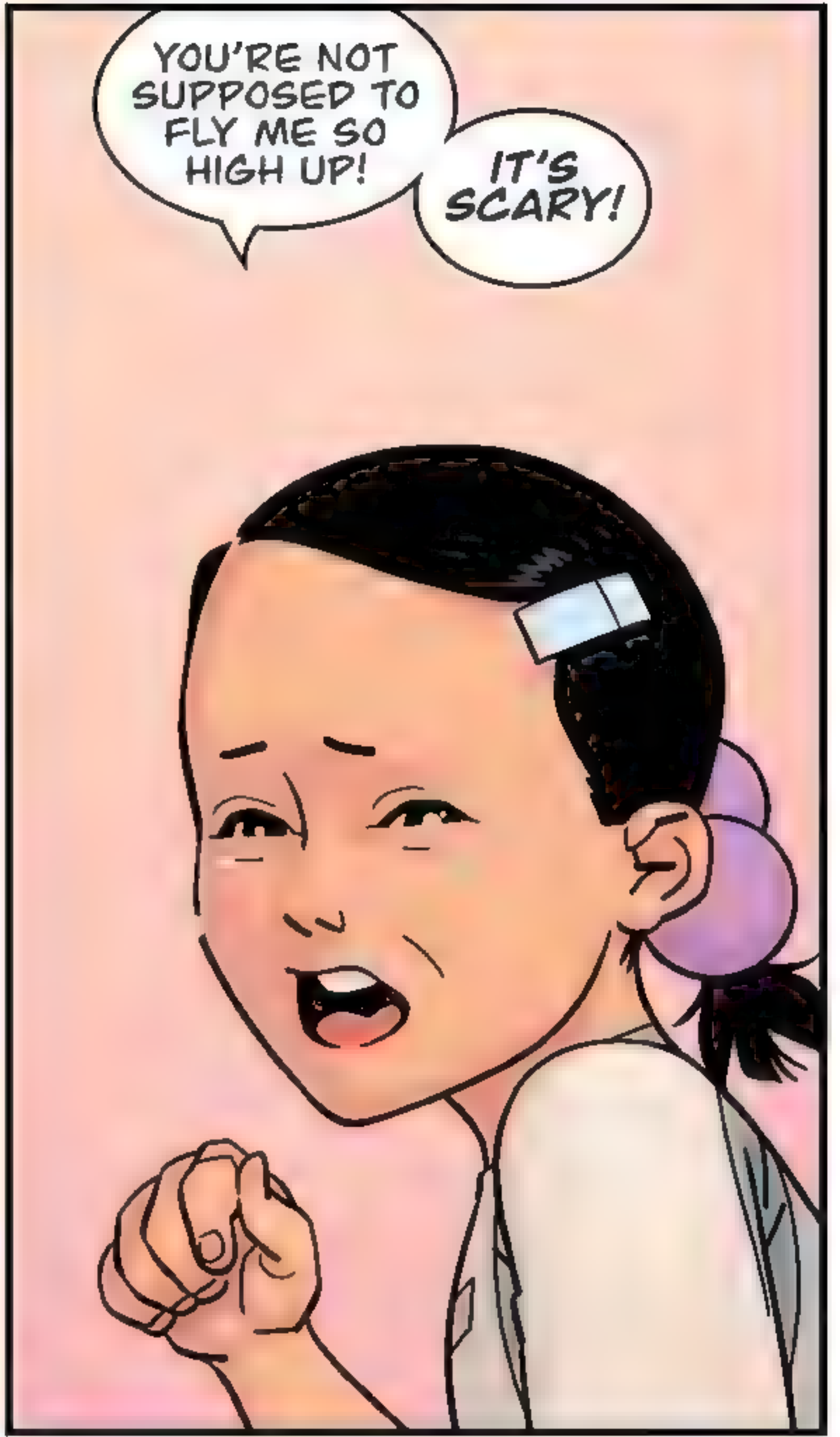
THIS WILL
GET THEIR
ATTENTION...

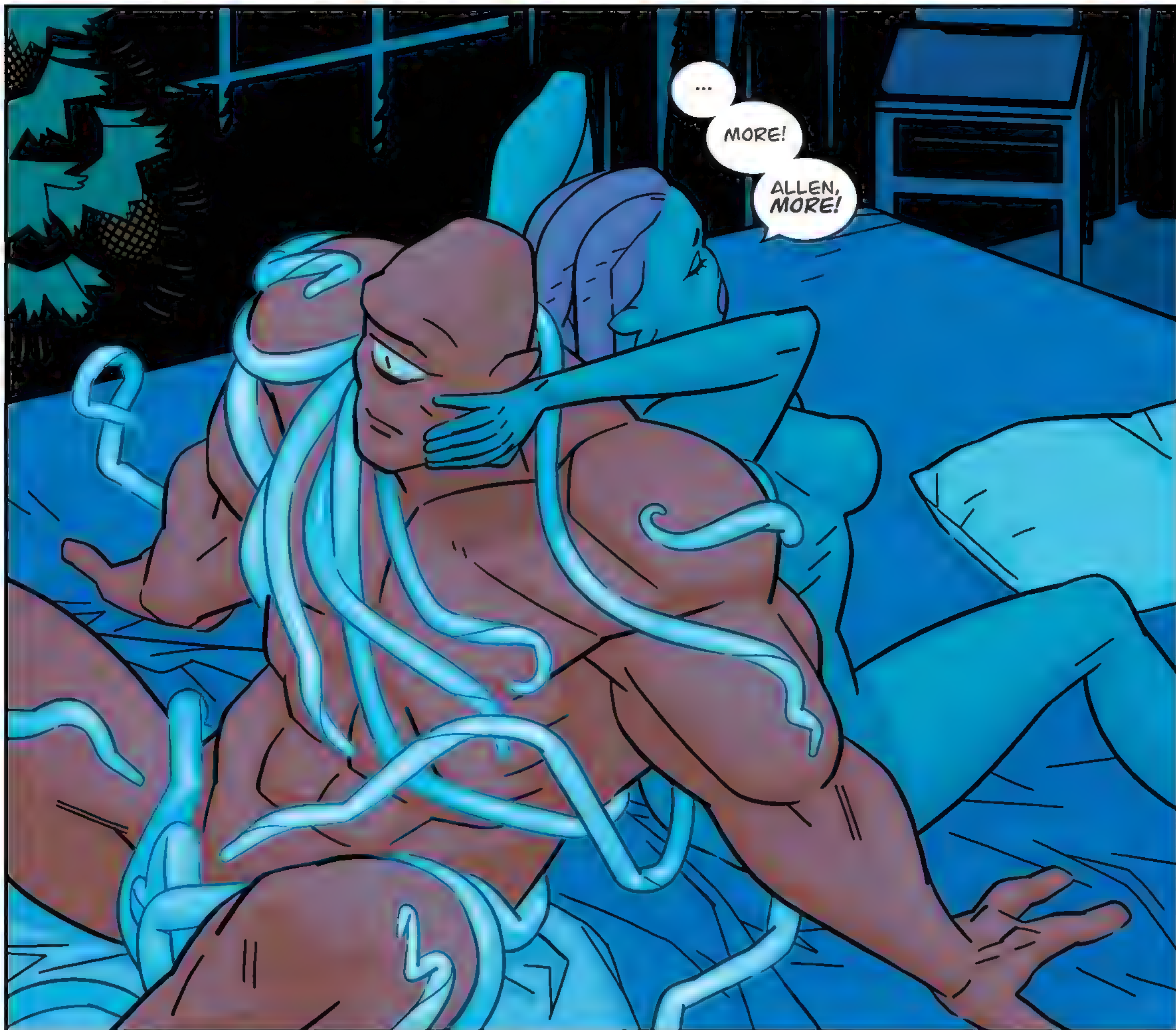












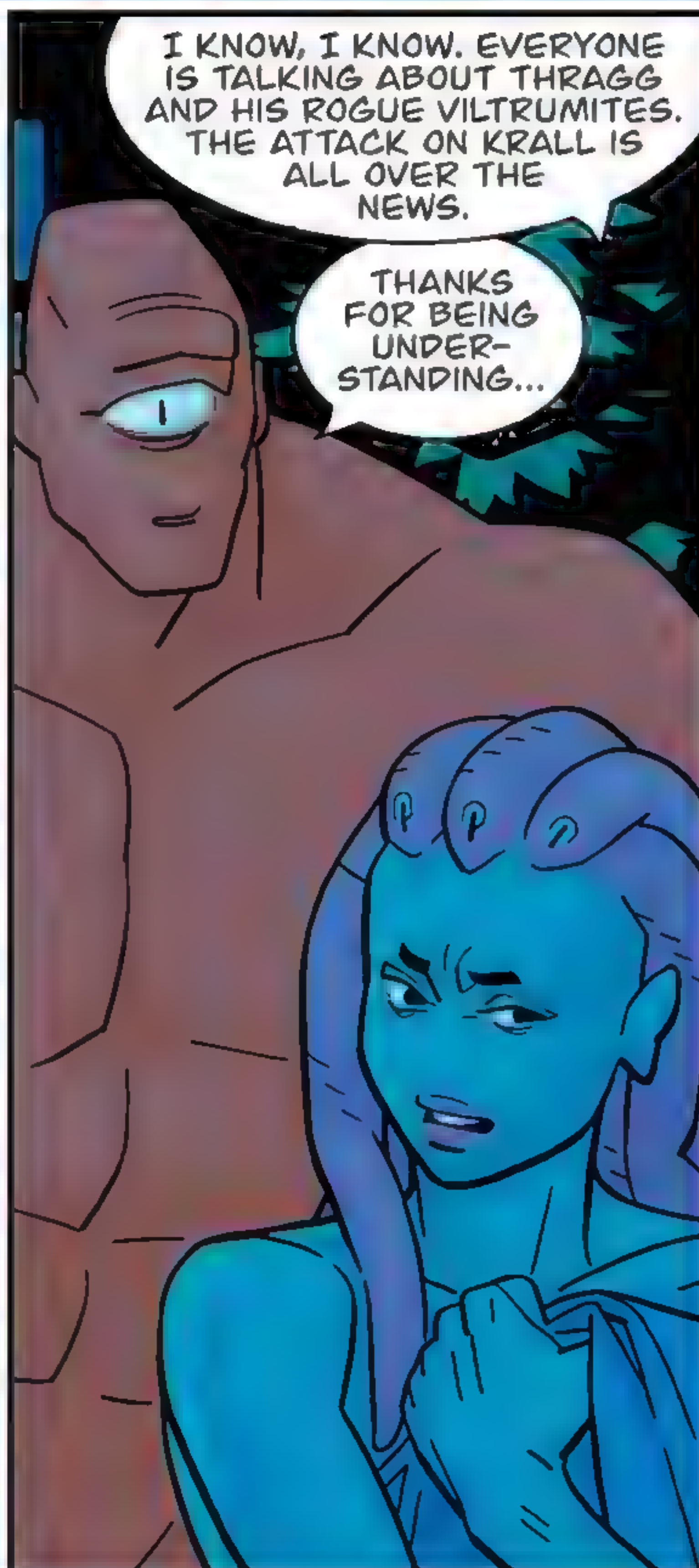


TELIA, I'M SORRY!

TOO LATE, NOW!



I'M SORRY, BABE. I WAS TRYING TO FOCUS, I JUST HAVE SO MUCH GOING ON AT WORK.



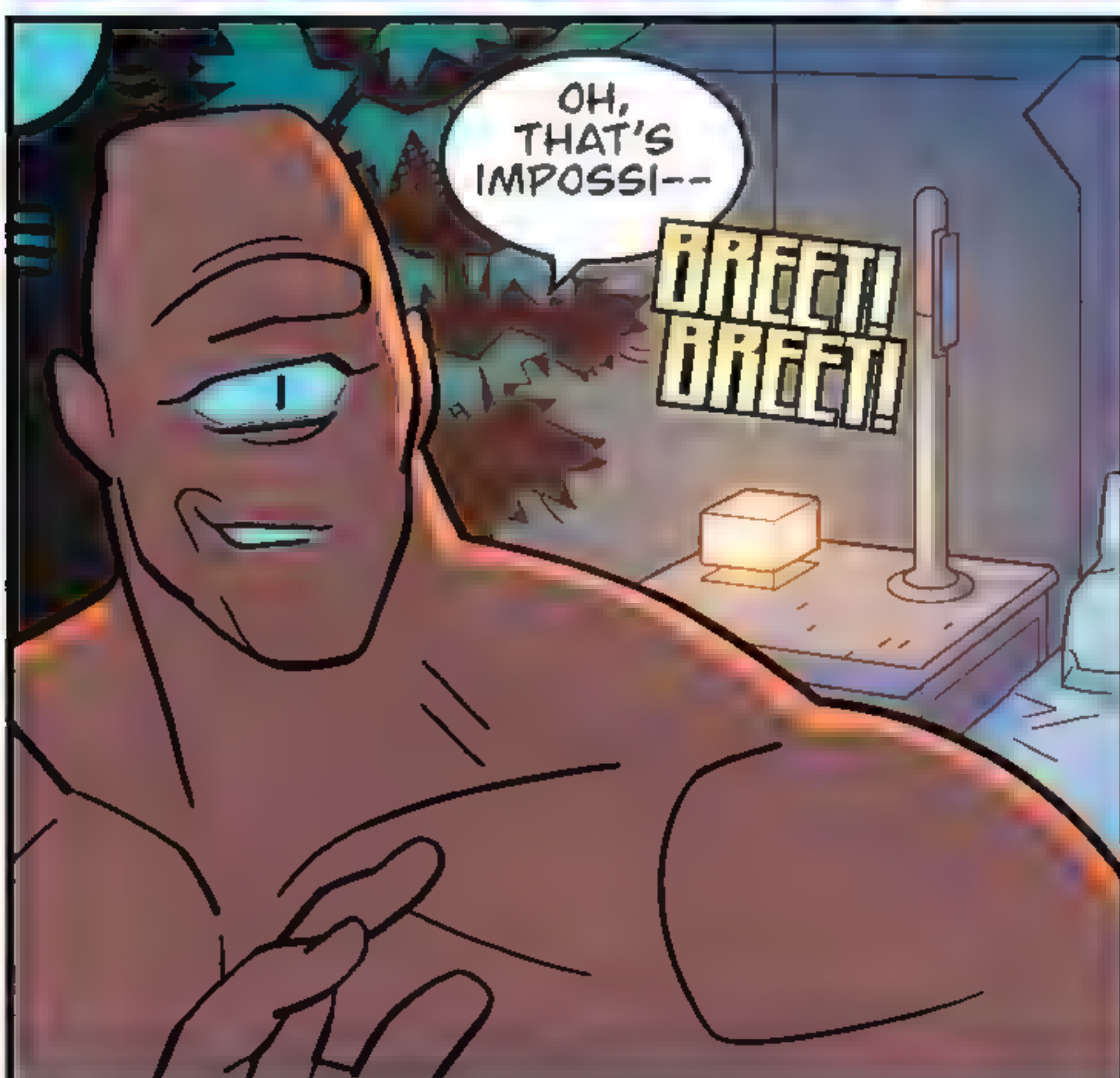
I KNOW, I KNOW. EVERYONE IS TALKING ABOUT THRAGG AND HIS ROGUE VILTRUMITES. THE ATTACK ON KRALL IS ALL OVER THE NEWS.

THANKS FOR BEING UNDERSTANDING...



I'M NOT UNDERSTANDING CRAP! GET BACK IN BED AND GET YOUR HEAD IN THE GAME!

IF I CAN'T GET YOUR MIND OFF THIS NONSENSE, I'VE REALLY LOST MY TOUCH!



OH, THAT'S IMPOSSI---

**BREET!
BREET!**

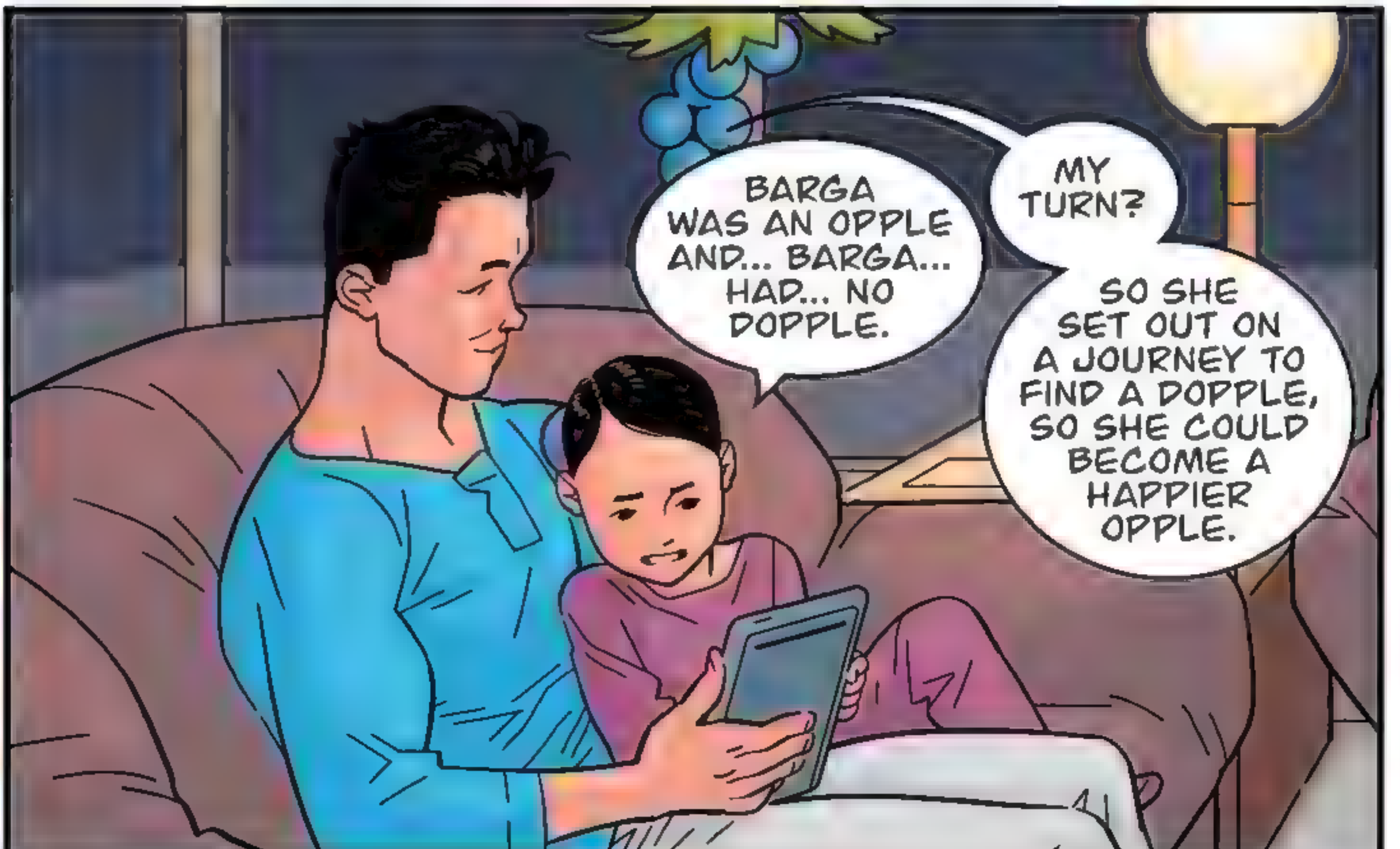
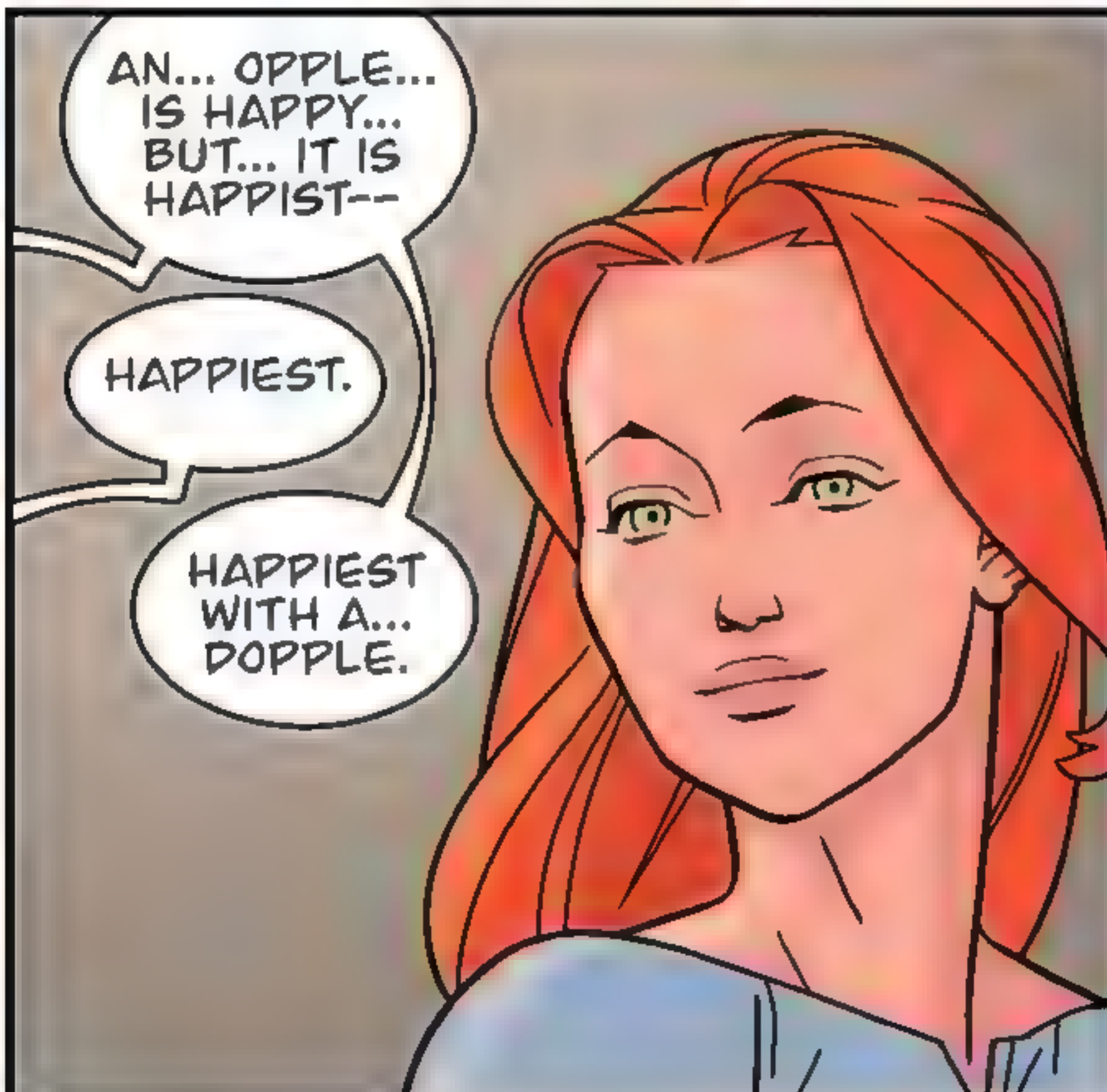
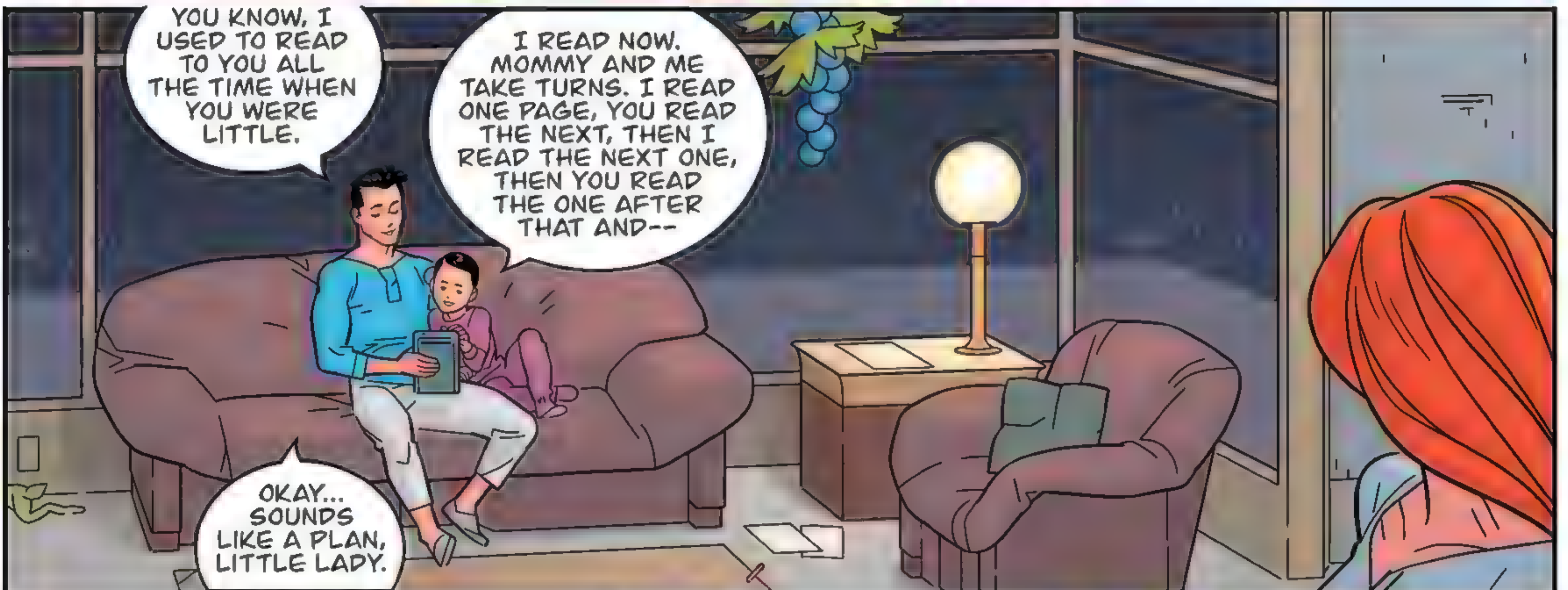
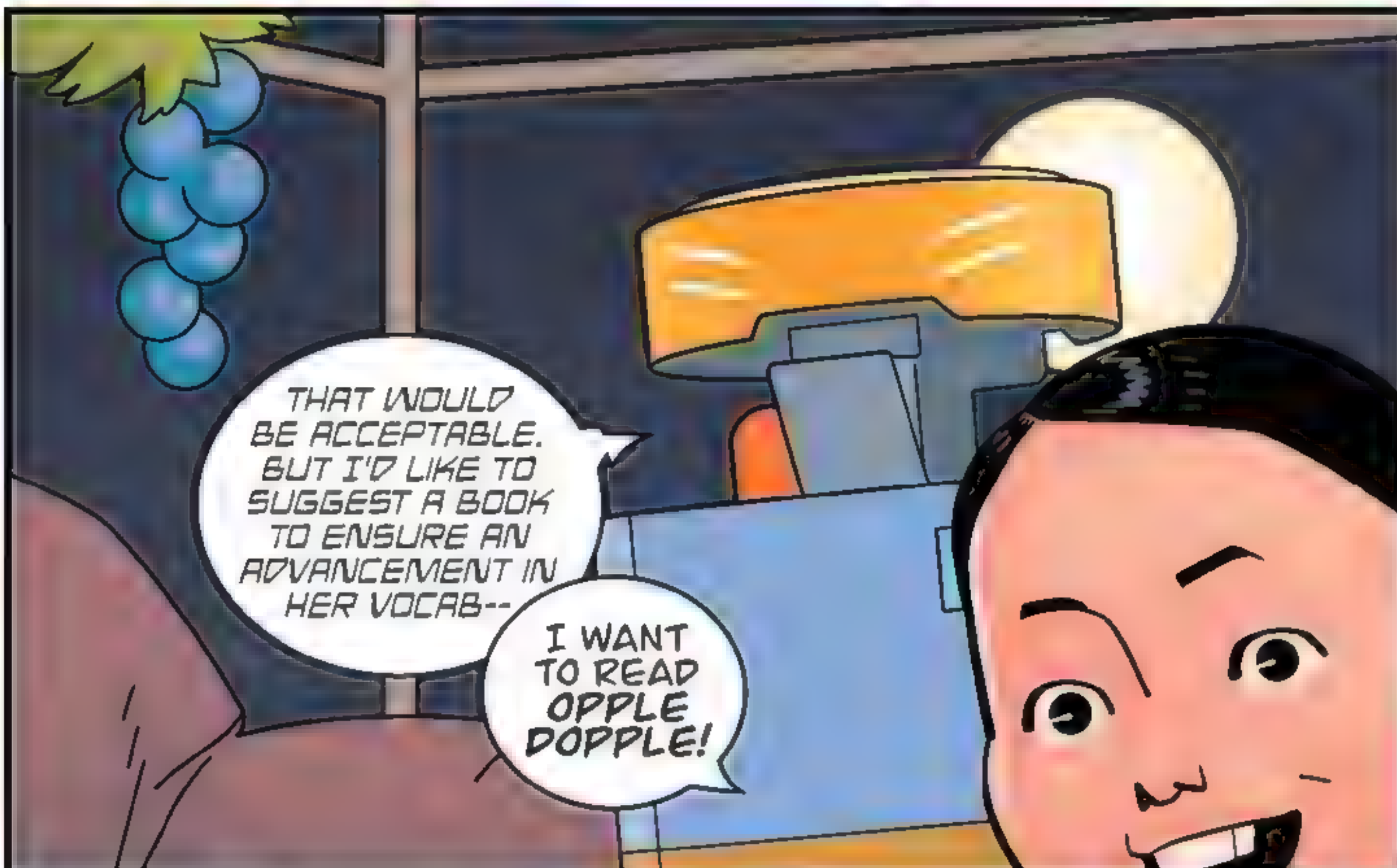


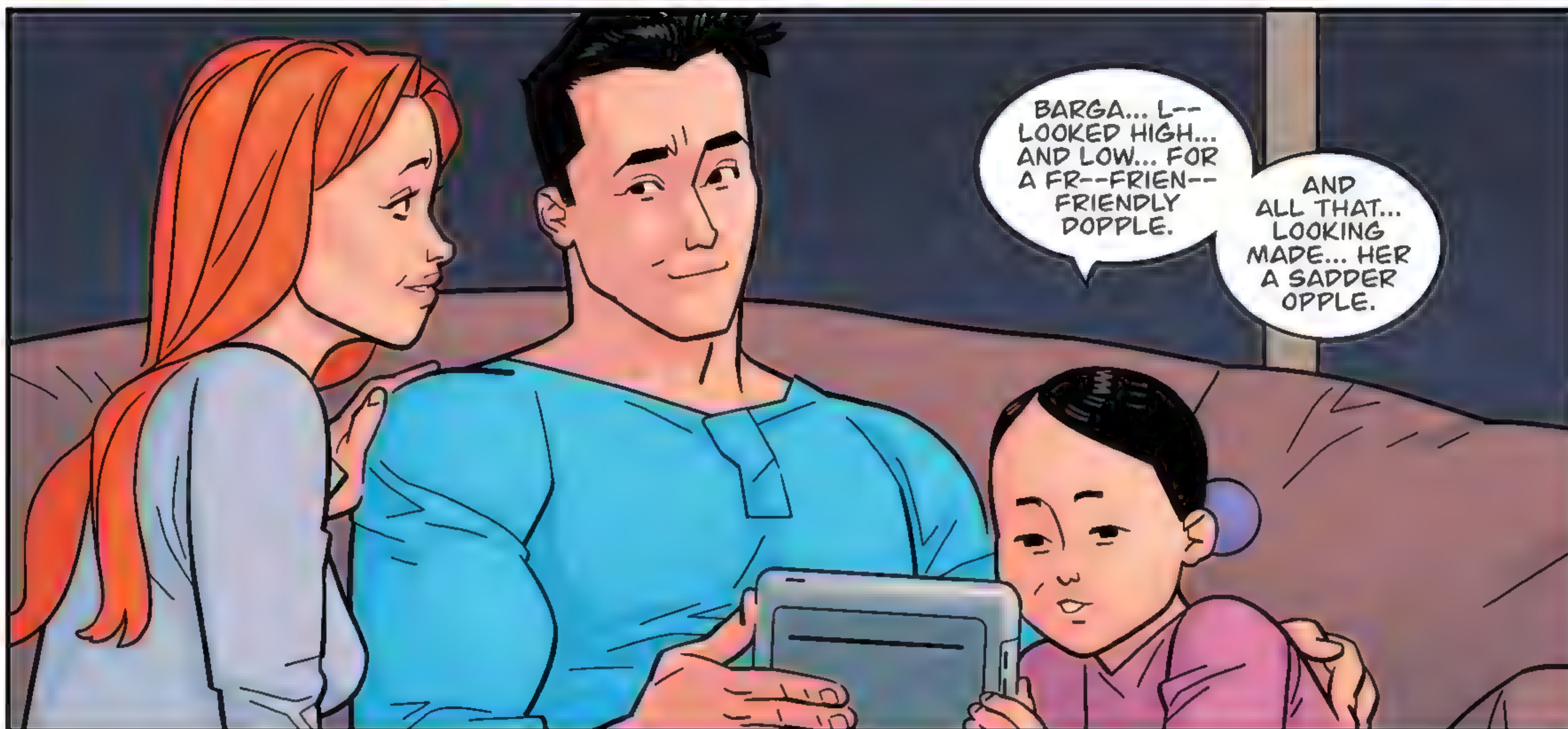
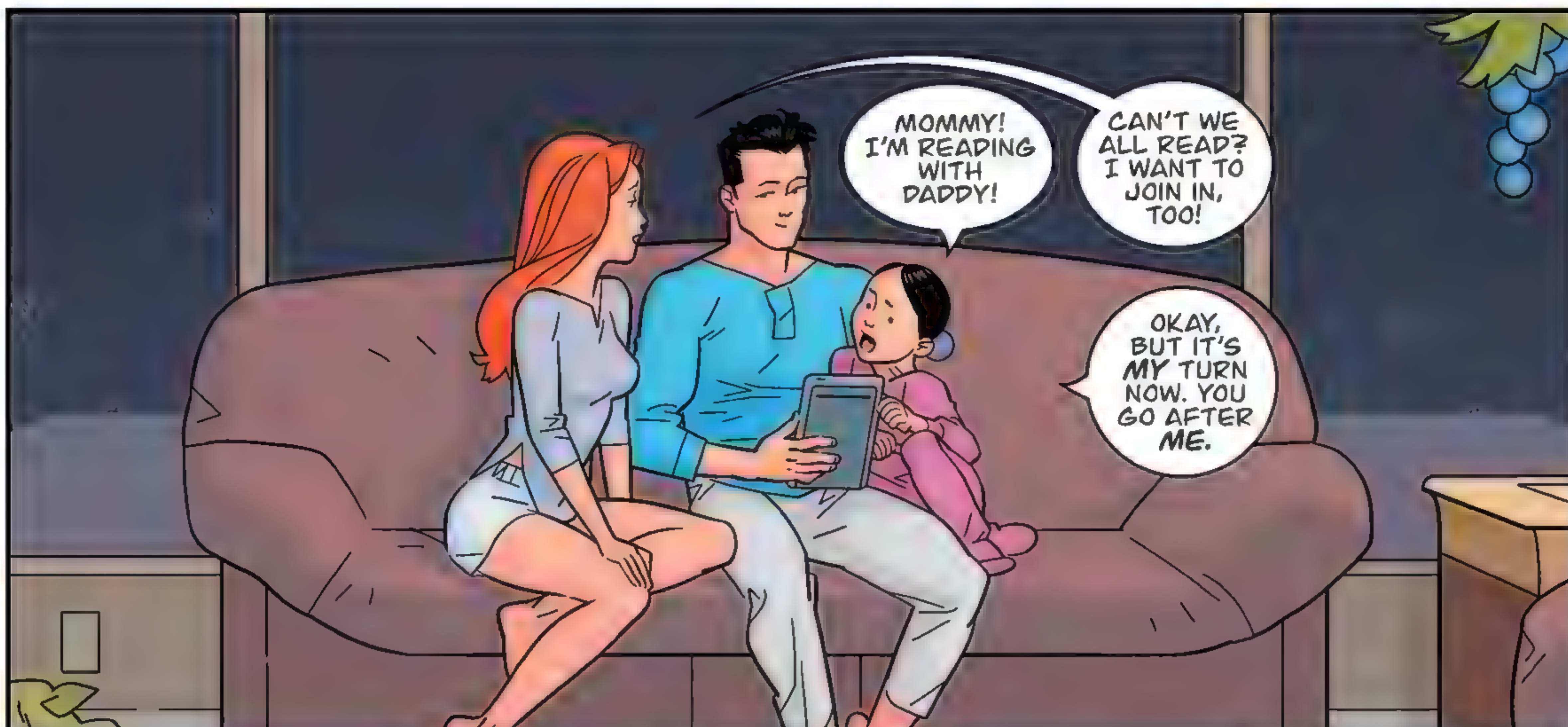
THEY'RE CALLING AN EMERGENCY SESSION! THERE MUST HAVE BEEN ANOTHER ATTACK!

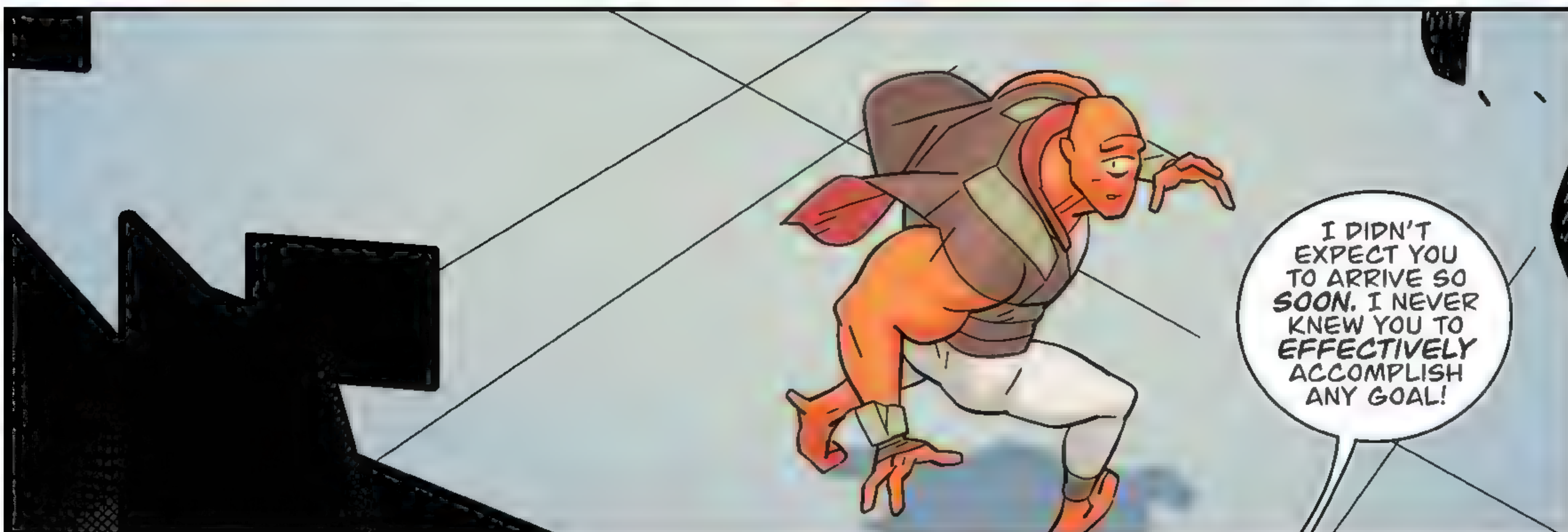
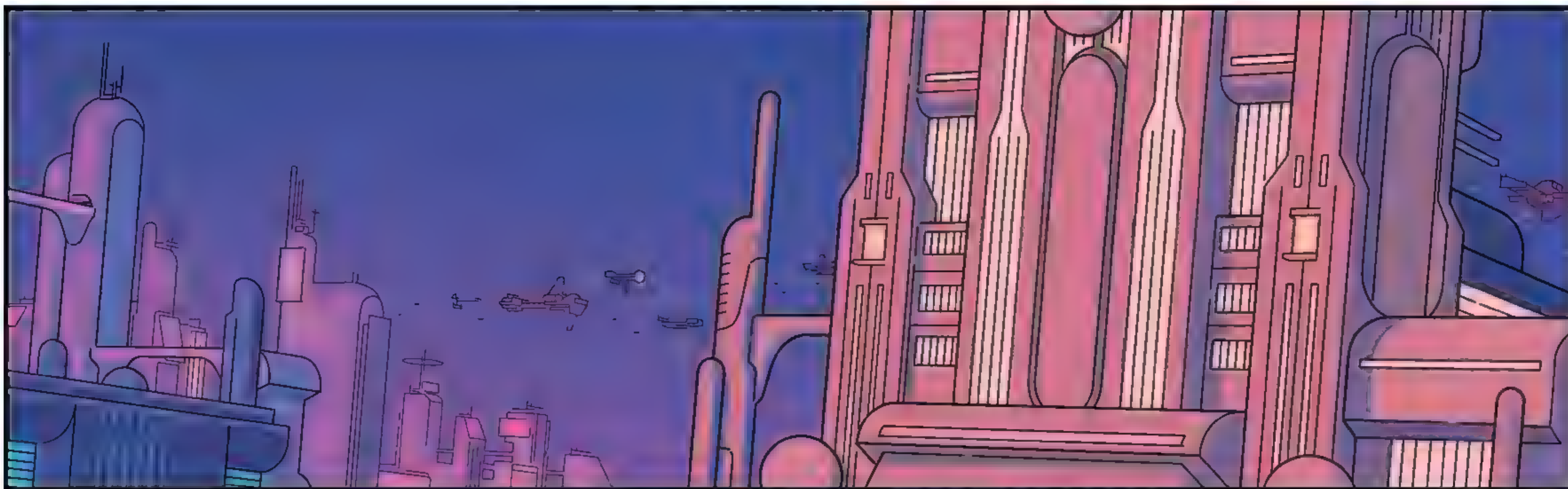
HANDLE IT QUICKLY AND GET BACK HERE!

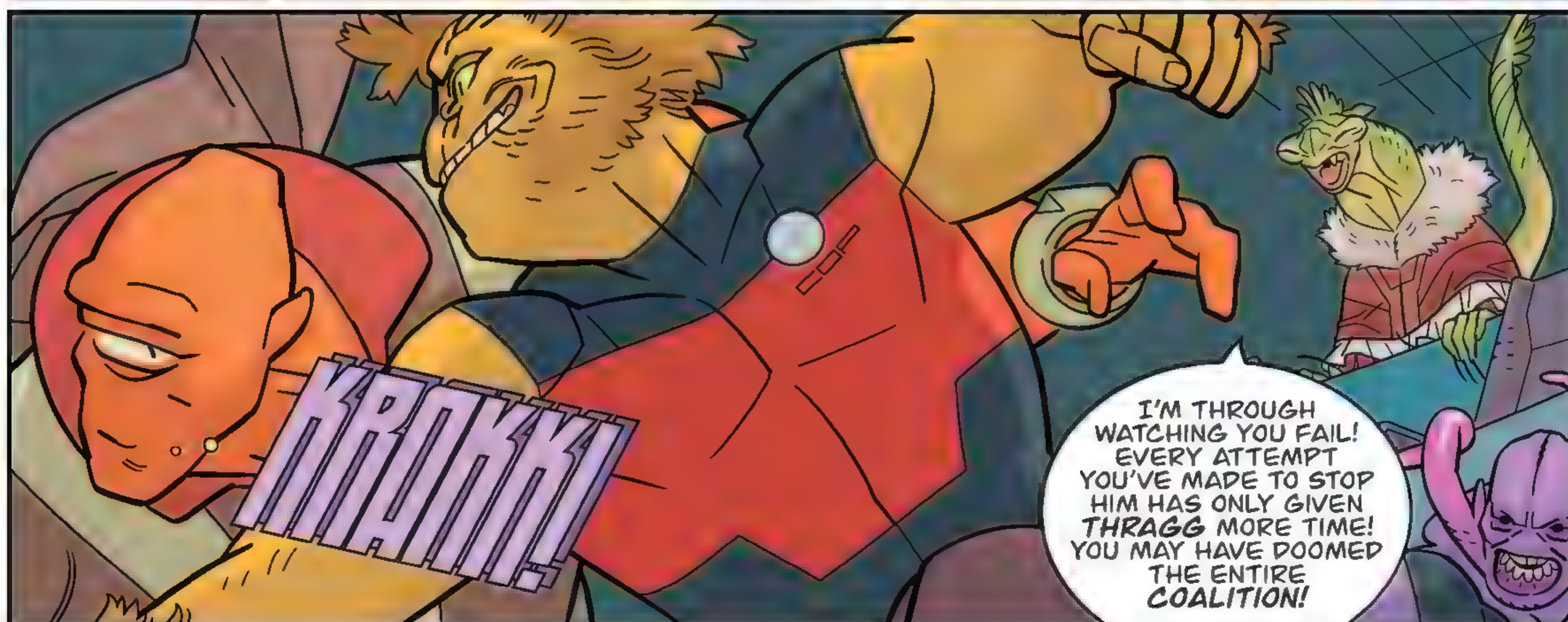
YOU OWE ME!

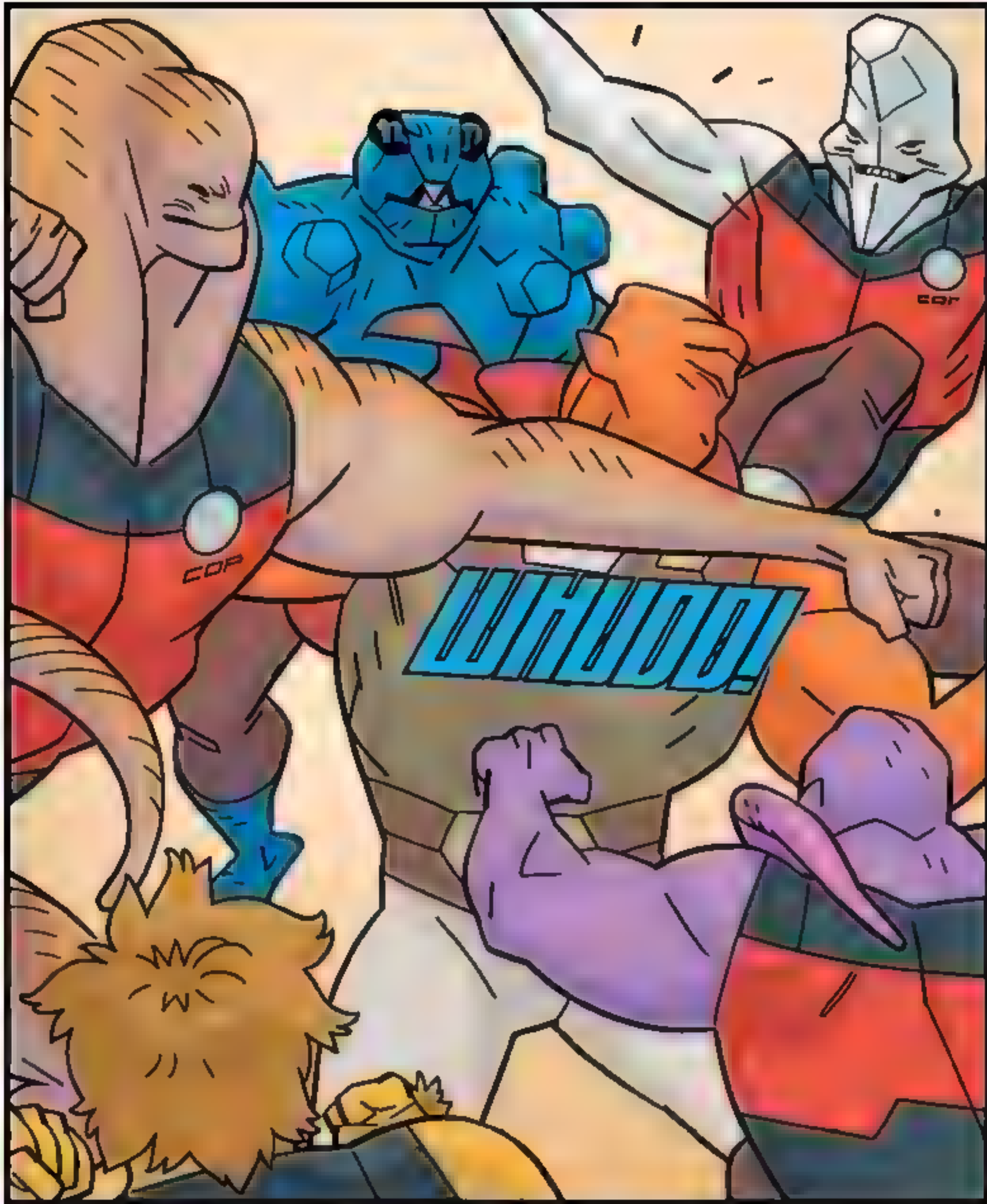












IF YOU'D LISTENED TO MY PROPOSAL FIVE YEARS AGO, WE'D HAVE OUR OWN VILTRUMITE HYBRID ARMY! INSTEAD YOU LET THRAGG GROW STRONGER AND STRONGER!

NOW HE'S STRIKING AGAINST US-- REBUILDING THE VILTRUM EMPIRE! YOU TOOK OVER AFTER THAEDUS'S EFFORTS LED TO THEIR EMPIRE'S FALL, AND YOU'VE ONLY SUCCEEDED IN UNDOING HIS ACCOMPLISHMENTS!

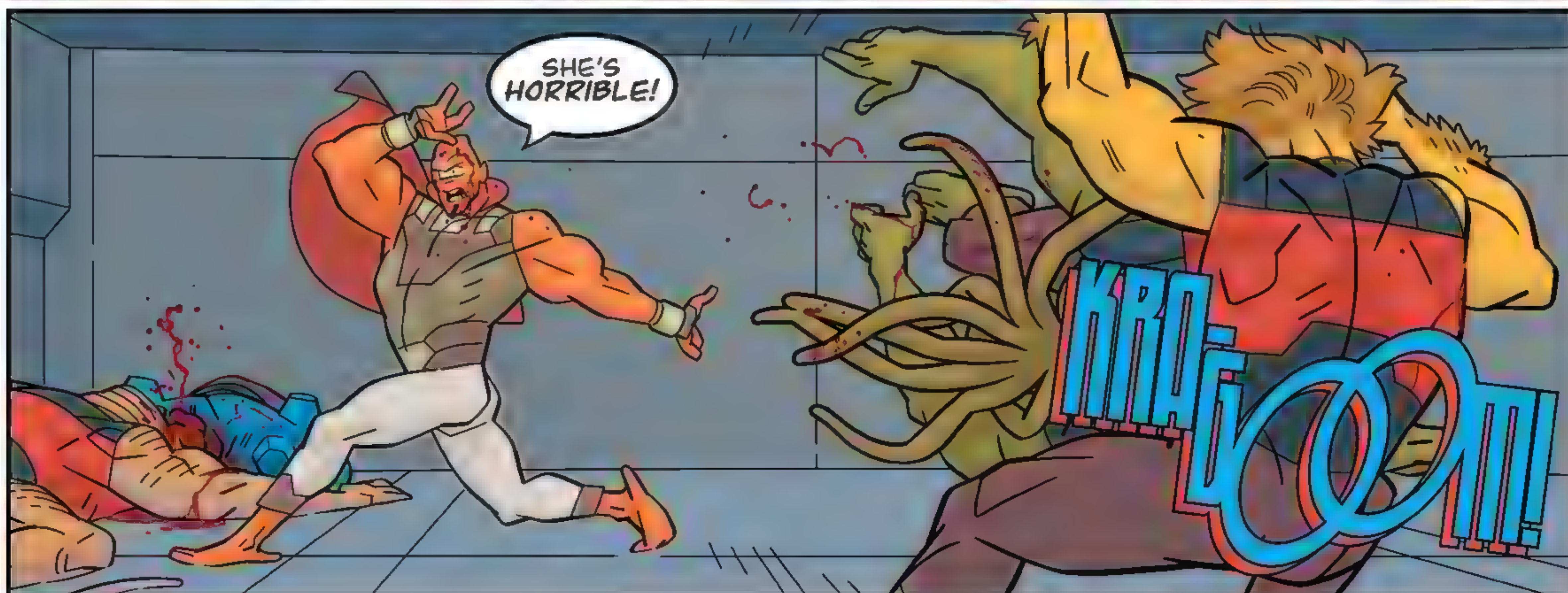
YOU HAVE PROVEN YOU ARE NOT THE ONE TO LEAD US NOW!



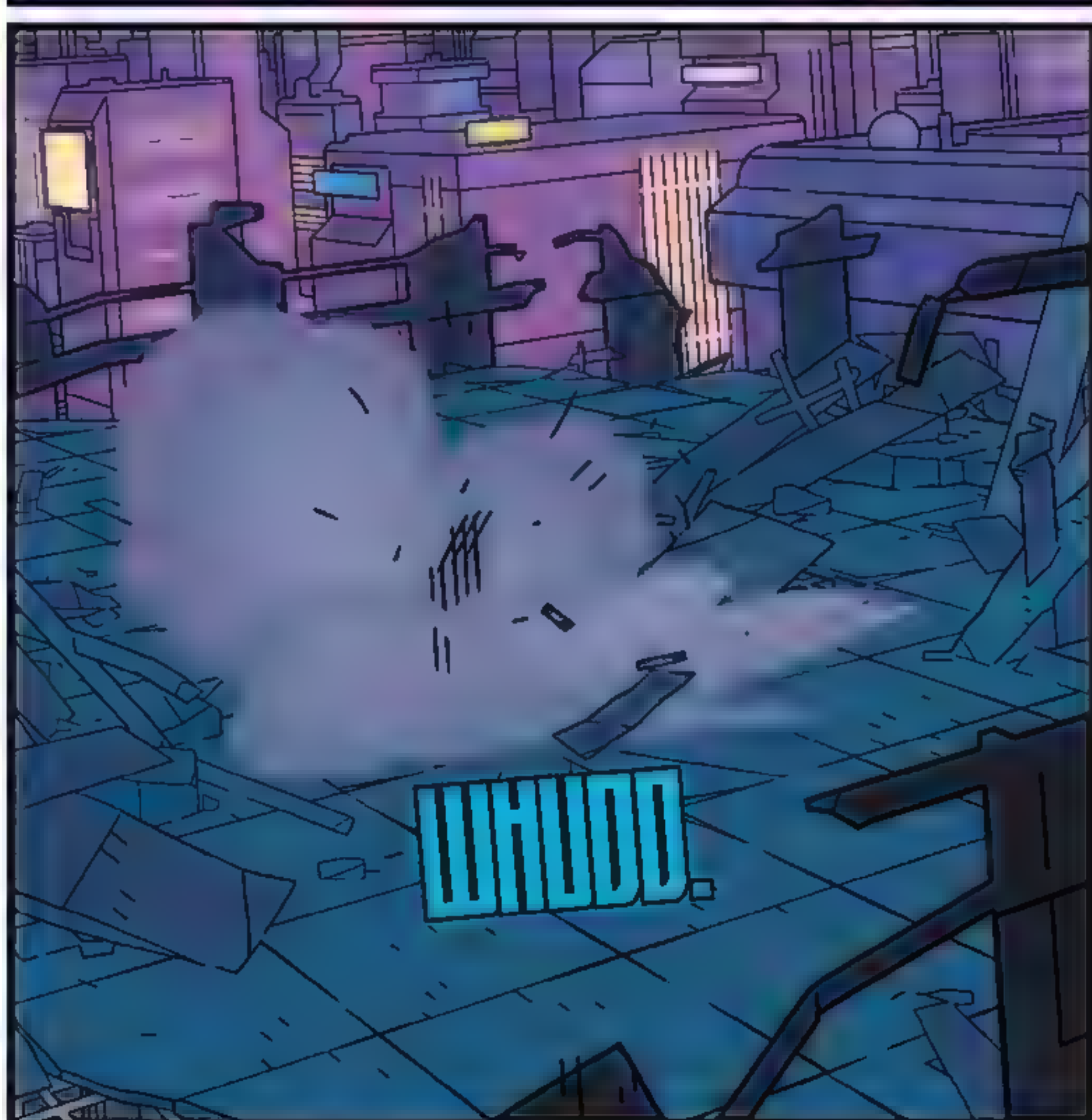
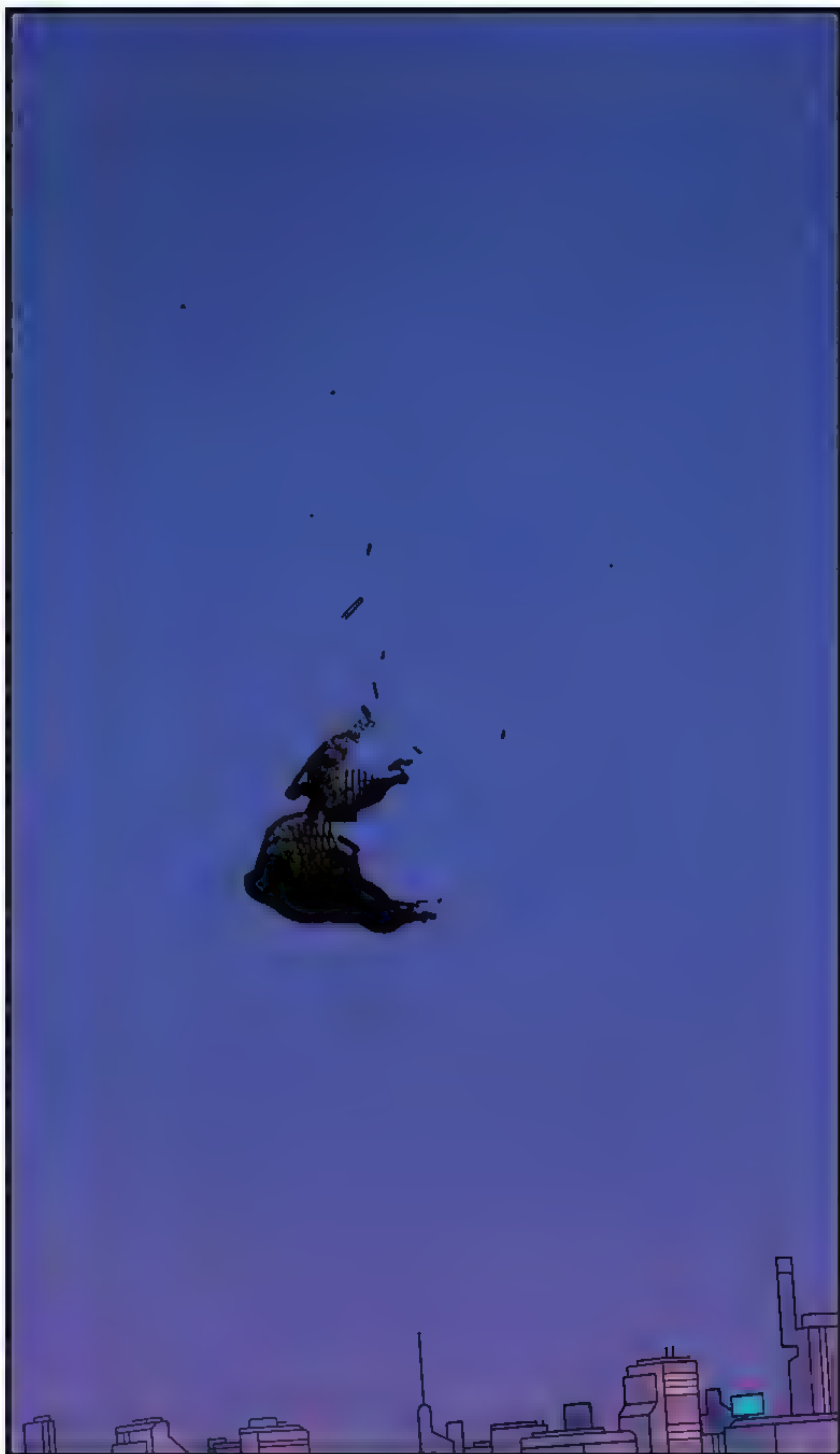
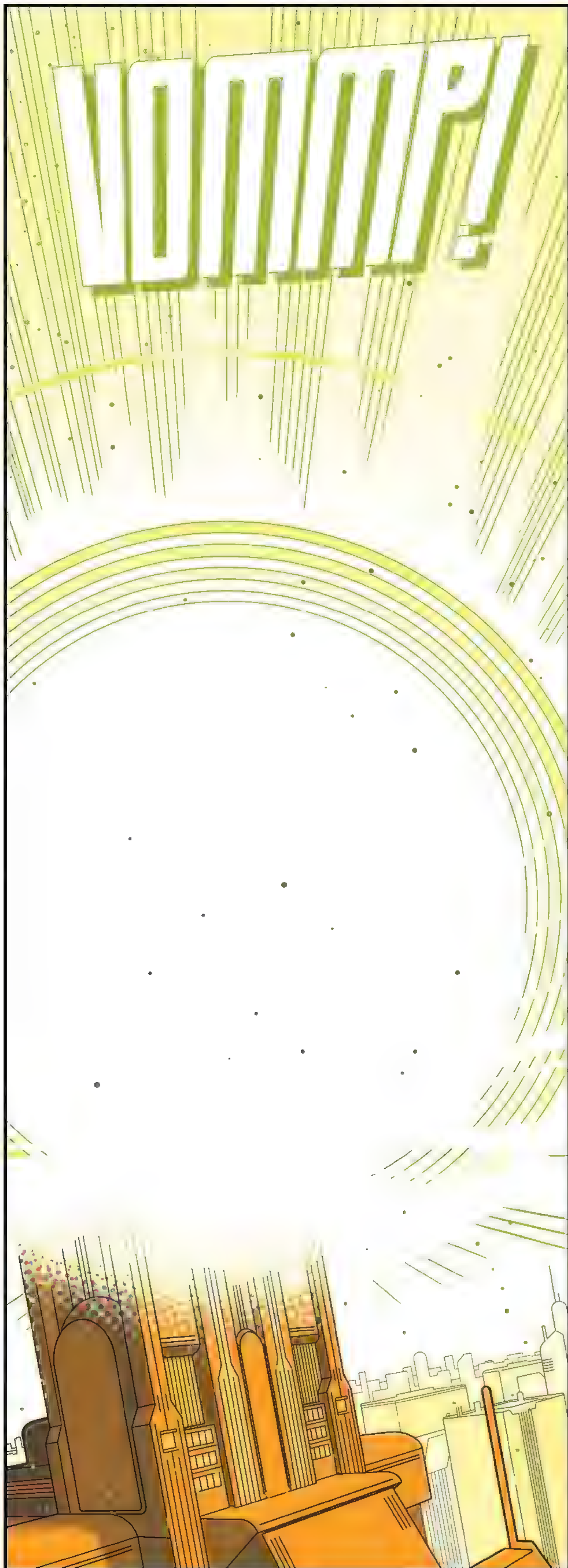
SO YOU'RE GOING TO KILL ME?!

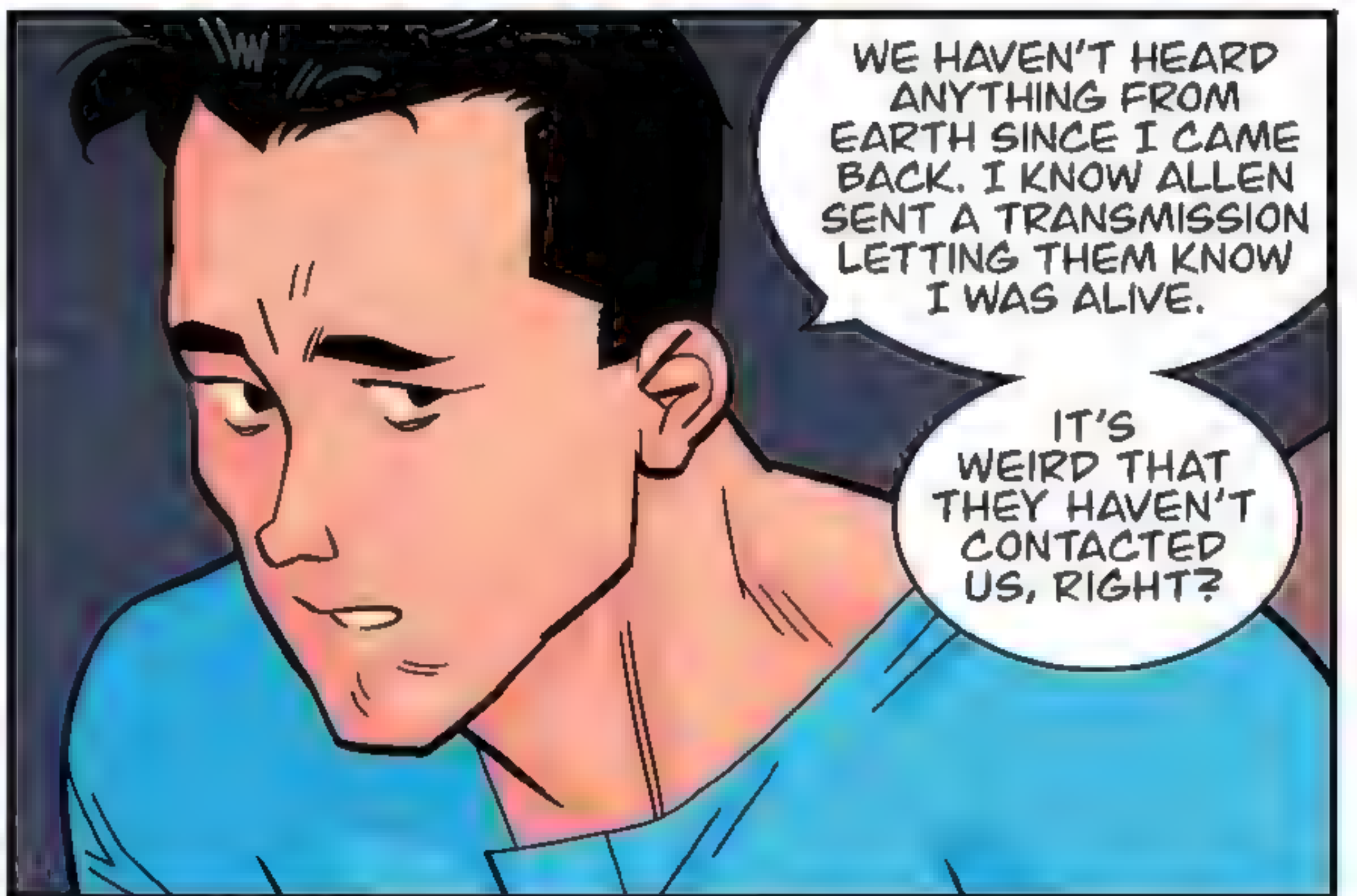
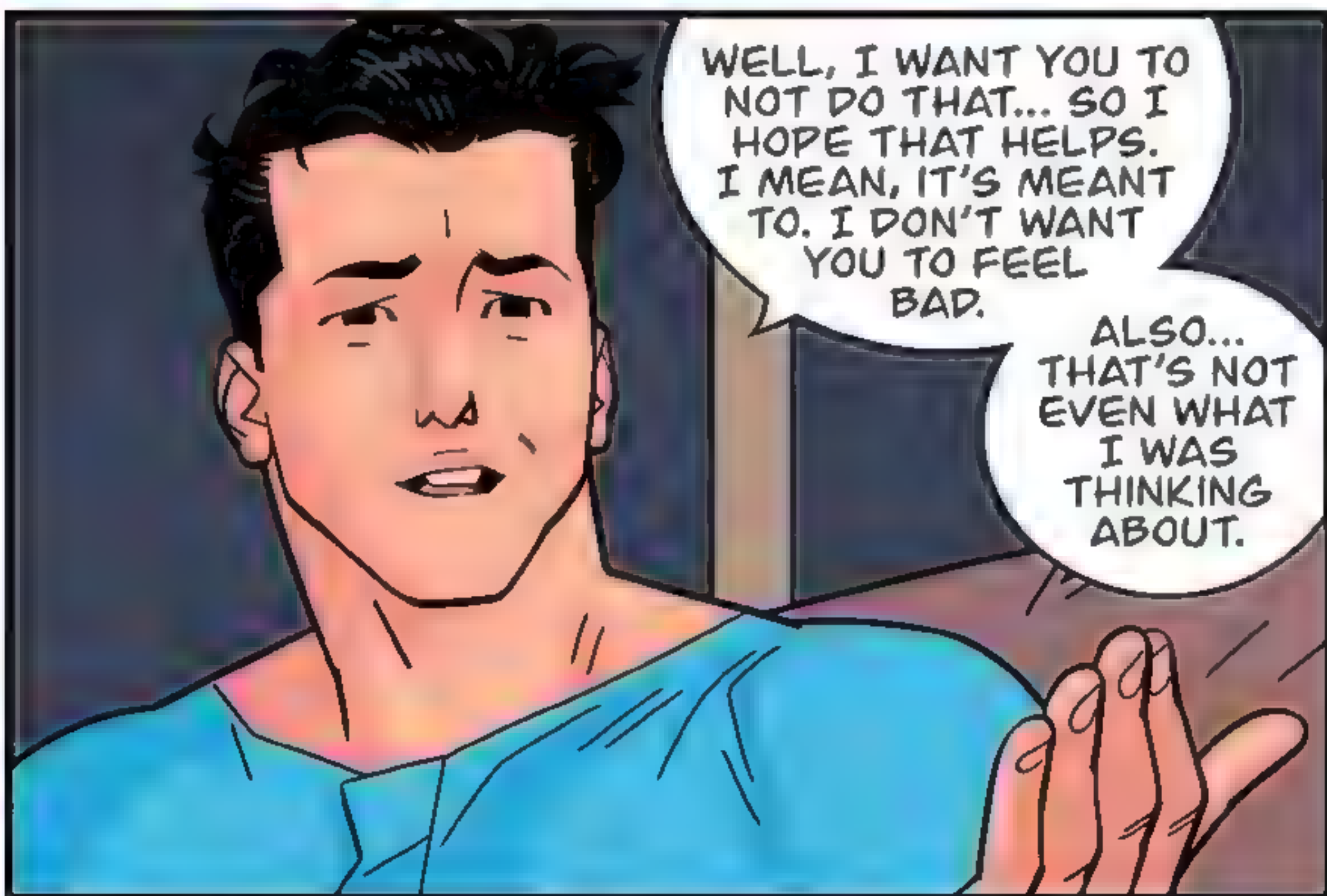
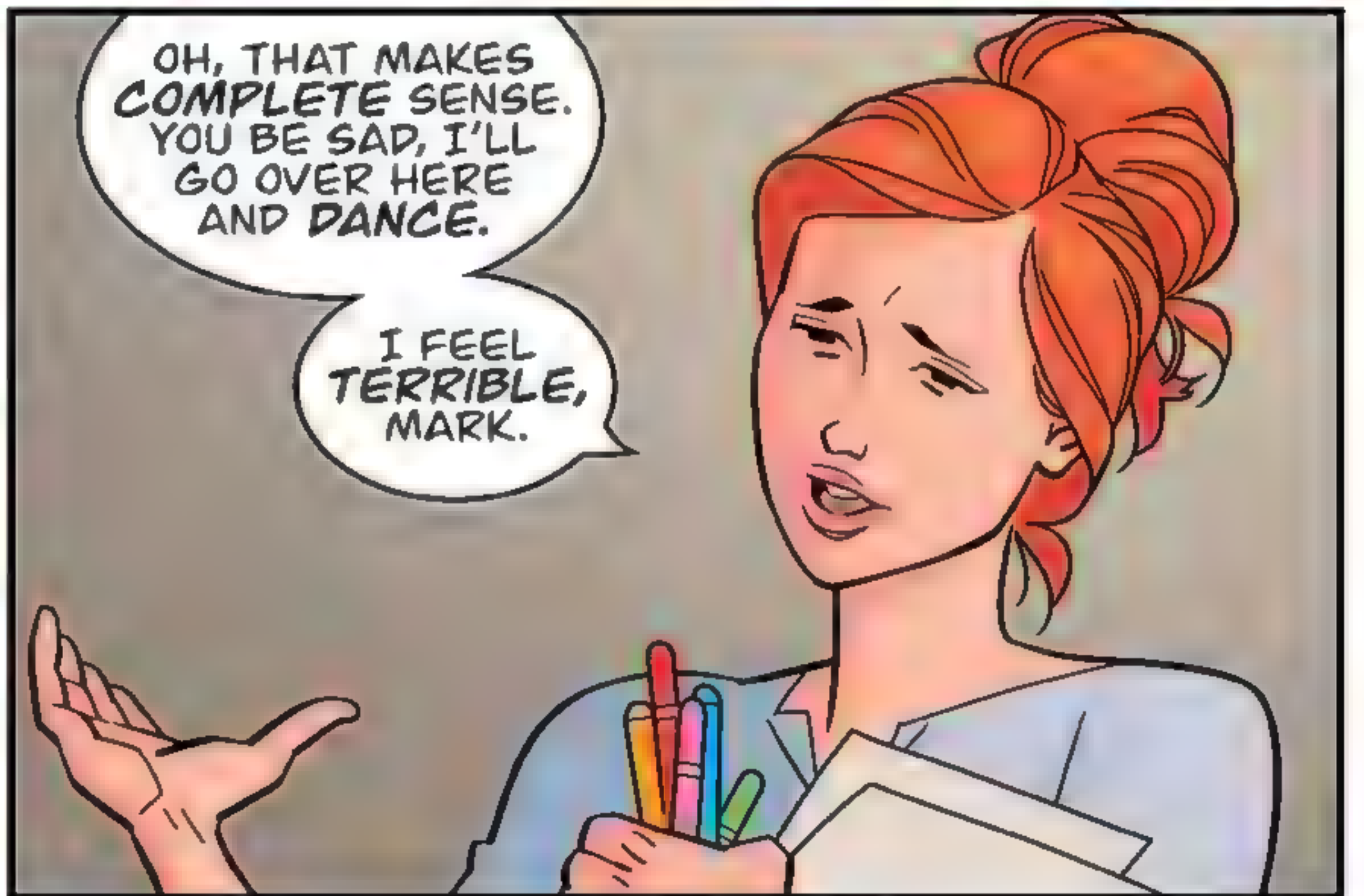


YOU GAVE ME NO CHOICE!

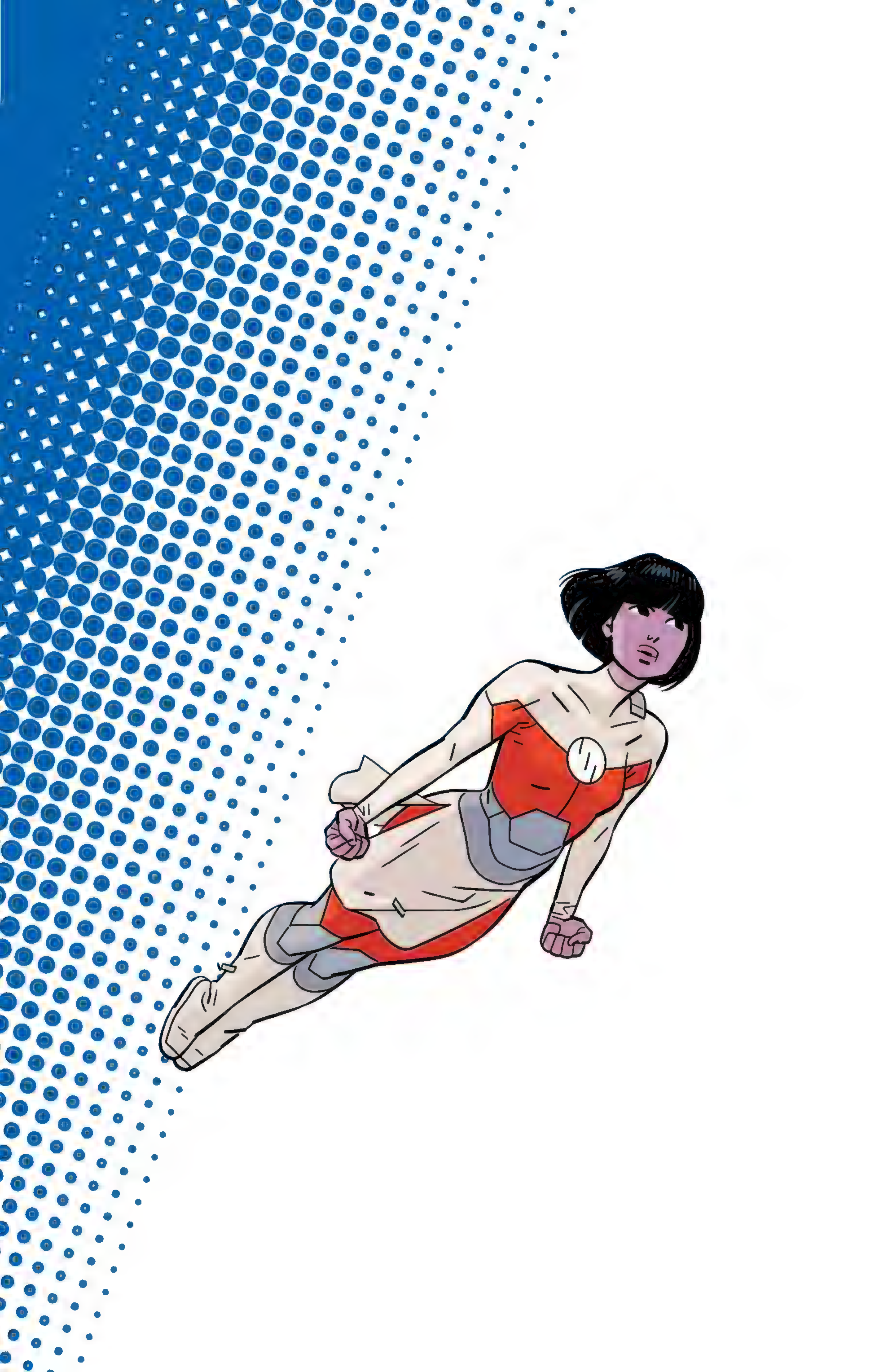






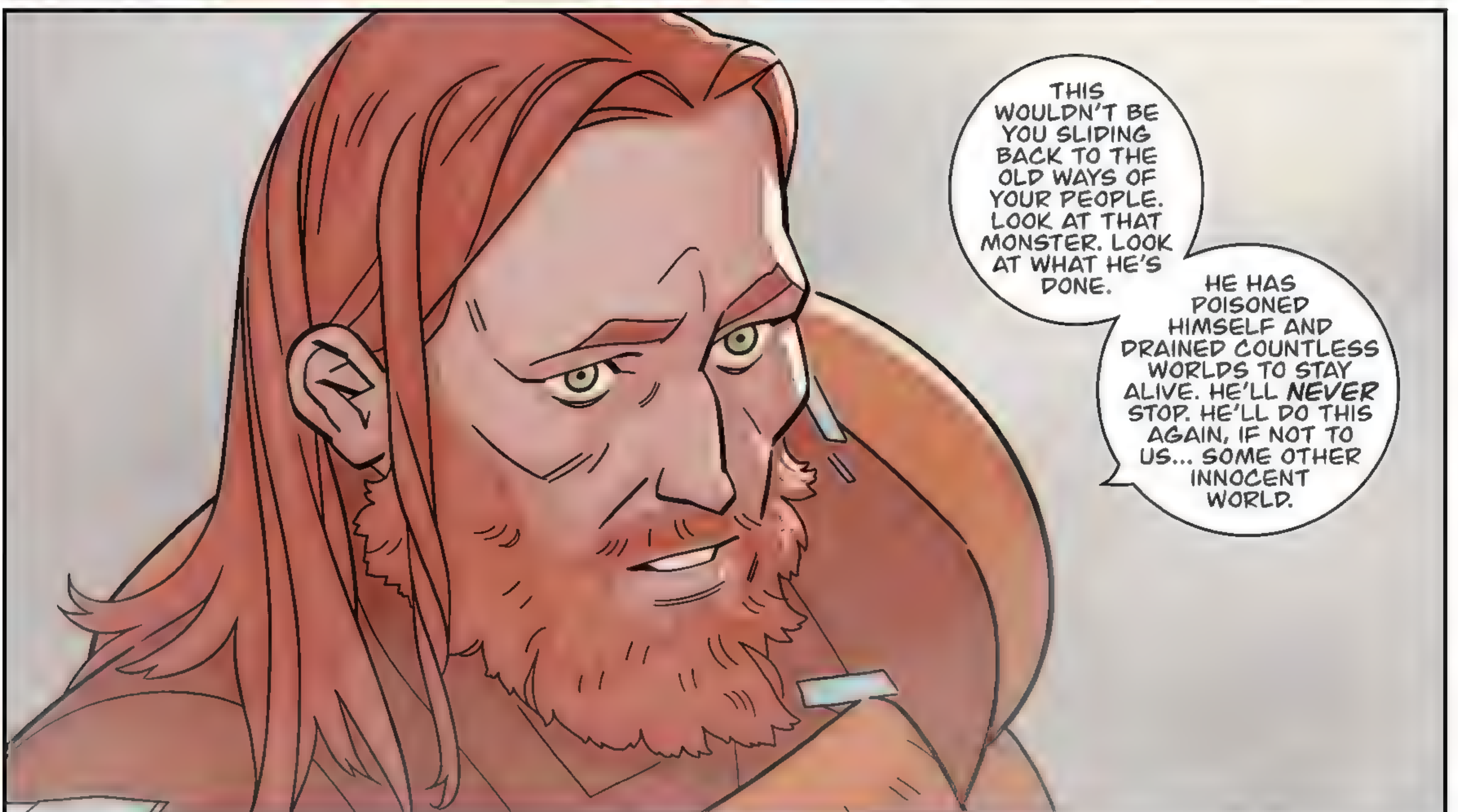






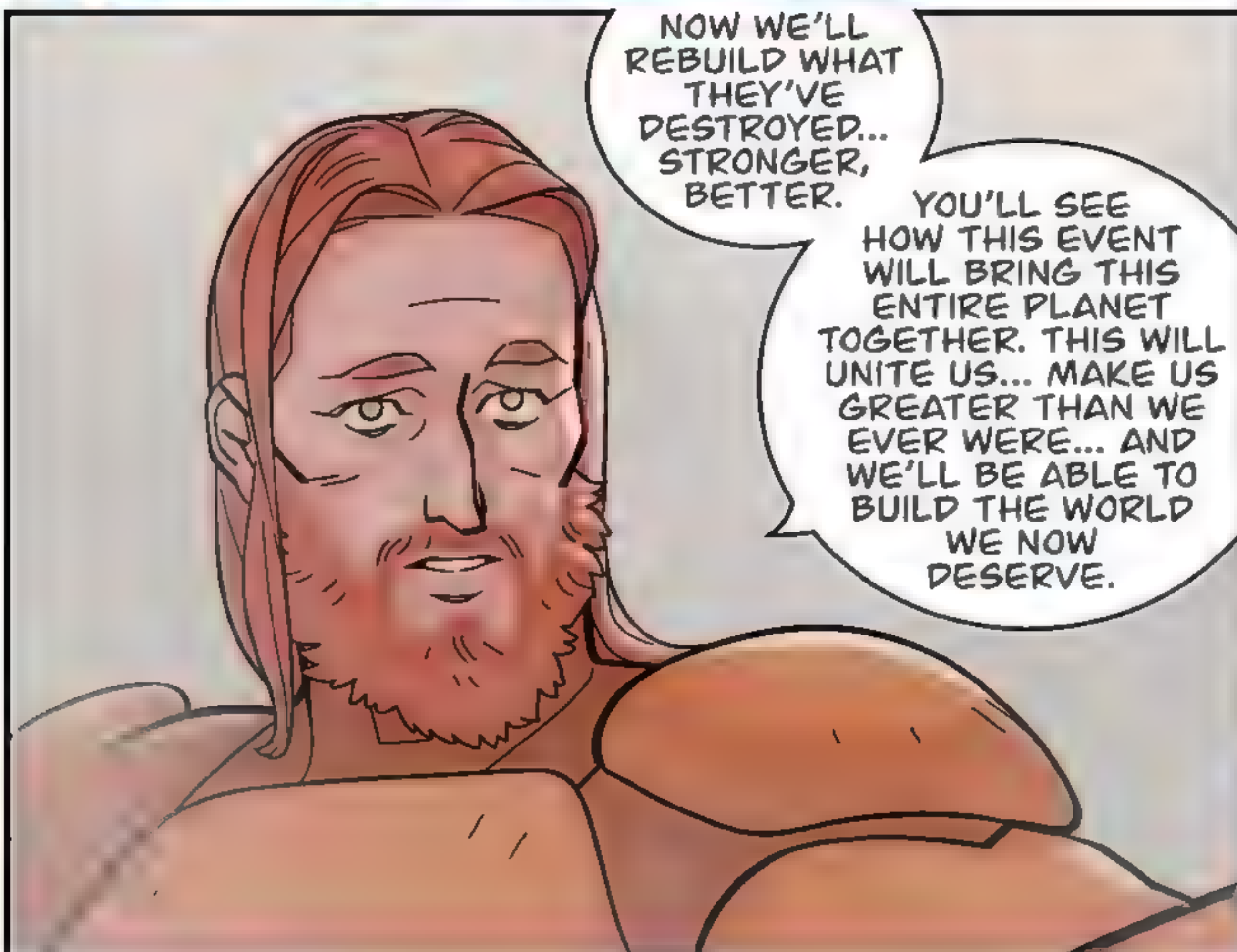
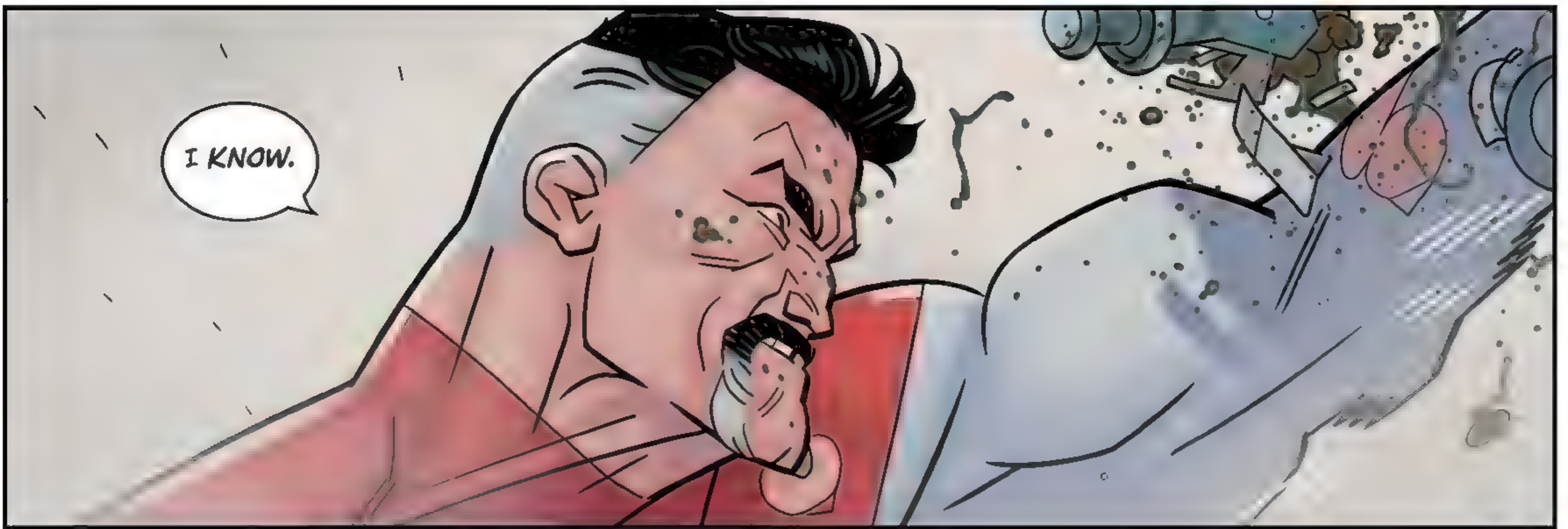
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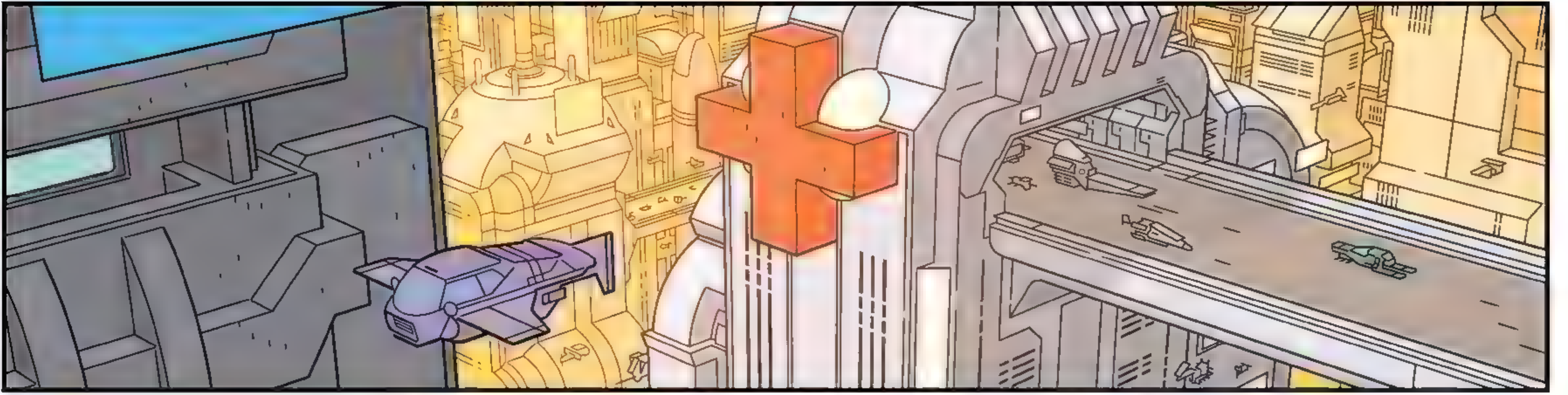


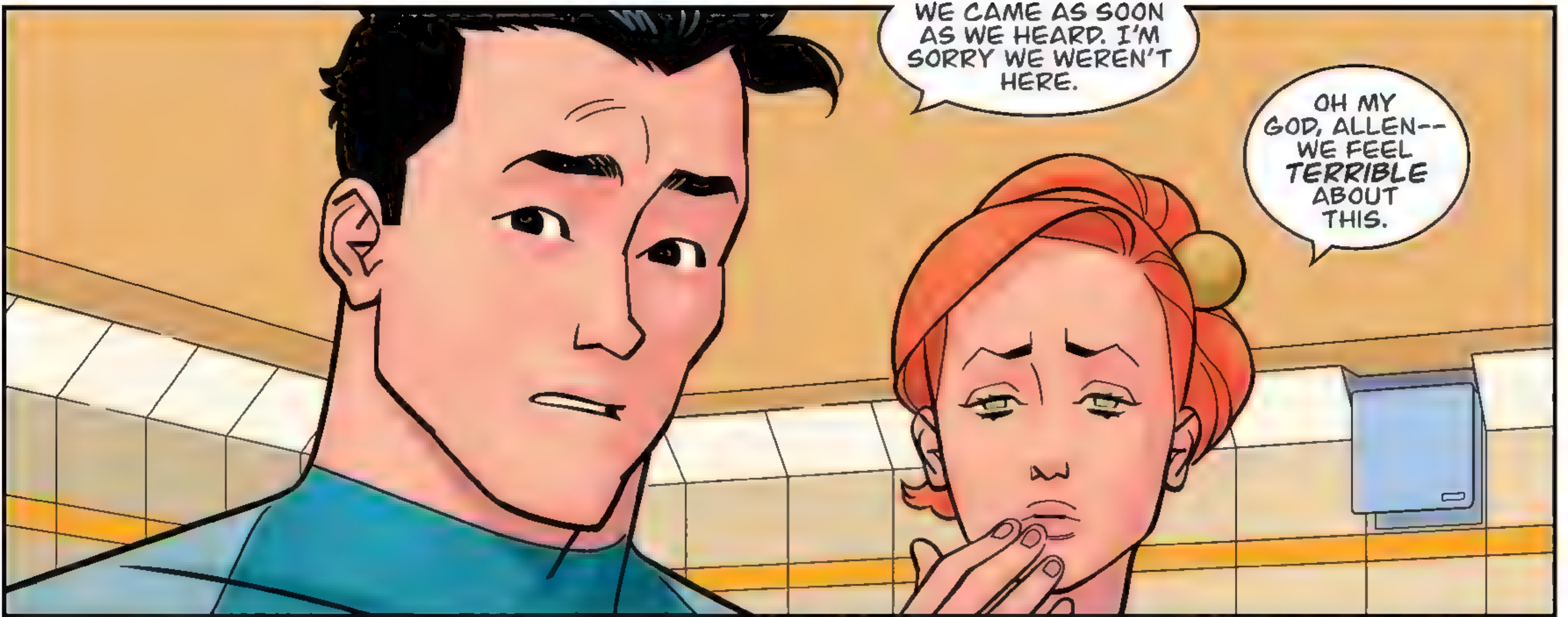




YOU
HAVE
TO KILL
HIM.







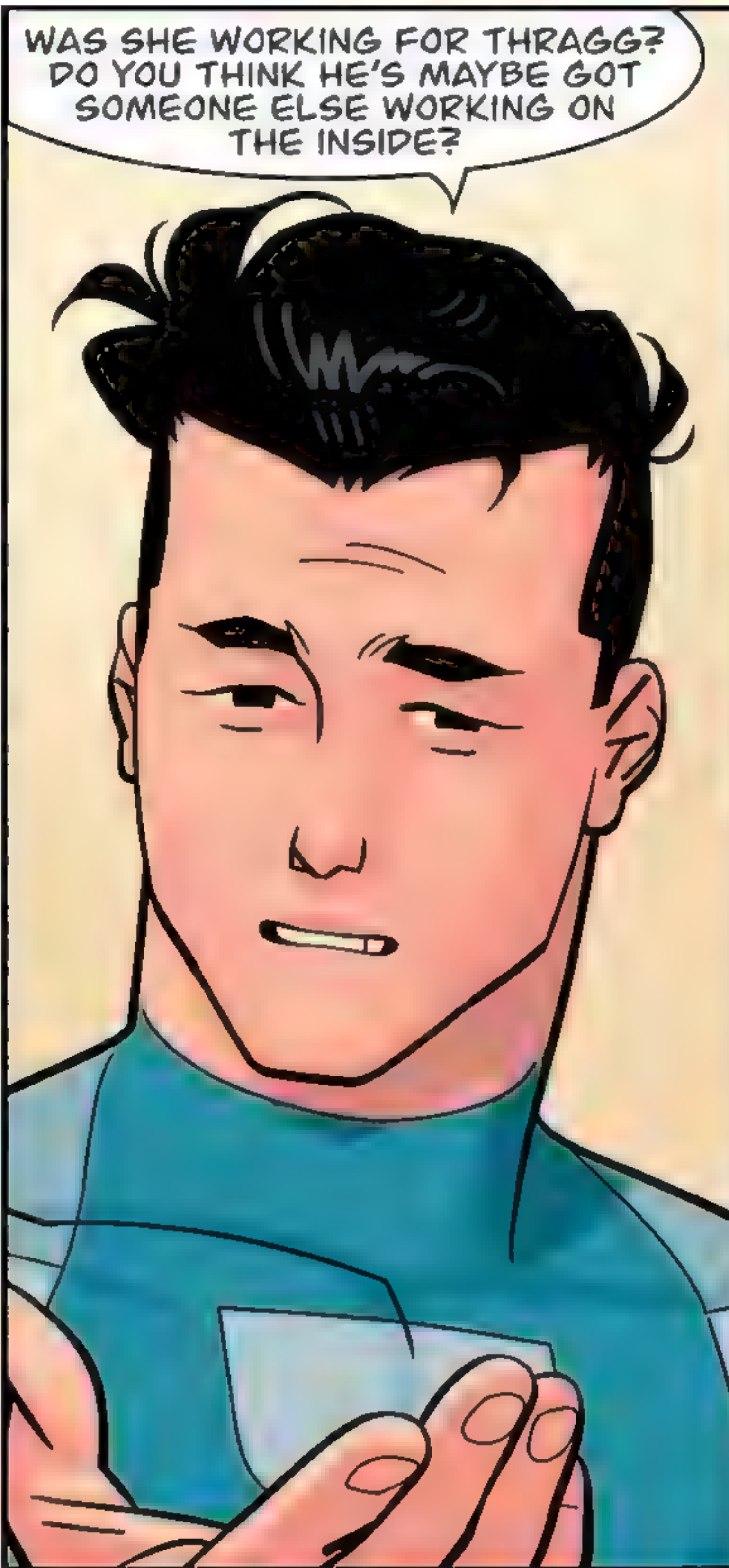
WE CAME AS SOON AS WE HEARD. I'M SORRY WE WEREN'T HERE.

OH MY GOD, ALLEN-- WE FEEL TERRIBLE ABOUT THIS.



DON'T. REALLY. THERE'S NOTHING YOU COULD HAVE DONE TO STOP THIS. I WAS BETRAYED FROM WITHIN THE COALITION...

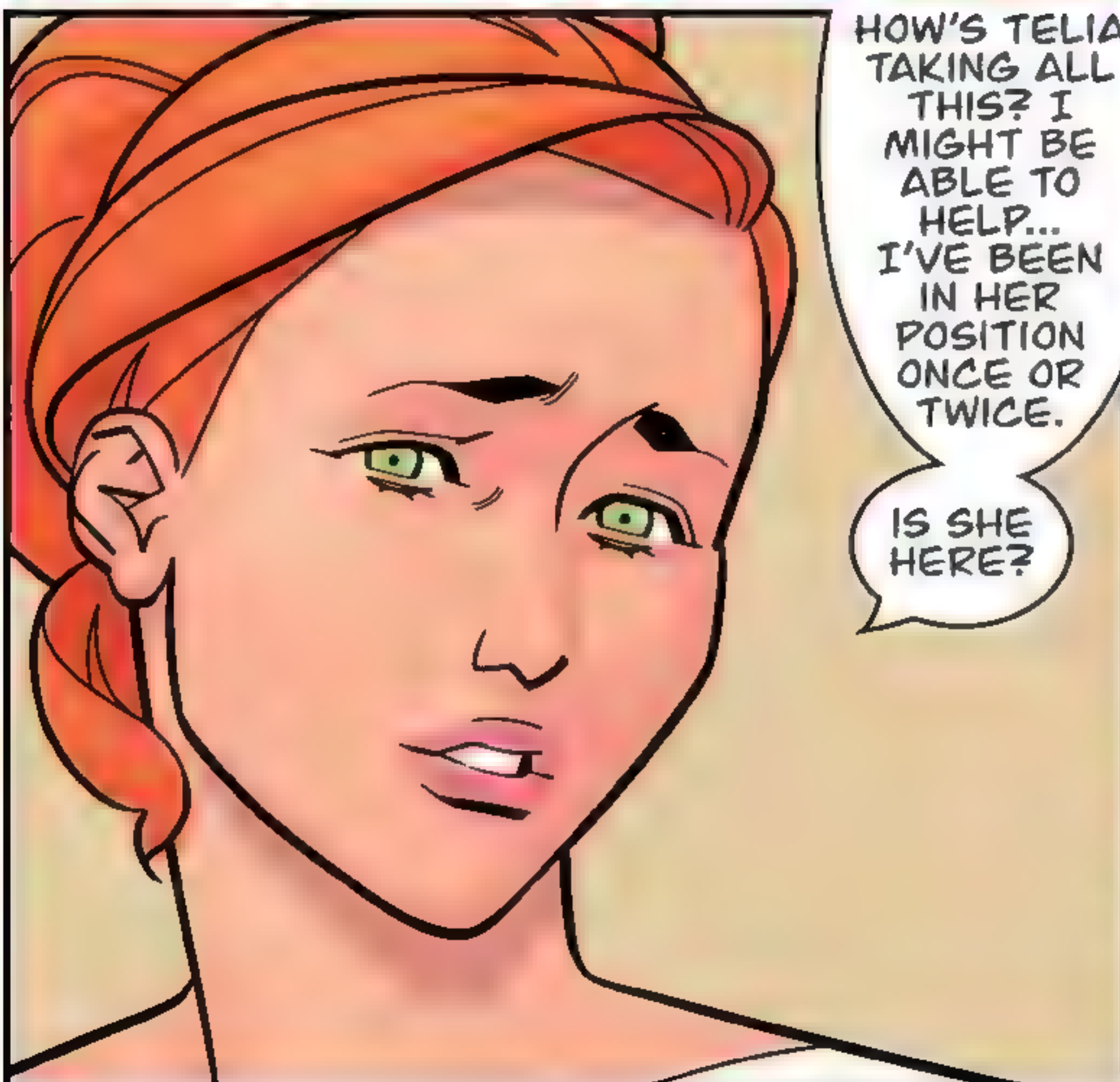
...AND IT WOULD APPEAR ELIA, THE BETRAYER, HAS TAKEN CARE OF HERSELF IN THE PROCESS.



WAS SHE WORKING FOR THRAGG? DO YOU THINK HE'S MAYBE GOT SOMEONE ELSE WORKING ON THE INSIDE?



NO. HER PLAN WAS TO REPLACE ME WITH SOMEONE WHO COULD TAKE THRAGG DOWN.



HOW'S TELIA TAKING ALL THIS? I MIGHT BE ABLE TO HELP... I'VE BEEN IN HER POSITION ONCE OR TWICE.

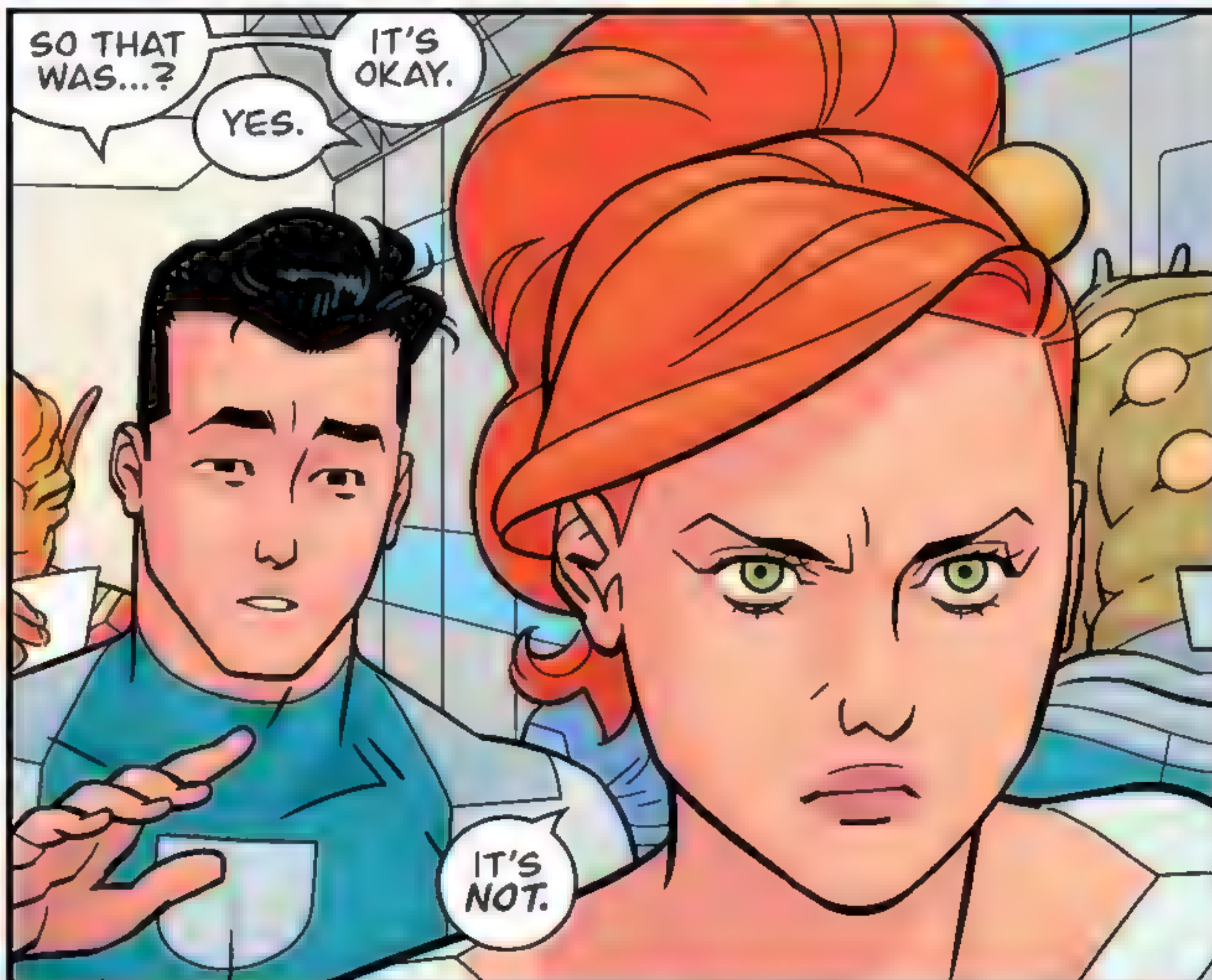
IS SHE HERE?



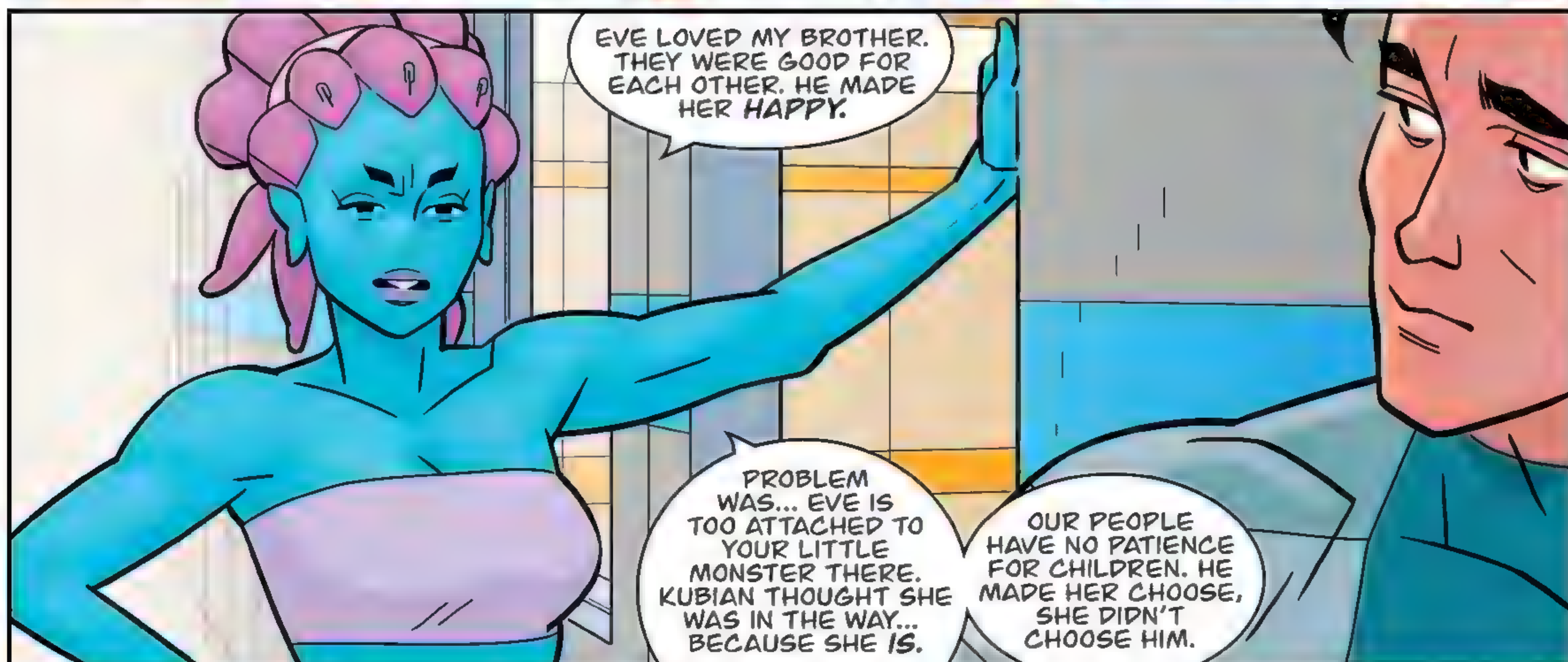
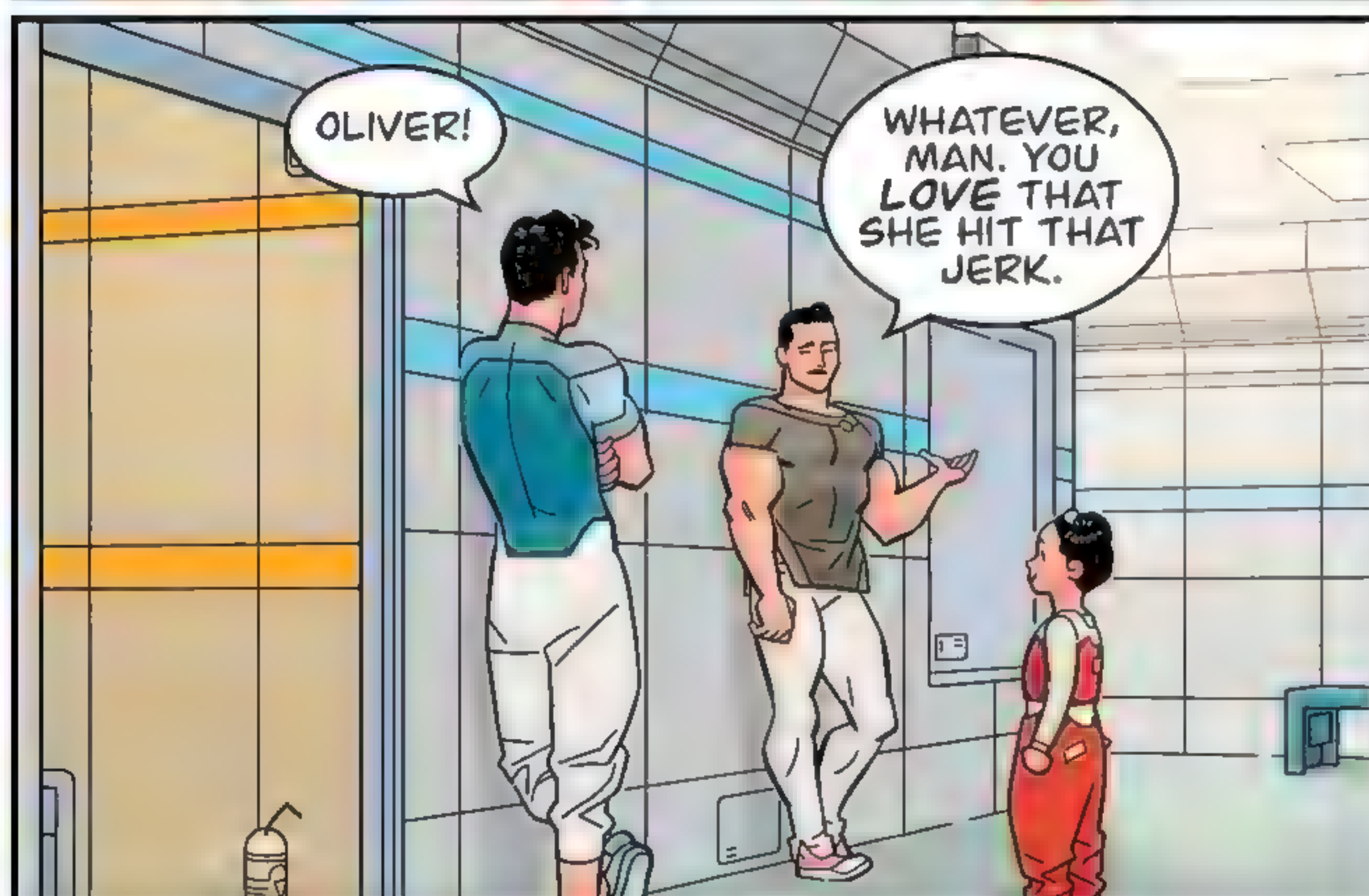
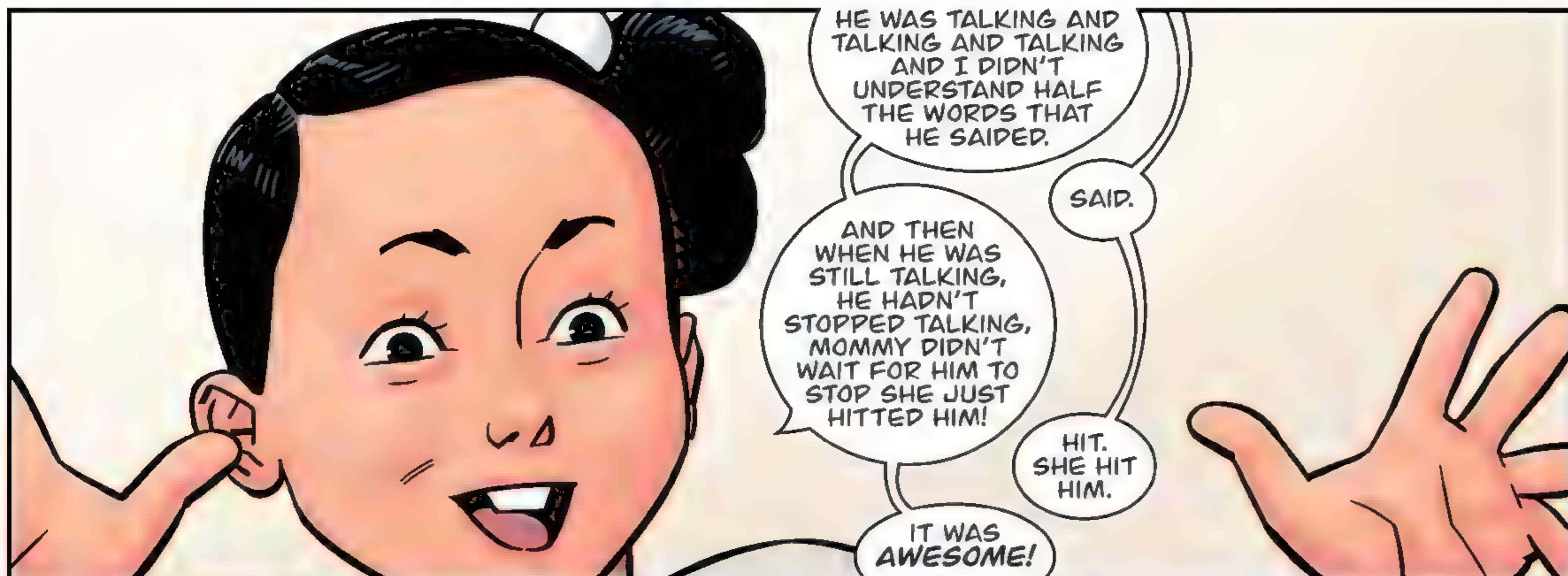
OH, TELIA RAN OUT TO GET SOMETHING TO EAT WITH--

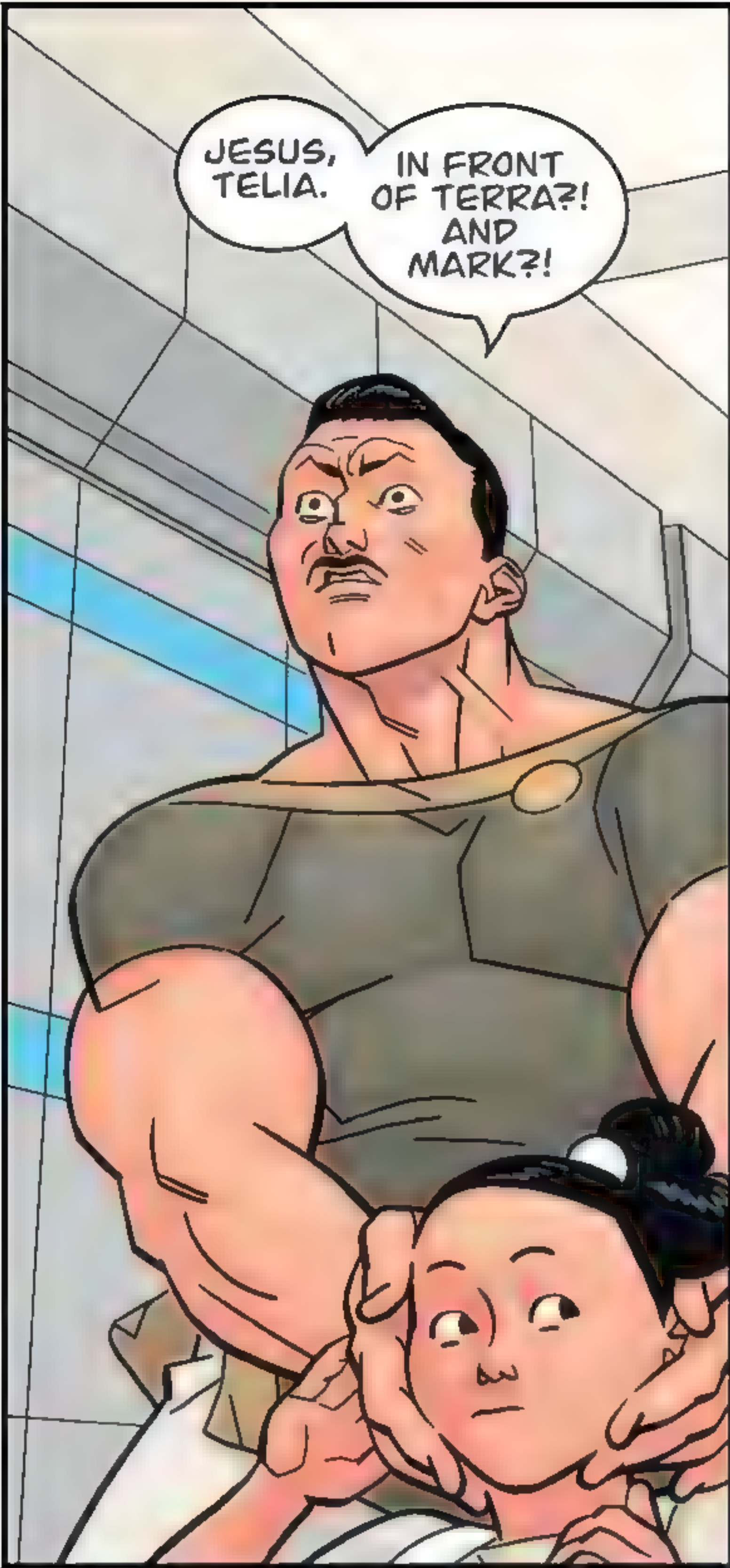
WE'RE BACK!

...OH CRAP.









JESUS, TELIA.

IN FRONT OF TERRA?! AND MARK?!



IT'S OKAY. I... I WANT TO KNOW.

AT LEAST... I THOUGHT I WANTED TO...



WIMP.



IGNORE HER. SHE'S THE ABSOLUTE WORST. HAVE YOU TALKED TO MOM AND DAD SINCE YOU GOT BACK?

NO. HAVE YOU? WE'VE TRIED TO CONTACT THEM, BUT NOTHING IS GETTING THROUGH. ALLEN SAID IT MIGHT BE INTERFERENCE.



EVE AND I WERE PRETTY WORRIED. WE WERE PLANNING ON JUST GOING TO EARTH TO CHECK ON THEM. WE WERE GOING TO LEAVE TOMORROW.

THAT'S NOT A BAD IDEA. I WISH I COULD GO WITH YOU, BUT I'M UP TO MY EYEBALLS, ESPECIALLY WITH ALLEN HEALING.

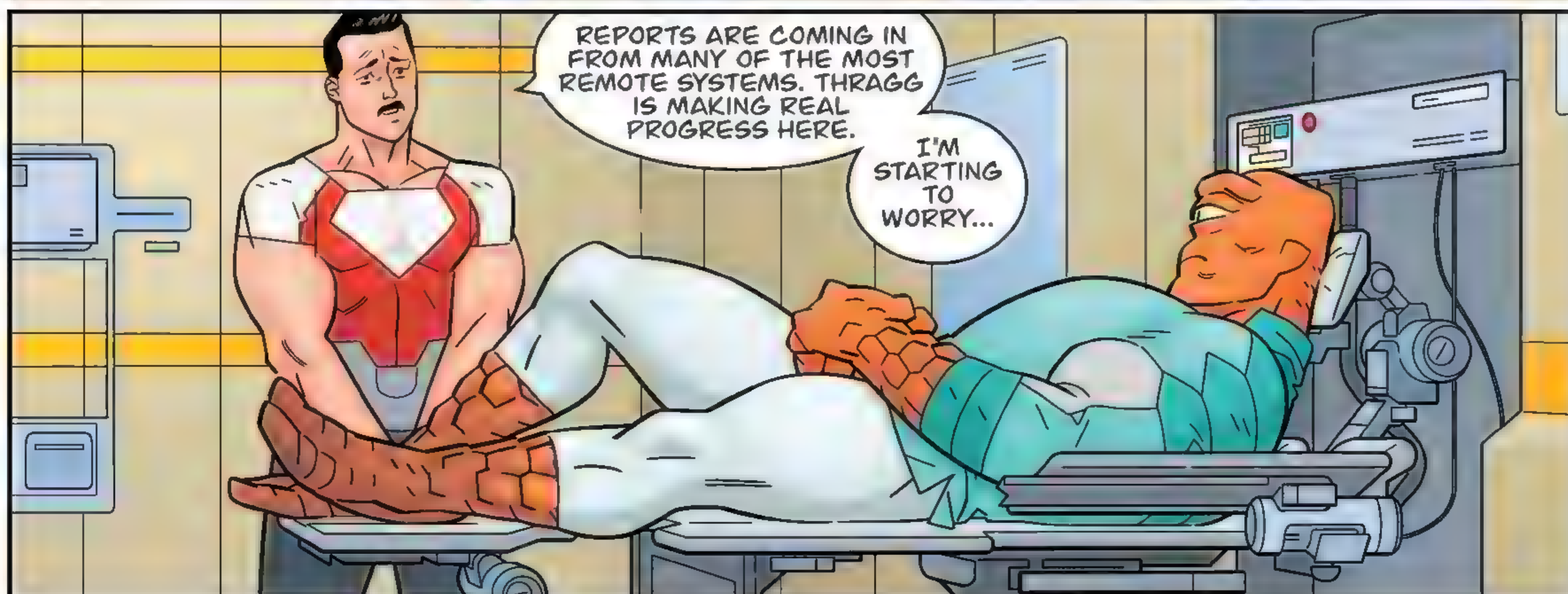
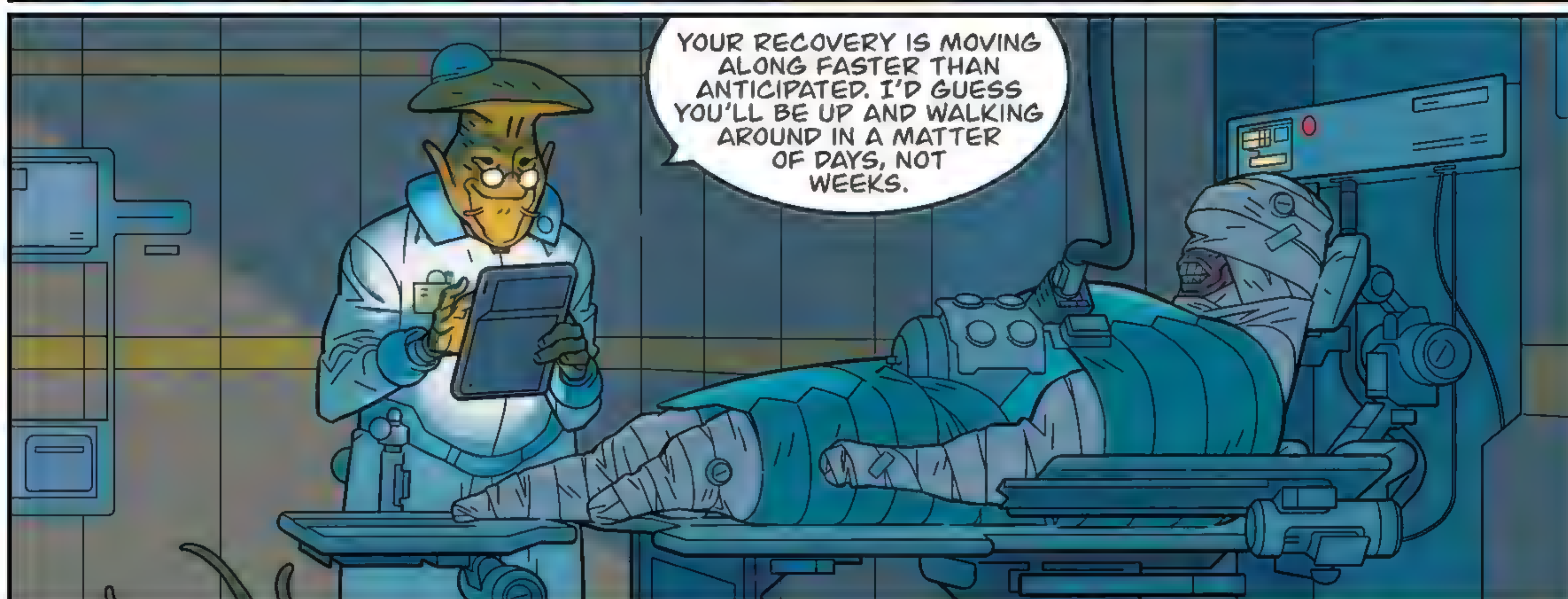


CAN WE GO?



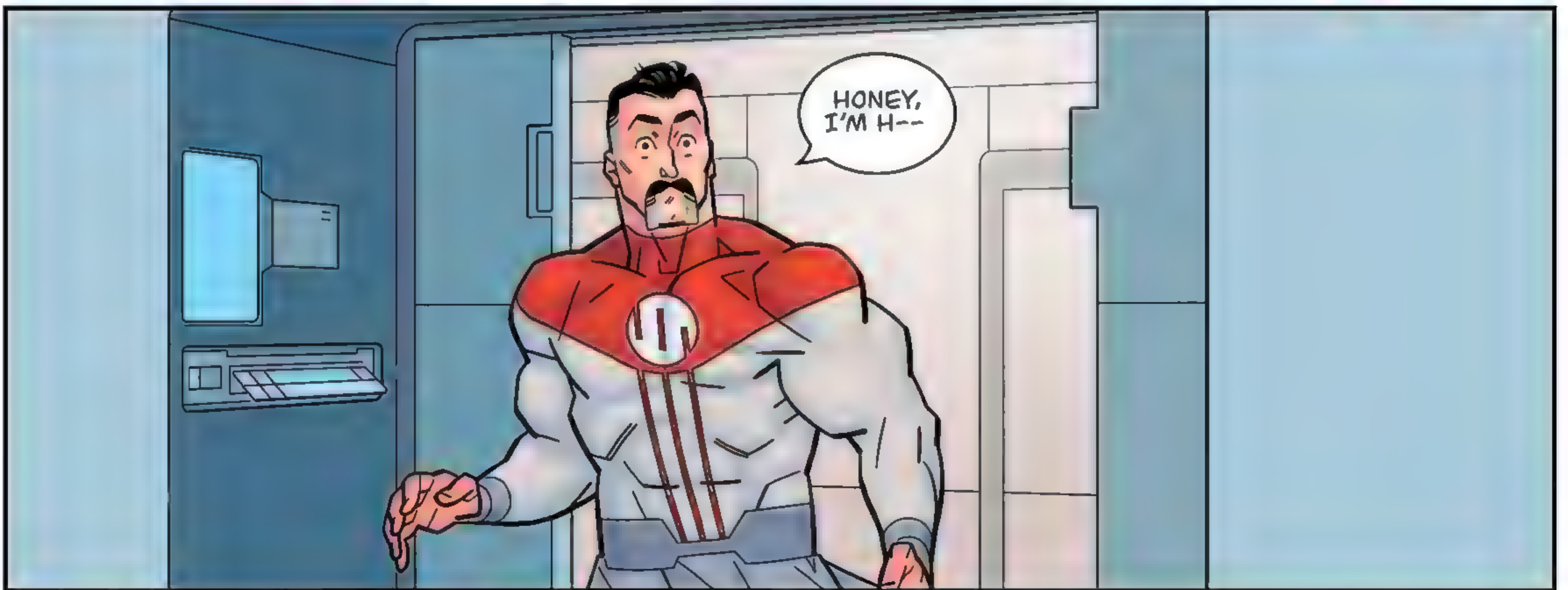
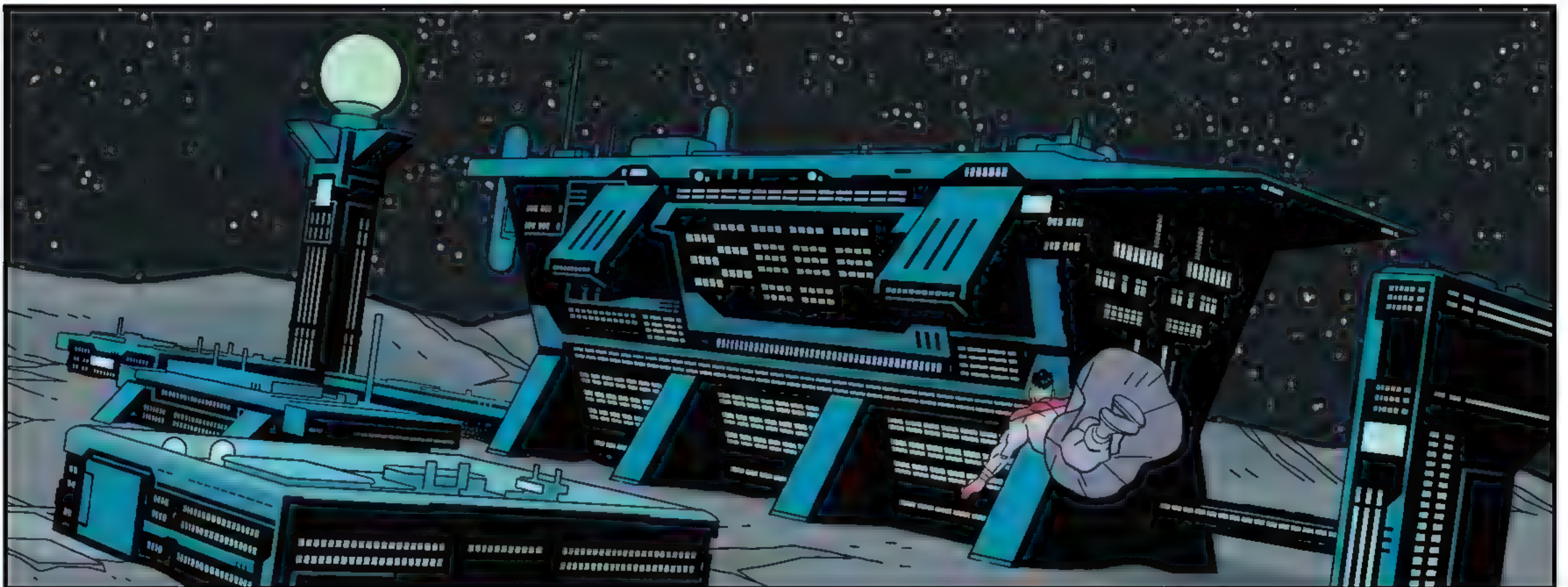
UH... SURE. LET'S JUST SAY GOODBYE TO ALLEN.

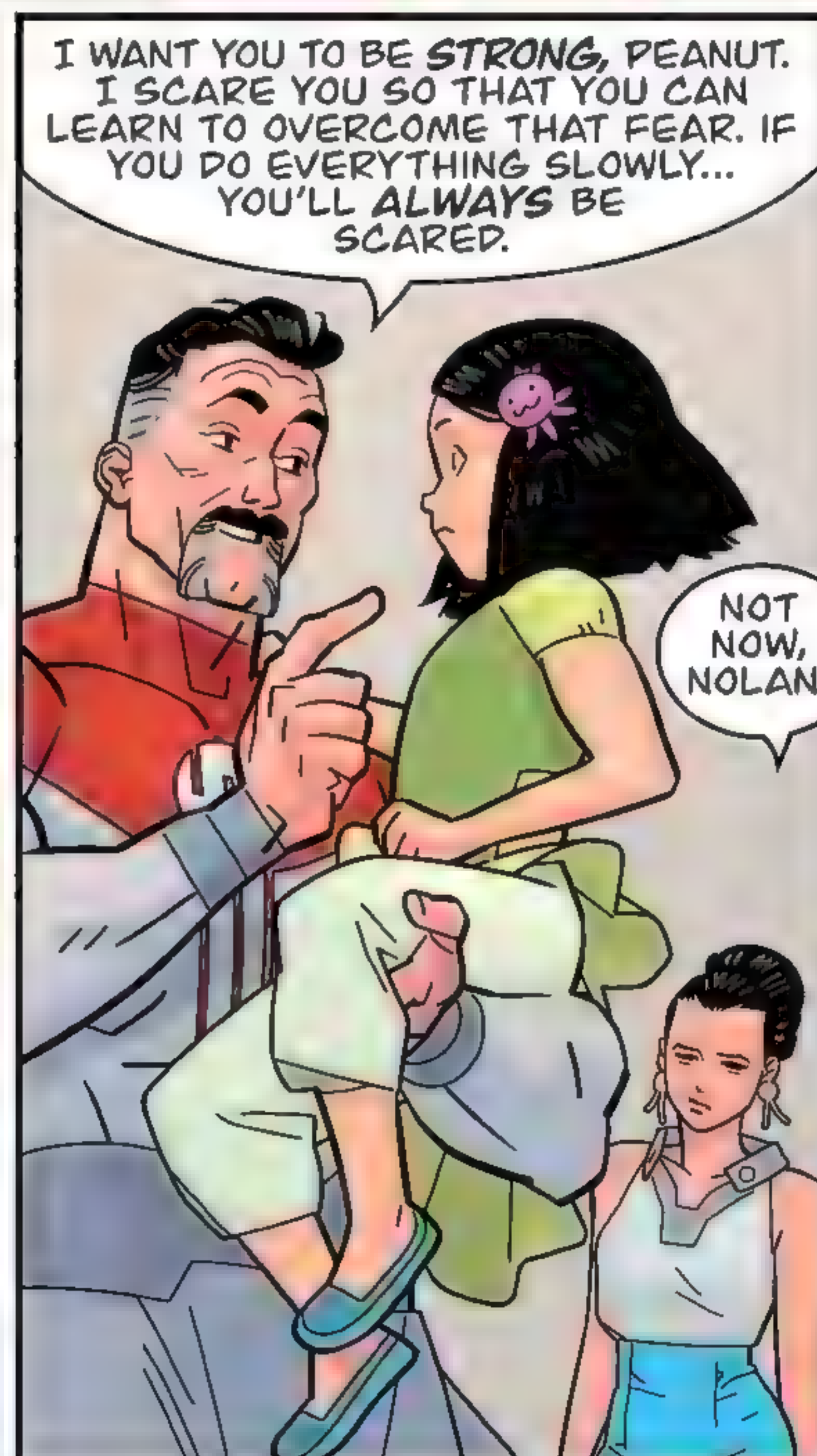
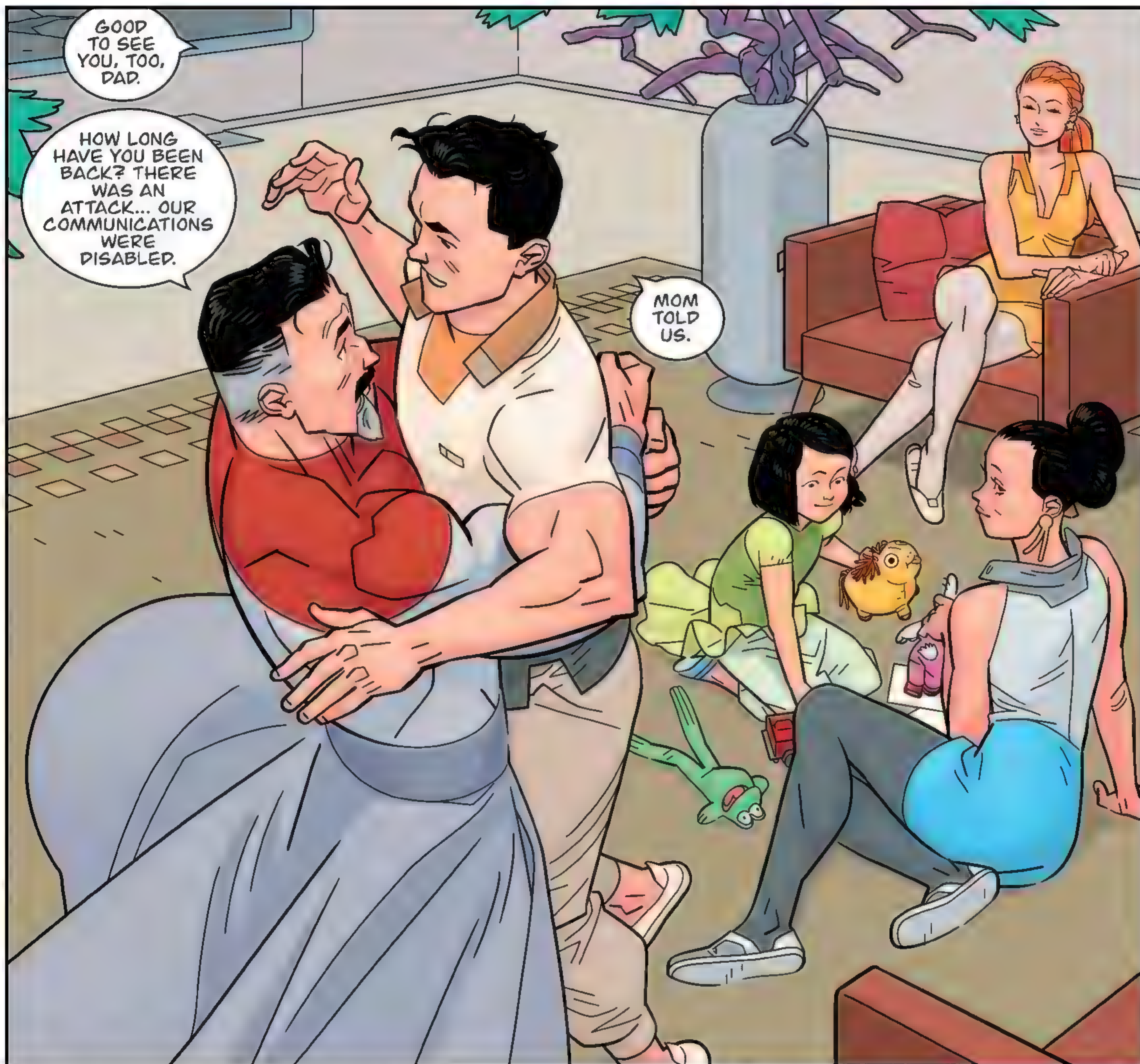
DID YOU KILL THAT GUY?!

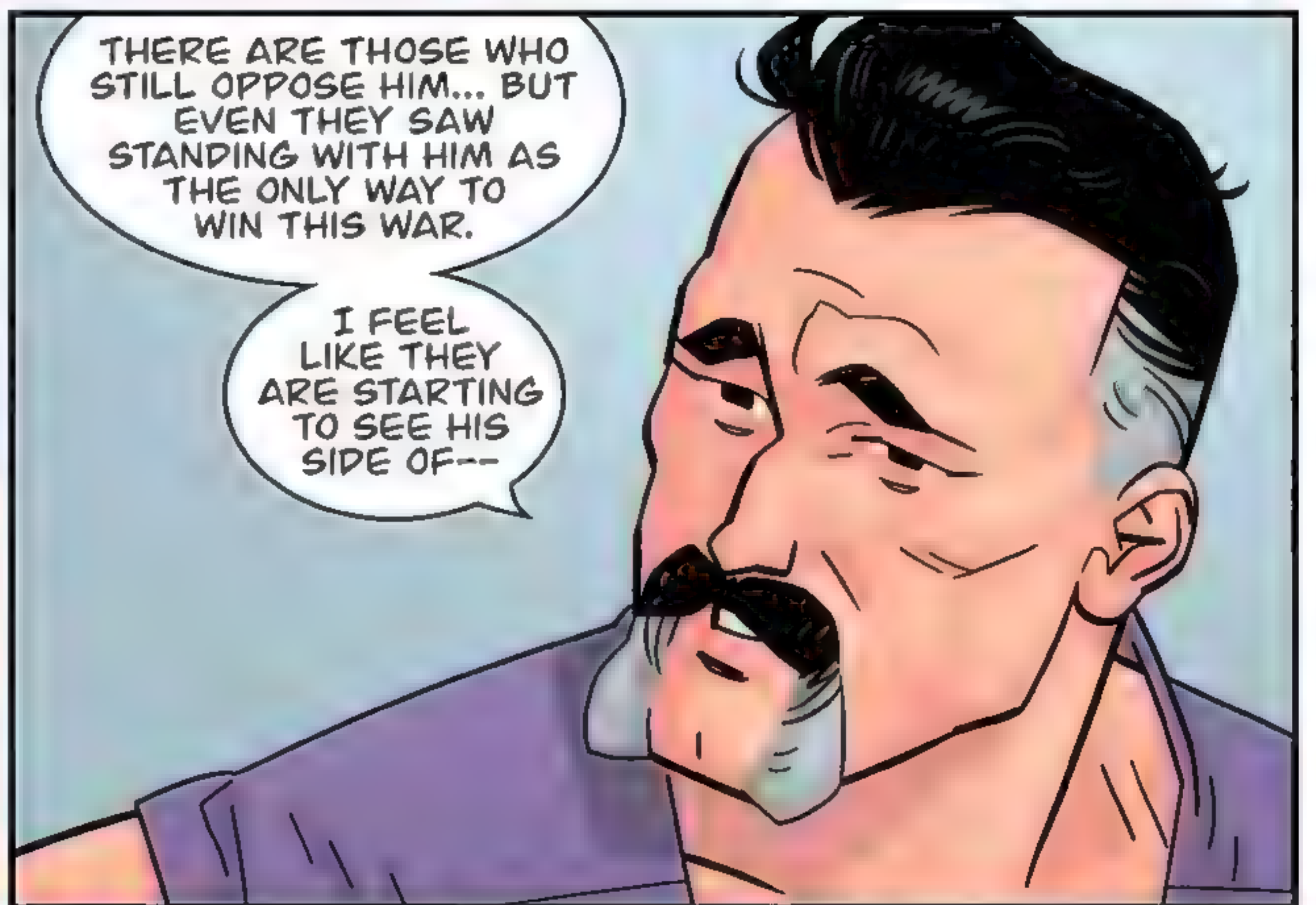
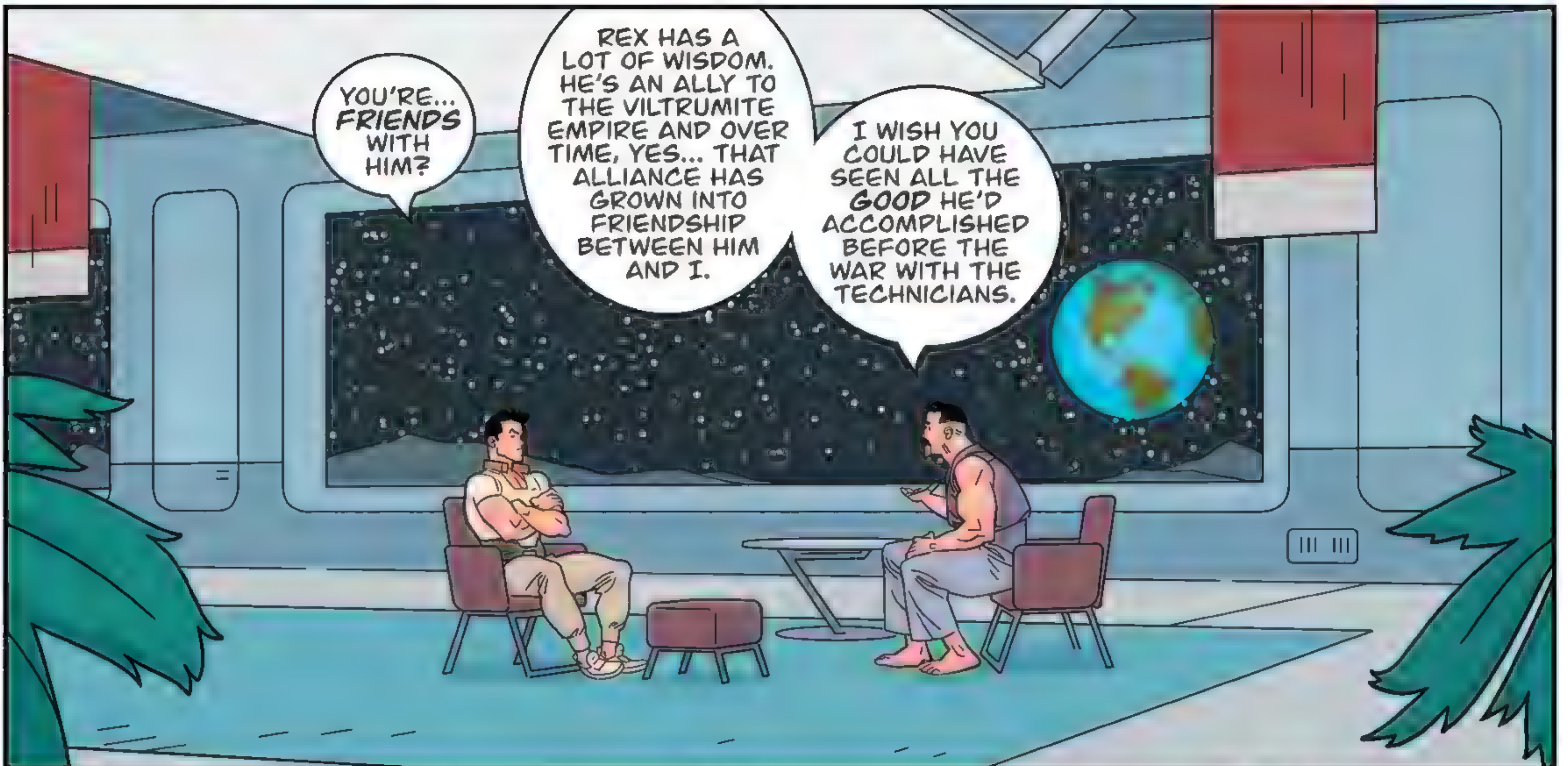
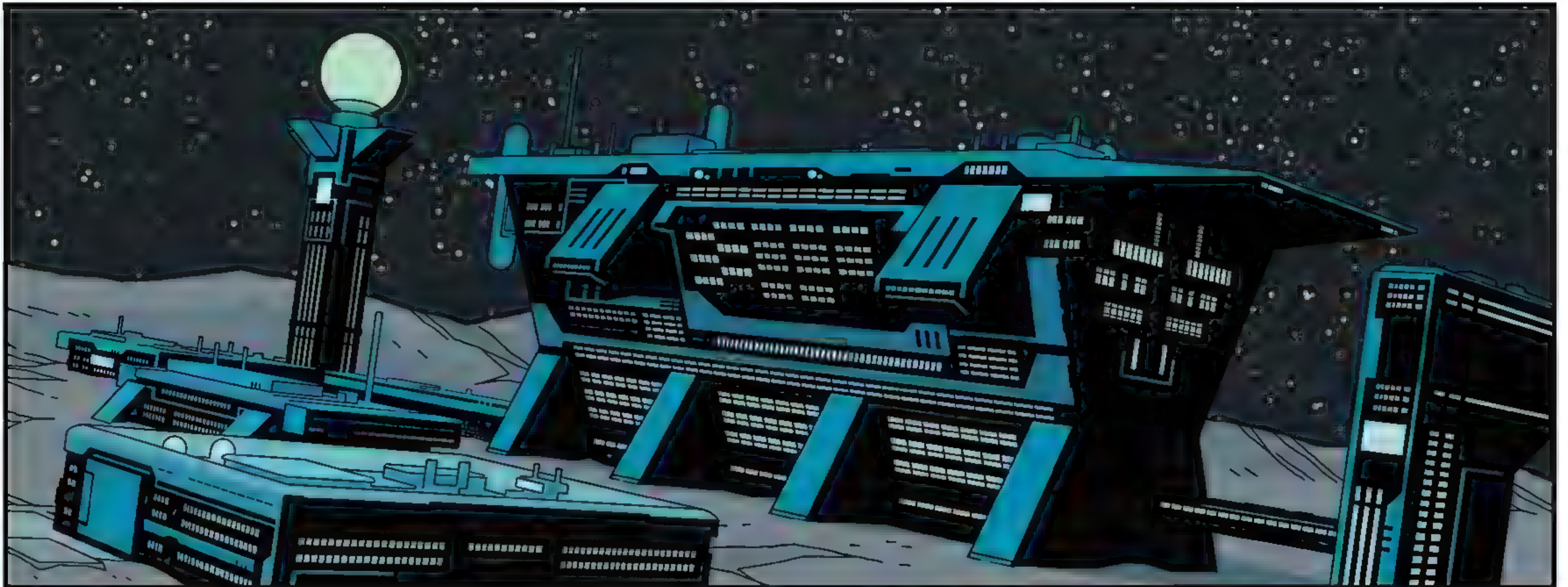


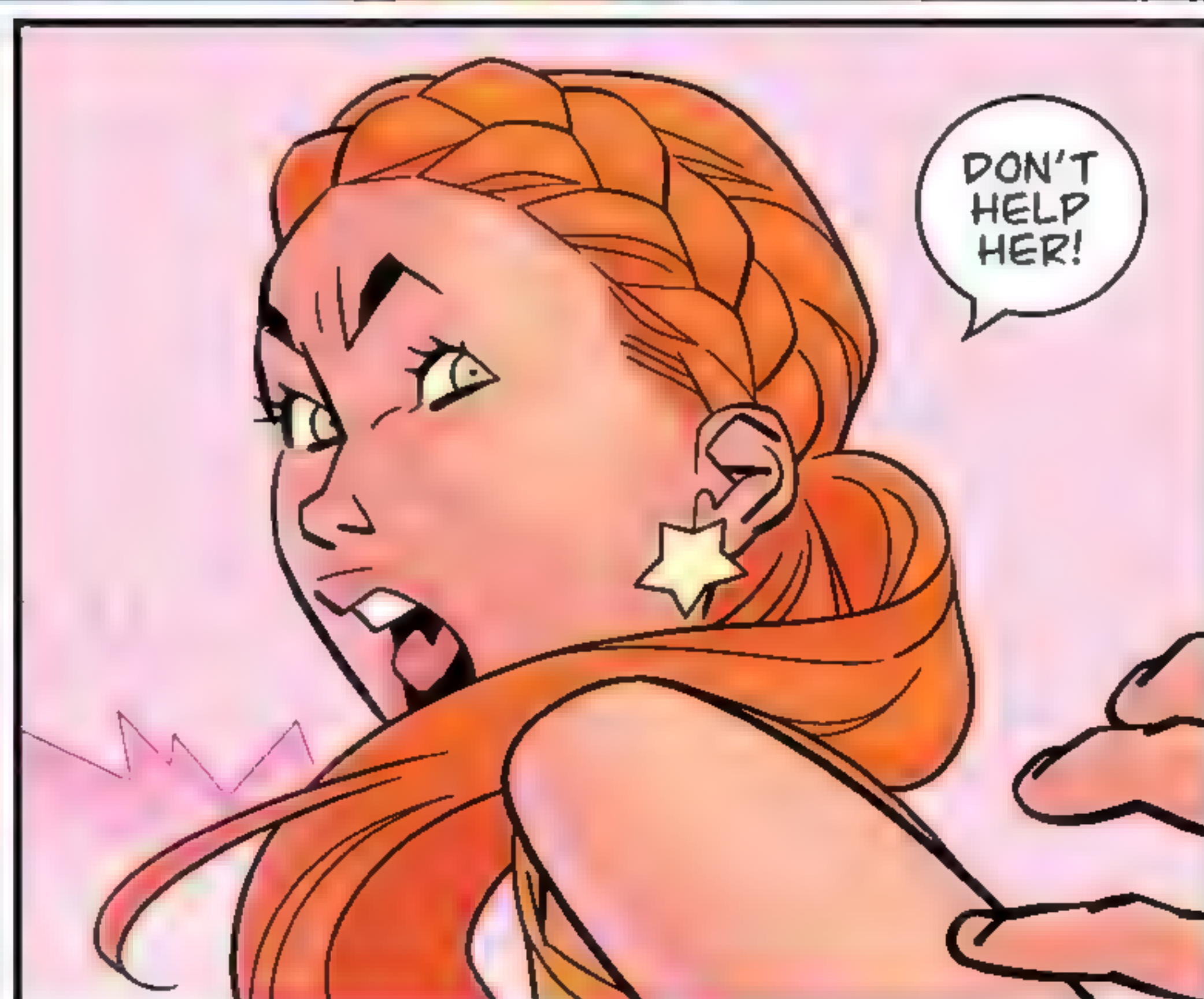
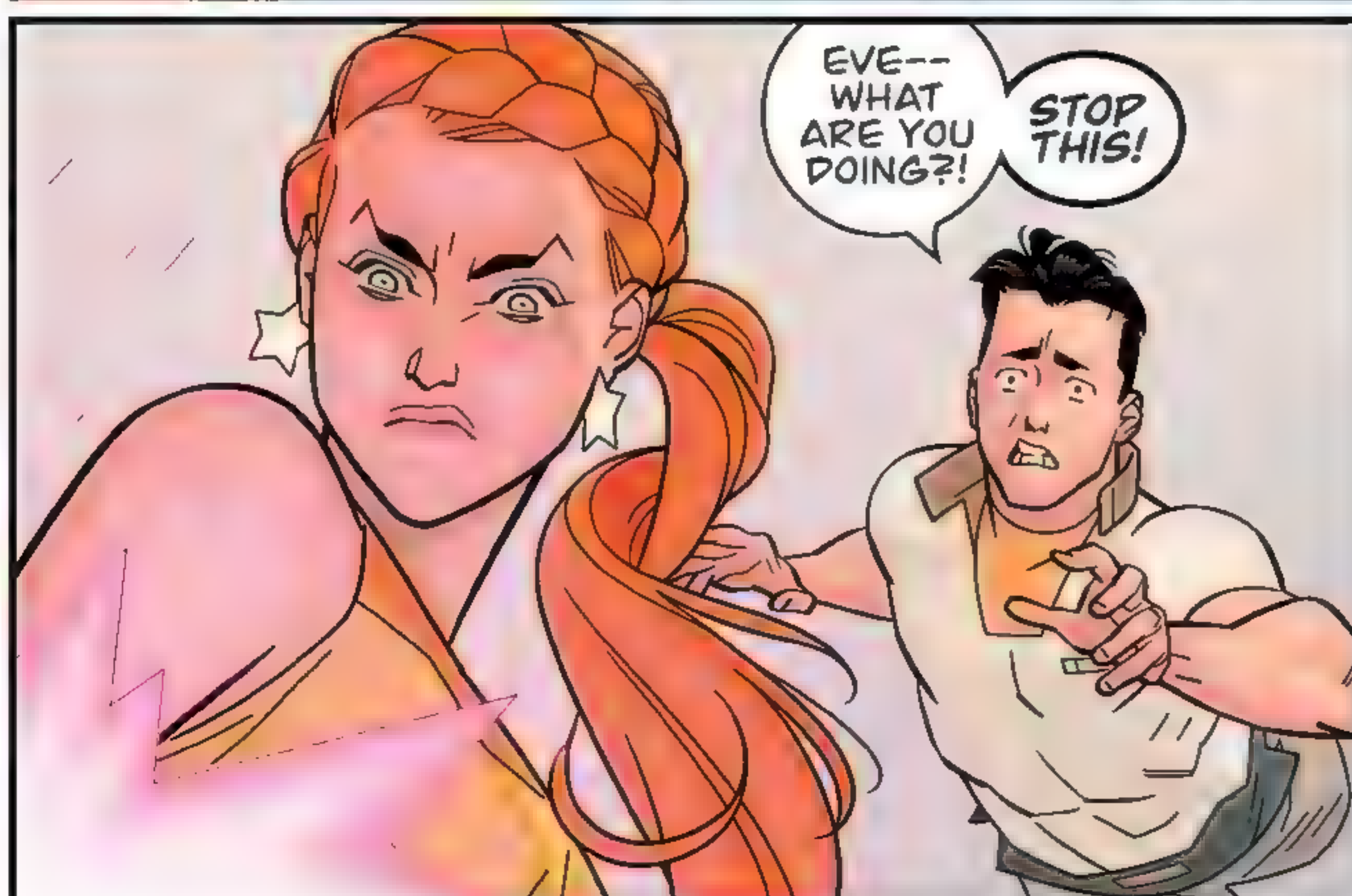
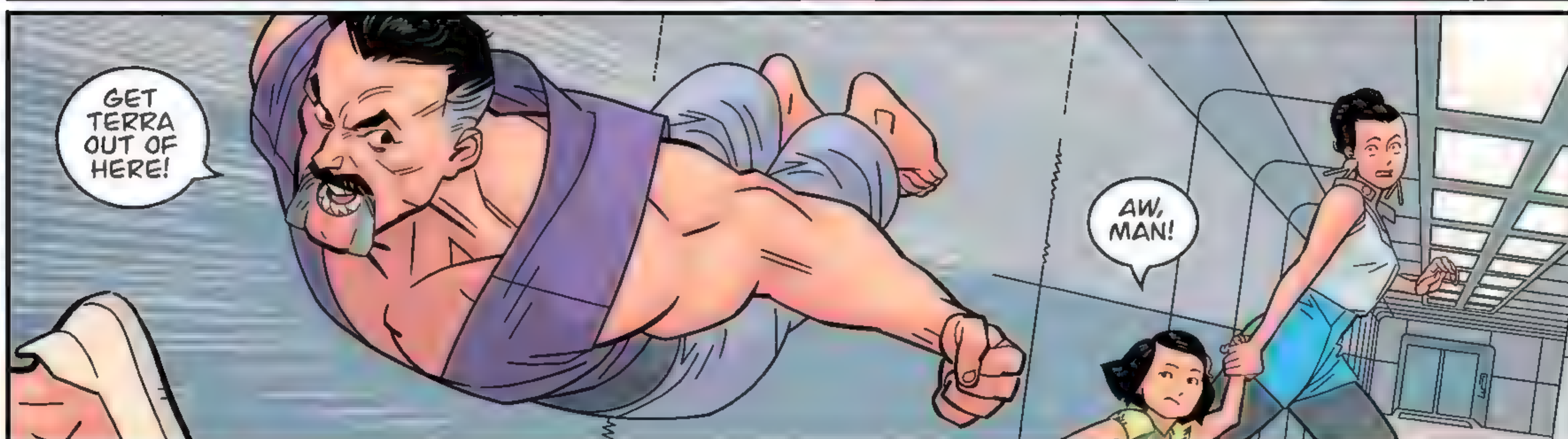


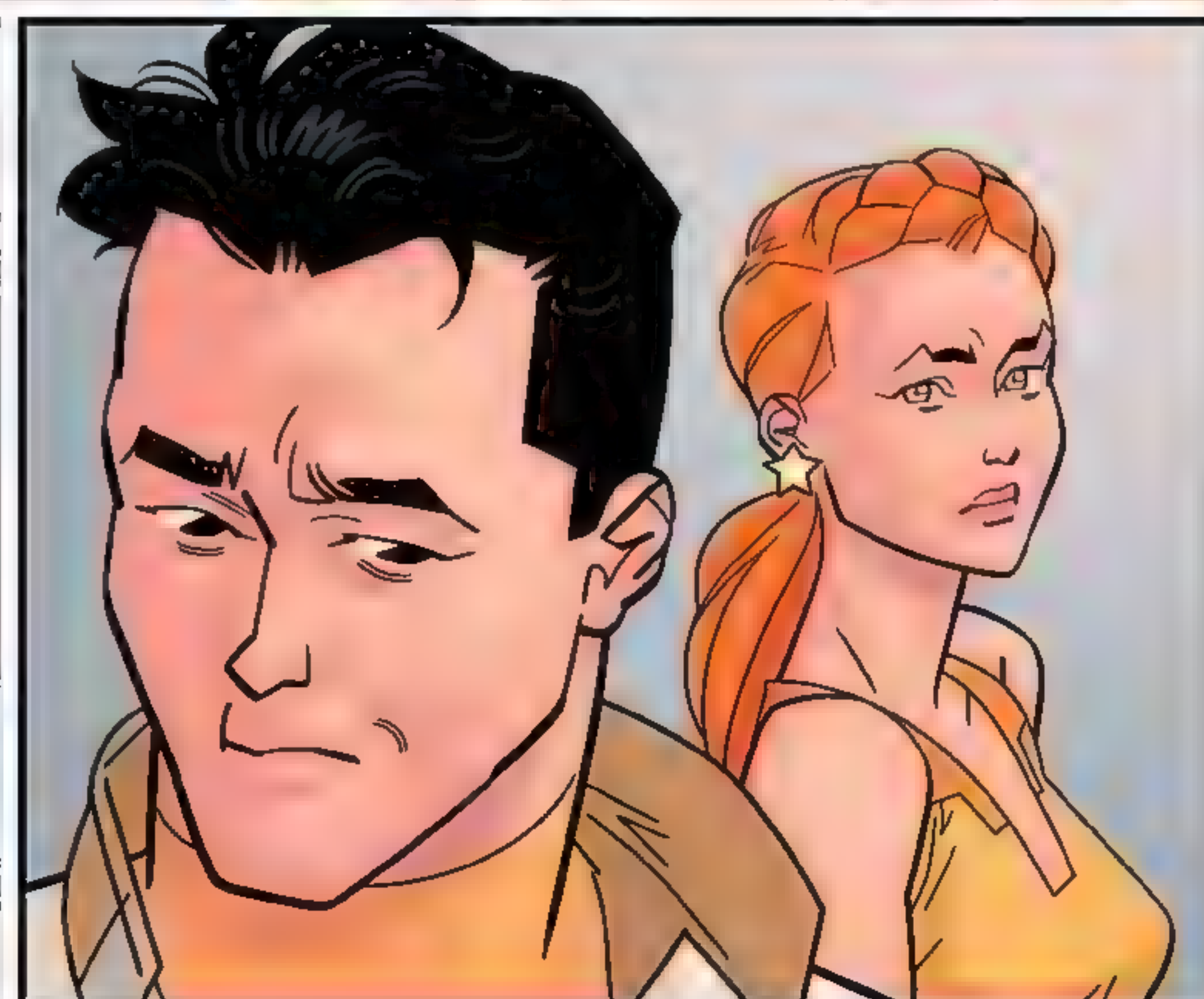


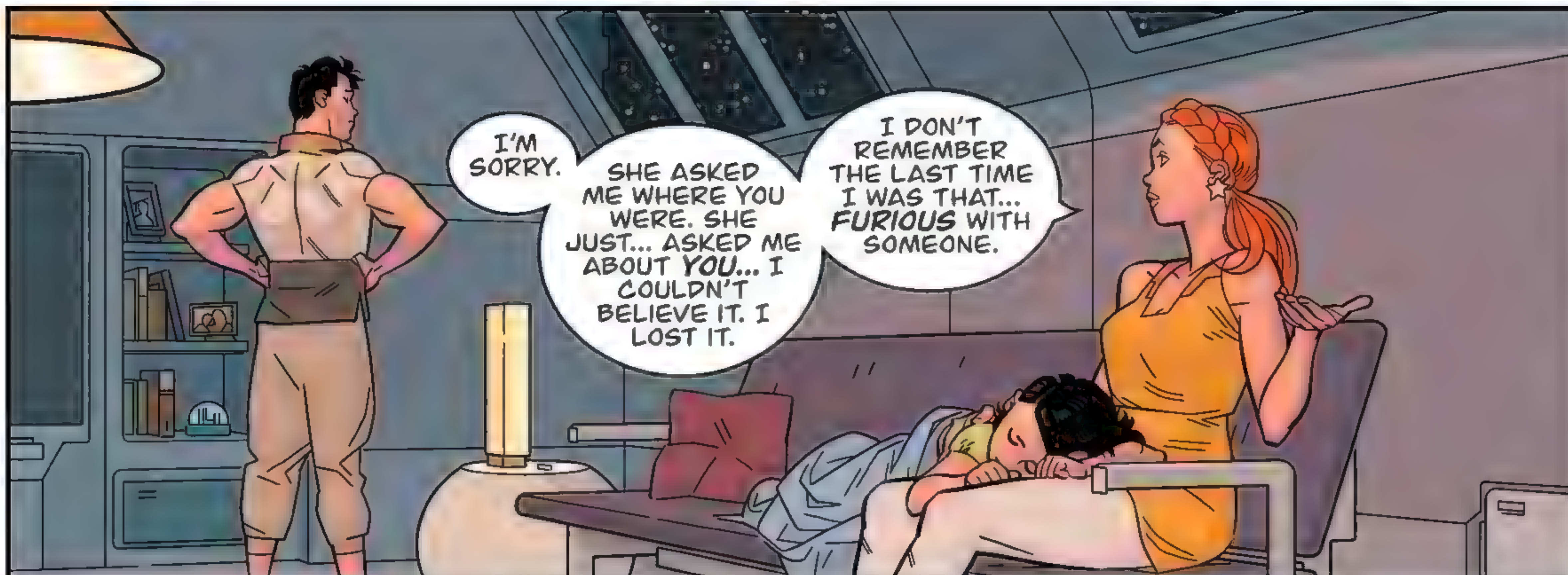


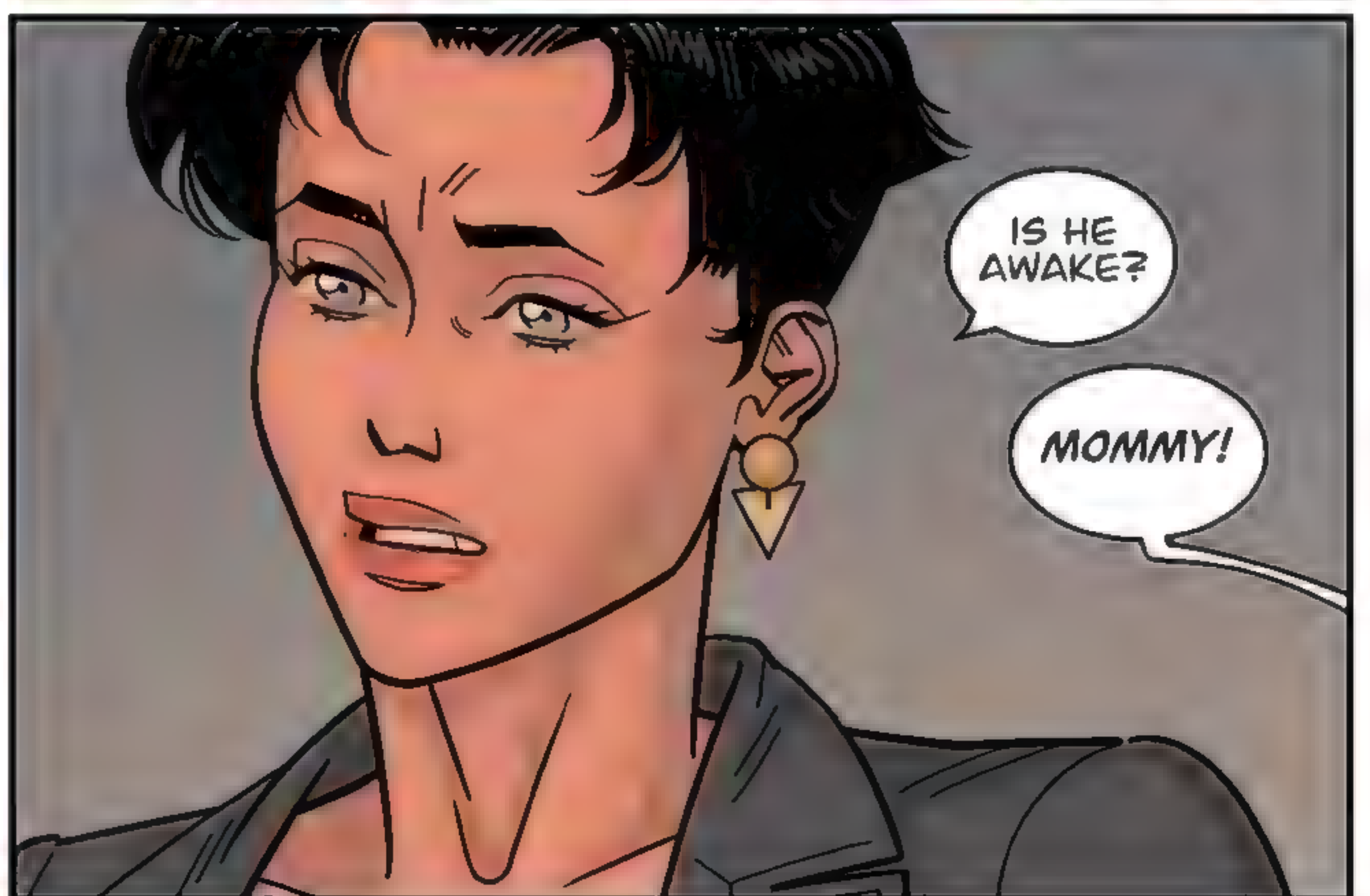
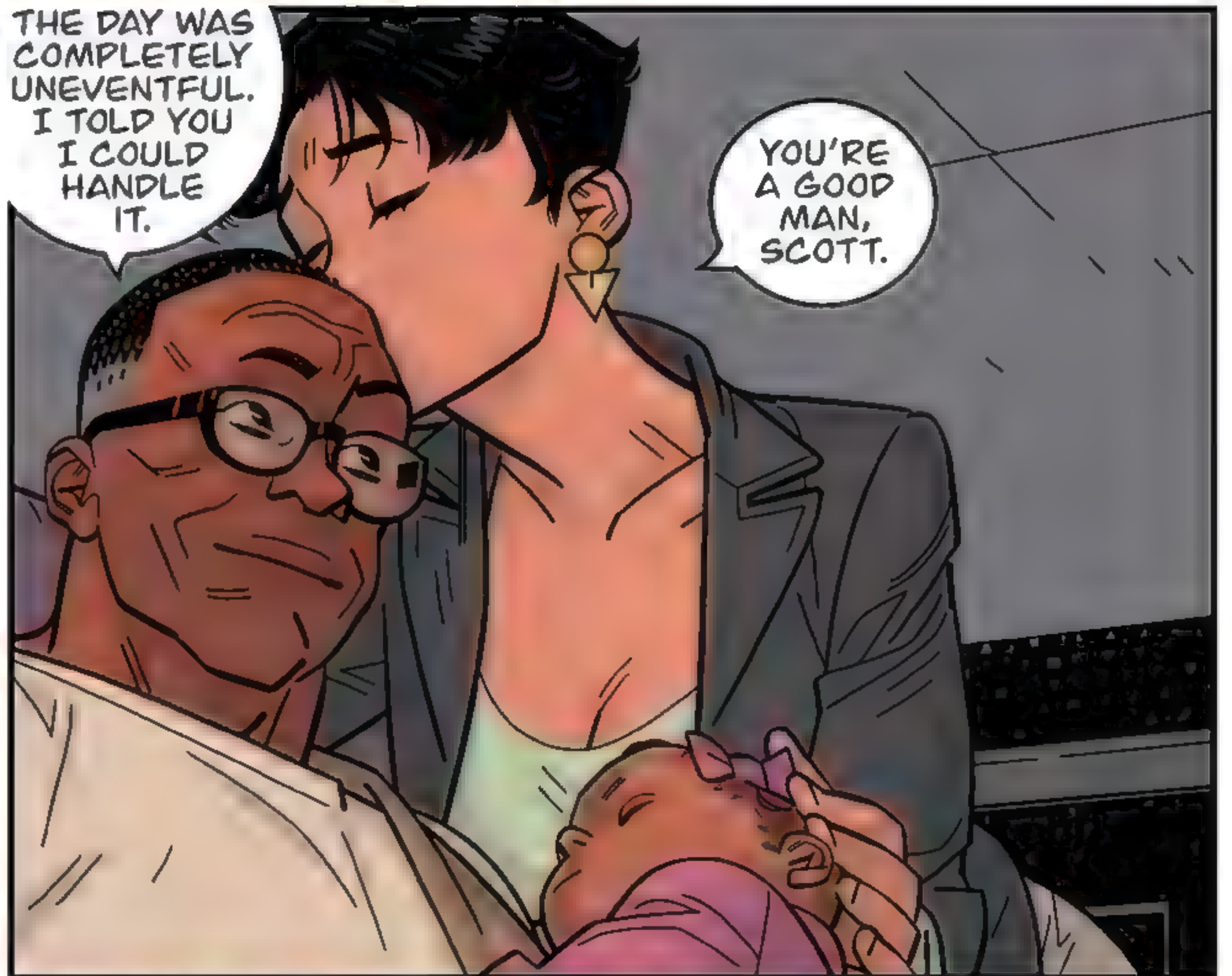
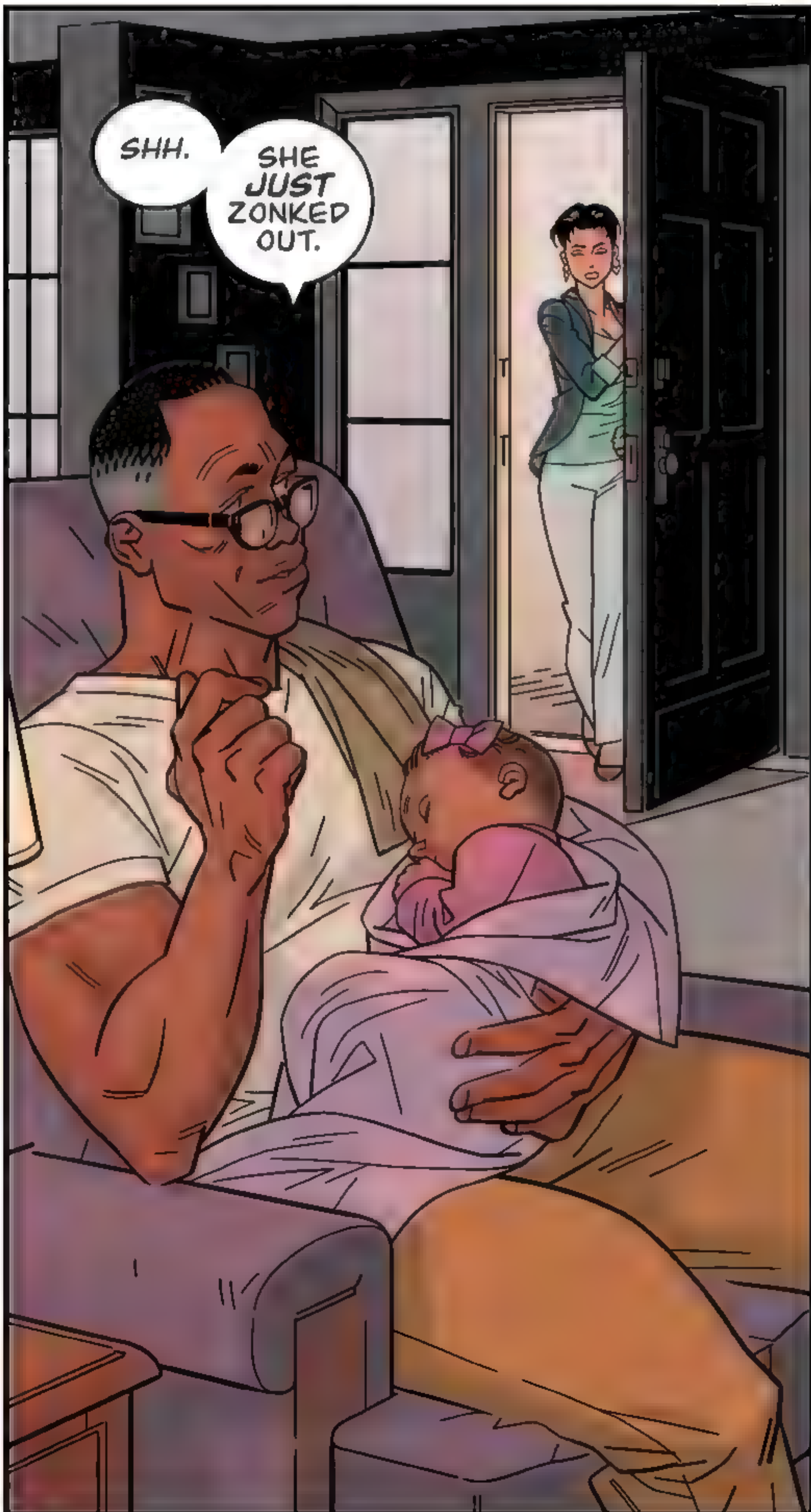
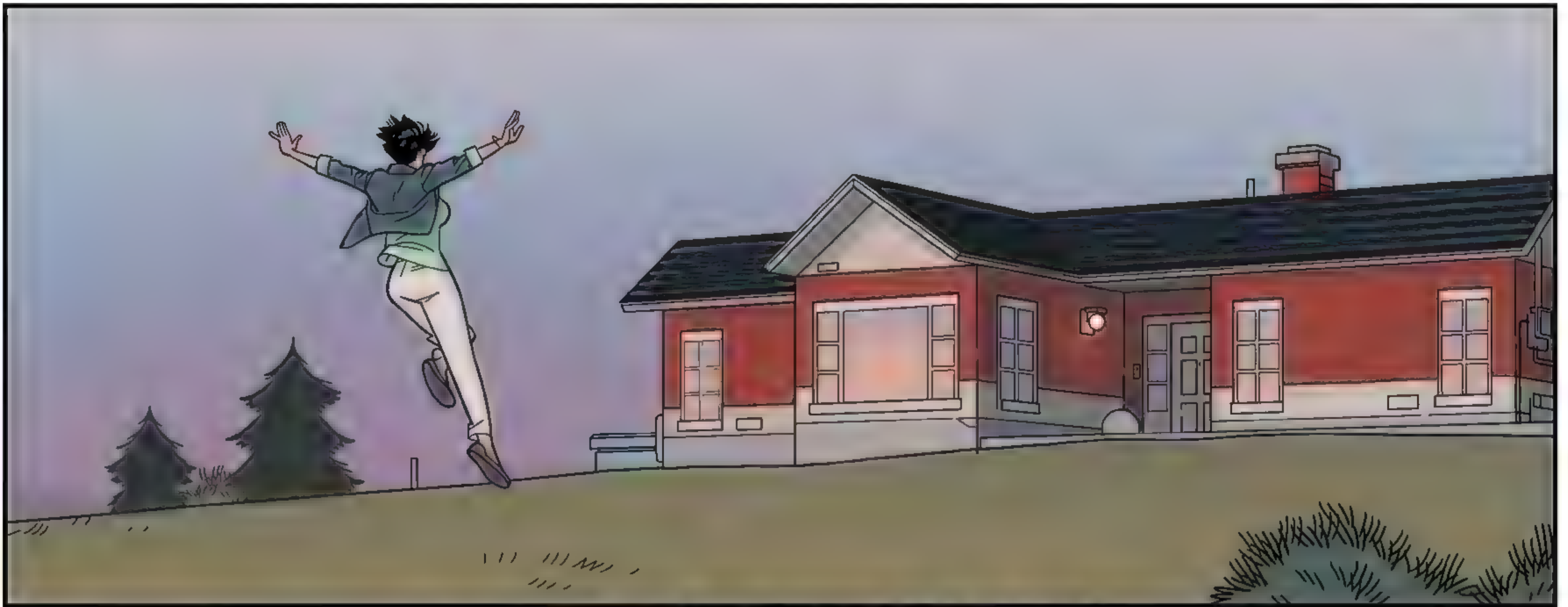
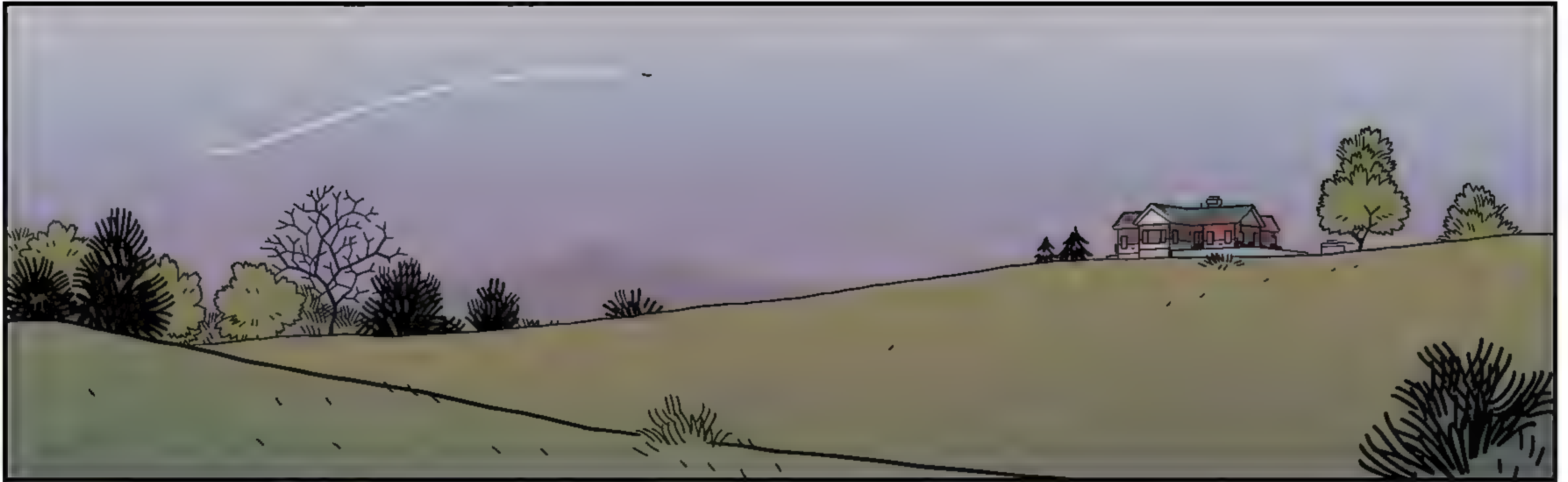


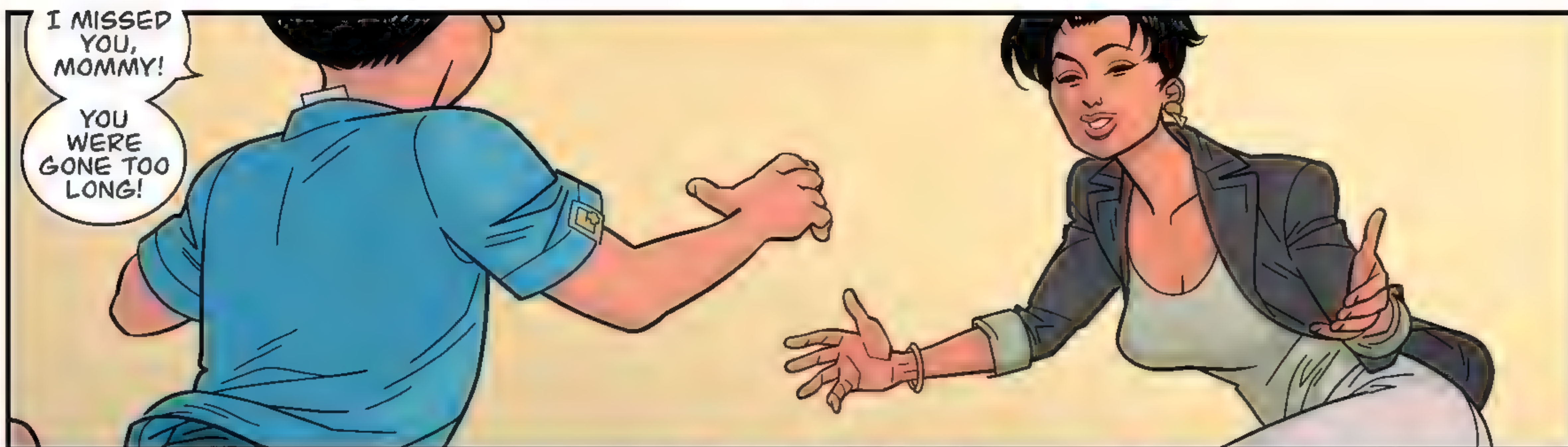








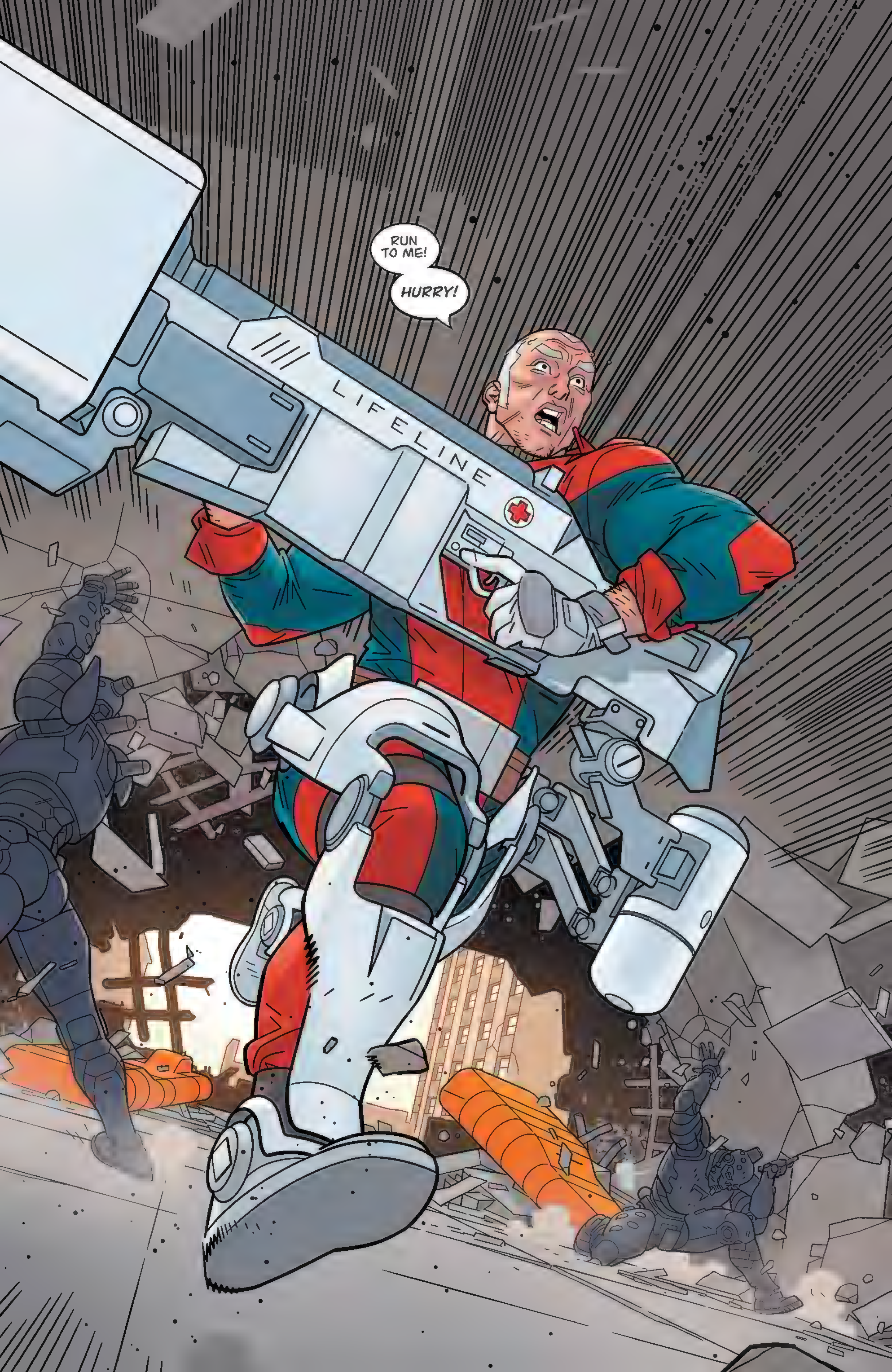






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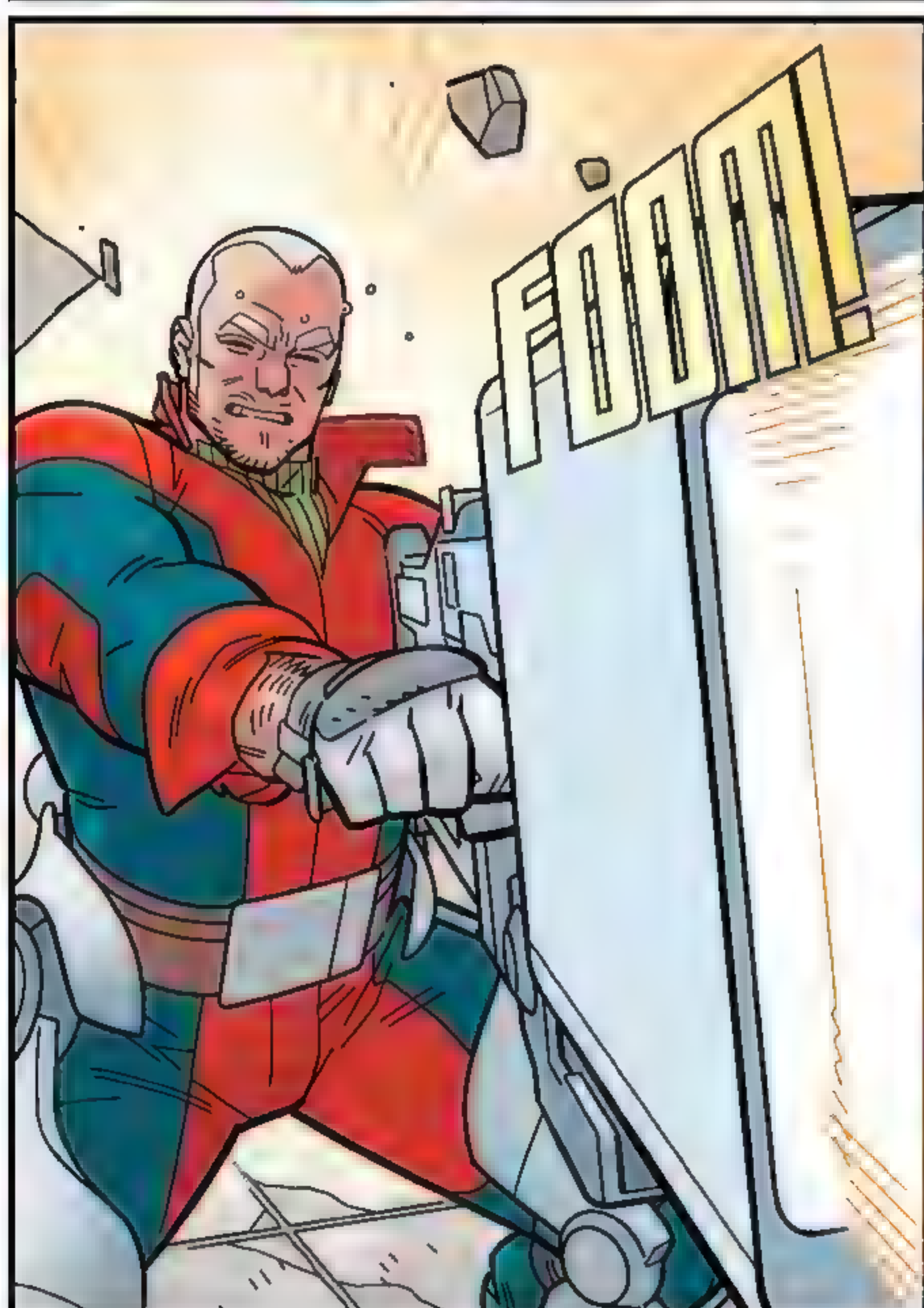


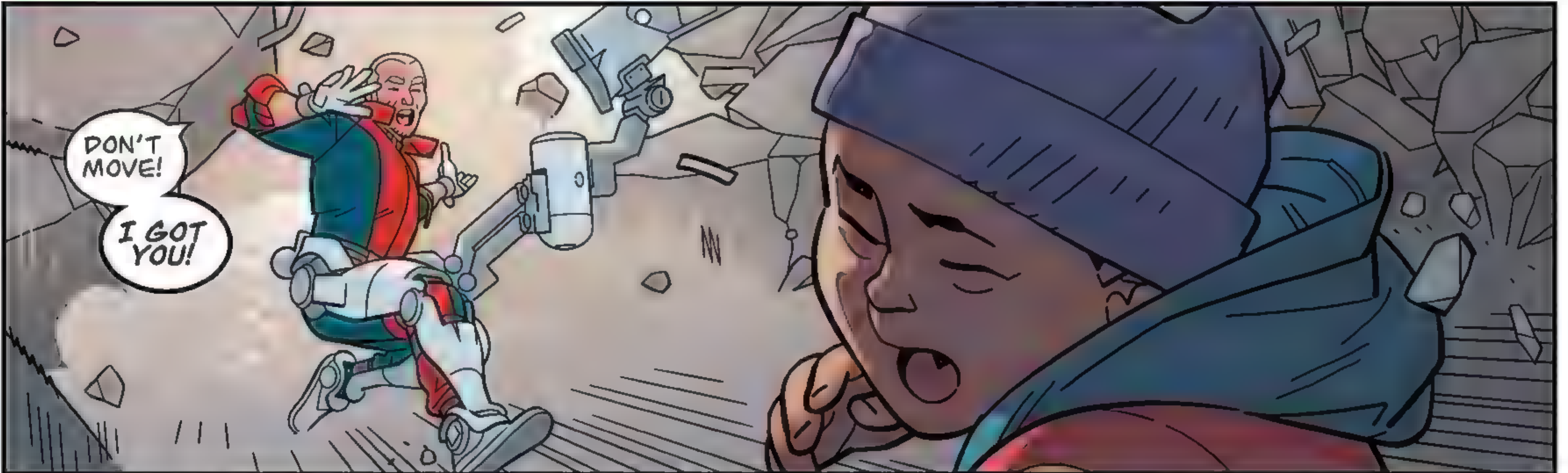
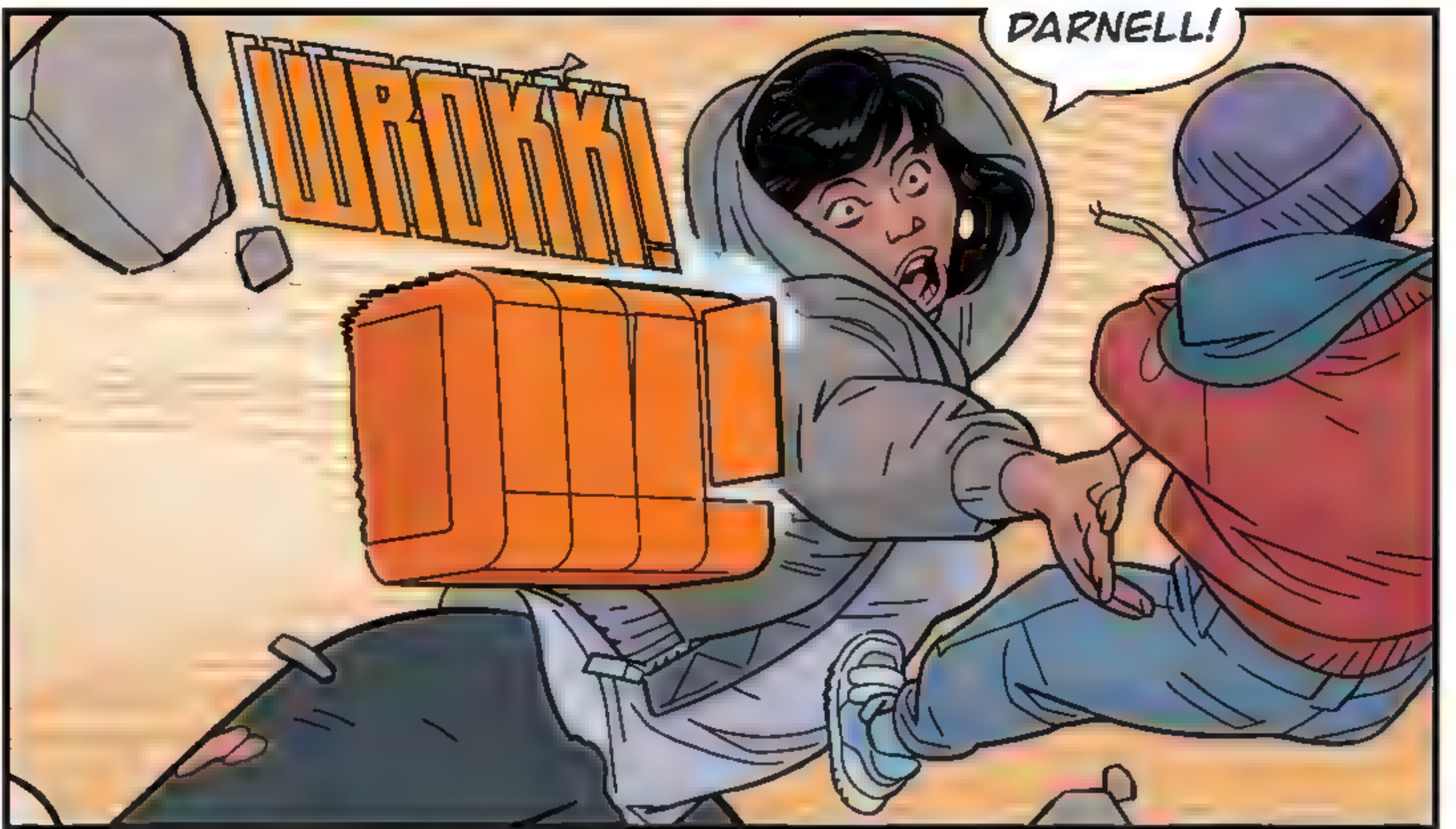


RUN
TO ME!

HURRY!

LIFELINE







DO YOU KNOW HOW MANY PEOPLE DIED IN THIS INVASION ATTEMPT?

ONE THOUSAND, FIVE HUNDRED AND THIRTEEN... **WORLDWIDE.**



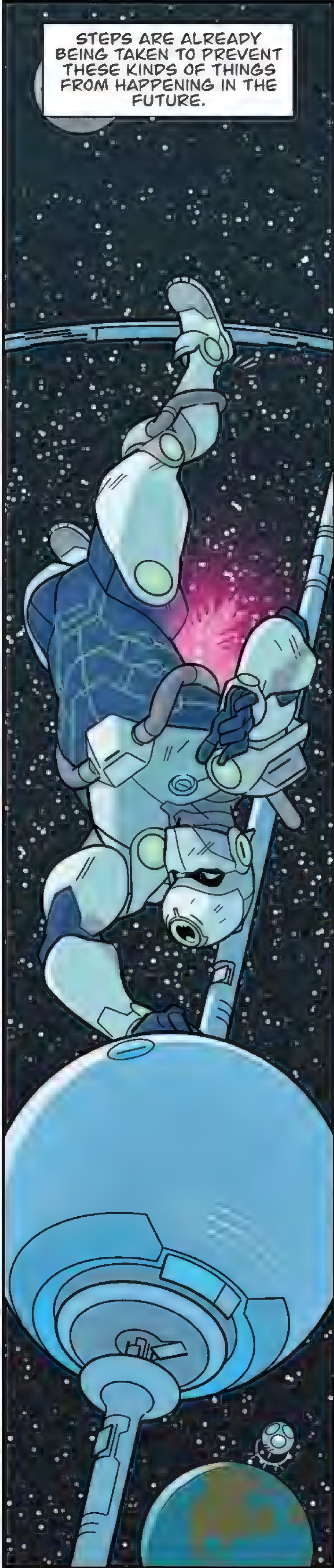
I DON'T MEAN TO BE PROUD OF THE DEATHS OF SO MANY PEOPLE... BUT THAT IS AN ACHIEVEMENT THAT SHOULD BE **RECOGNIZED.**



WE'RE ONLY A **WEEK** INTO CLEANUP AND ALREADY THE REBUILDING PROCESS IS WELL UNDERWAY.



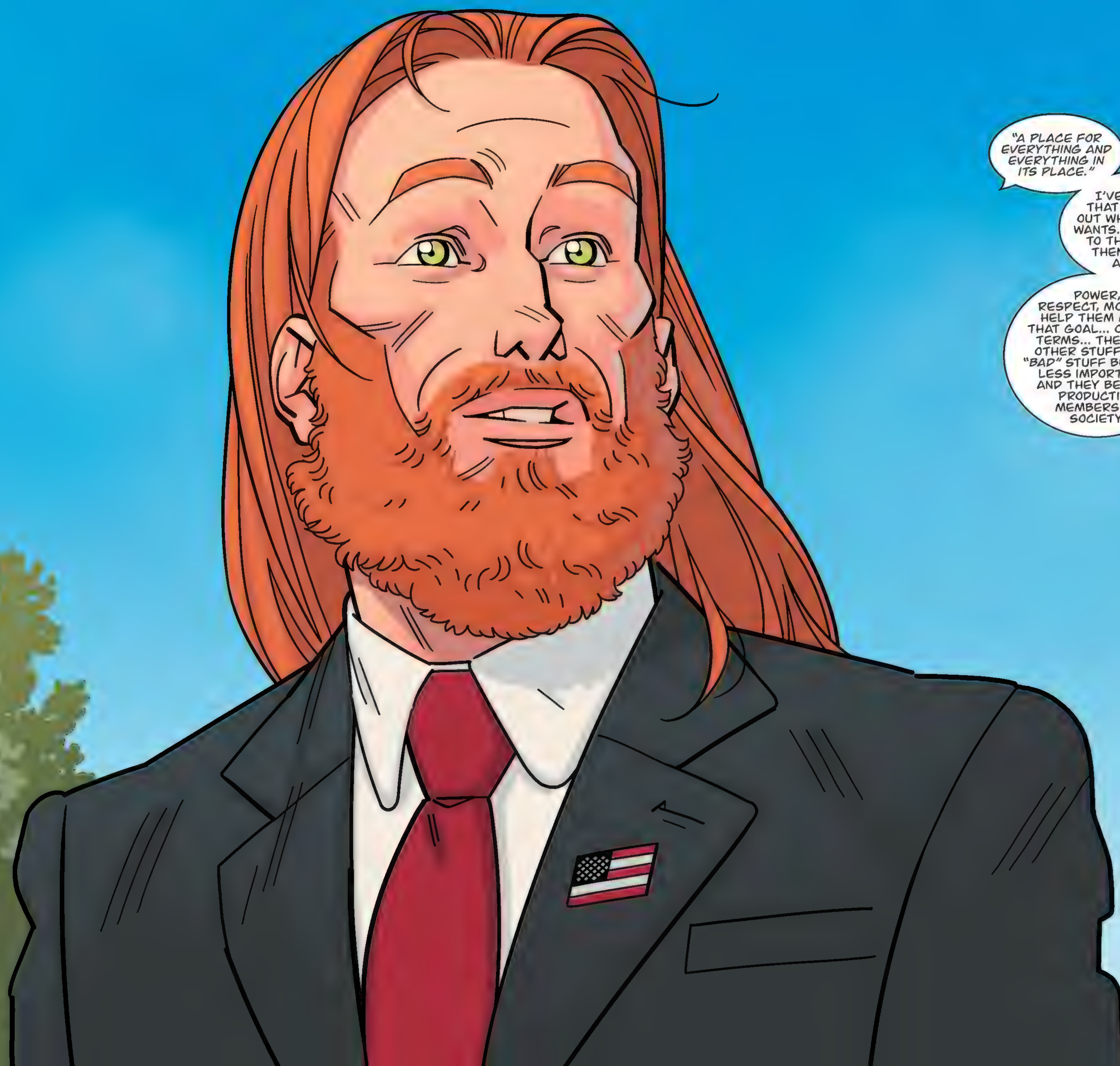
PEOPLE ARE SCARED, BUT THEY'RE **SAFE** AND THEY ARE **FED**.



STEPS ARE ALREADY BEING TAKEN TO PREVENT THESE KINDS OF THINGS FROM HAPPENING IN THE FUTURE.



AND IT'S NOT JUST THE ONES YOU KNEW AS HEROES WHO ARE HELPING IN THE EFFORTS. EVEN THE **VILLAINS** HAVE UNITED UNDER MY LEADERSHIP FOR THE GOOD OF ALL.



"A PLACE FOR EVERYTHING AND EVERYTHING IN ITS PLACE."

I'VE LEARNED THAT IF YOU FIND OUT WHAT A VILLAIN WANTS... AND GIVE IT TO THEM... WELL, THEN YOU HAVE AN ALLY.

POWER, RESPECT, MONEY? HELP THEM MEET THAT GOAL... ON YOUR TERMS... THEN THE OTHER STUFF... THE "BAD" STUFF BECOMES LESS IMPORTANT... AND THEY BECOME PRODUCTIVE MEMBERS OF SOCIETY.

I'M GLAD TO SAY AS TIME GOES ON, MORE AND MORE OF OUR FRIENDS ARE STARTING TO SEE THINGS MY WAY. AFTER ALL, YOU CAN'T ARGUE WITH RESULTS.

THERE ARE STILL A FEW HOLDOUTS. BUT THEY DON'T INTERFERE, THEY KEEP THEIR DISTANCE. AND IN THE CASE OF MONSTER GIRL AND MONAX... THEY EVEN PITCH IN AND HELP WHEN NEEDED.

DON'T LET THE CURRENT STATE OF THINGS FOOL YOU. PEOPLE ARE HAPPY. LIFE IS GOOD.





I TRUST
YOU STILL
HAVE YOUR
EARPIECE?

I CAN
HEAR YOU,
YES.



YOU CAN'T REALLY BE
TAKING THAT AT FACE
VALUE. HE'S IN CHARGE
OF AN ENTIRE PLANET.
HE KILLED SO MANY
PEOPLE.



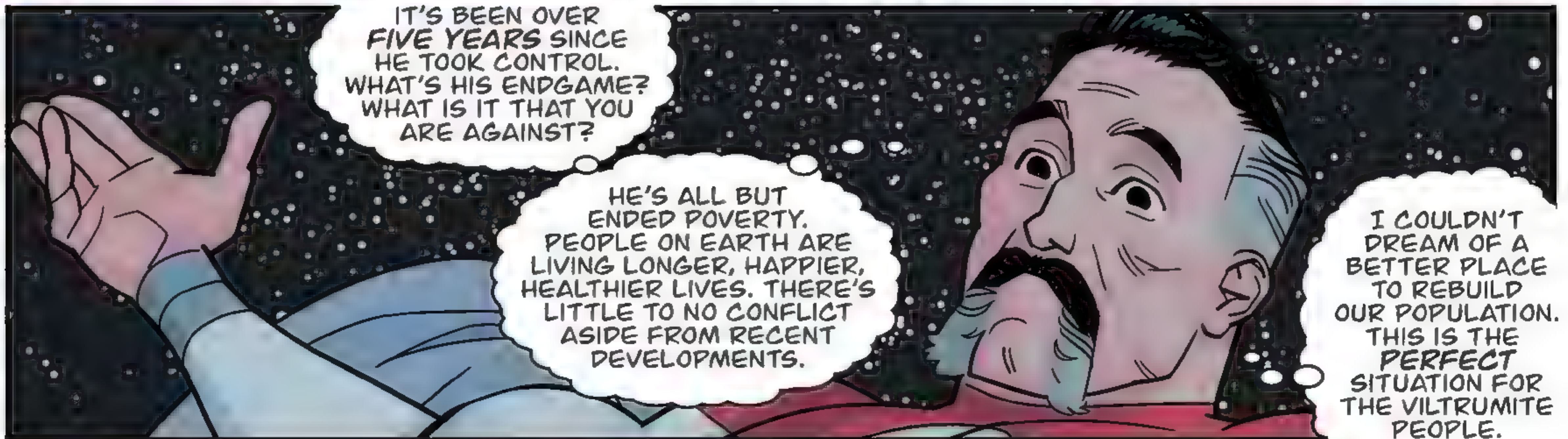
I KNOW
HOW YOU FEEL
ABOUT HIM.
BELIEVE
ME.

EVE IS
THE SAME WAY.
IT WAS HARD
TO GET HER TO
COME VISIT WHEN
YOU WERE...
AWAY.



MARK,
PLEASE. LISTEN
TO THE MAN.
LOOK AT WHAT
HE'S DONE.

THINK
ABOUT THIS
RATIONALLY
AND WITHOUT
EMOTION.



IT'S BEEN OVER
FIVE YEARS SINCE
HE TOOK CONTROL.
WHAT'S HIS ENDGAME?
WHAT IS IT THAT YOU
ARE AGAINST?

HE'S ALL BUT
ENDED POVERTY.
PEOPLE ON EARTH ARE
LIVING LONGER, HAPPIER,
HEALTHIER LIVES. THERE'S
LITTLE TO NO CONFLICT
ASIDE FROM RECENT
DEVELOPMENTS.

I COULDN'T
DREAM OF A
BETTER PLACE
TO REBUILD
OUR POPULATION.
THIS IS THE
PERFECT
SITUATION FOR
THE VILTRUMITE
PEOPLE.





I AM NOT.

WHY WOULD I BE?



HOW CAN YOU NOT BE? YOU SAY THESE PEOPLE ATTACKED FROM ANOTHER DIMENSION... HOW DID THEY FIND THEIR WAY HERE?

COULD REX HAVE BROUGHT THEM HERE?



SON. YOU SOUND INSANE.

DO I? HE JUST TOLD ME THAT THE OUTCOME OF THEM INVADING WAS TO GET MORE HEROES ON HIS SIDE, AND HE'S GONE PUBLIC NOW AND EVERYONE LOVES HIM!

WHY? BECAUSE OF HOW THIS INVASION PROVED HIM RIGHT AND SHOWED HOW CAPABLE HE IS.

YOU DON'T THINK THAT'S SUSPICIOUS?!



NOT IN THE LEAST.

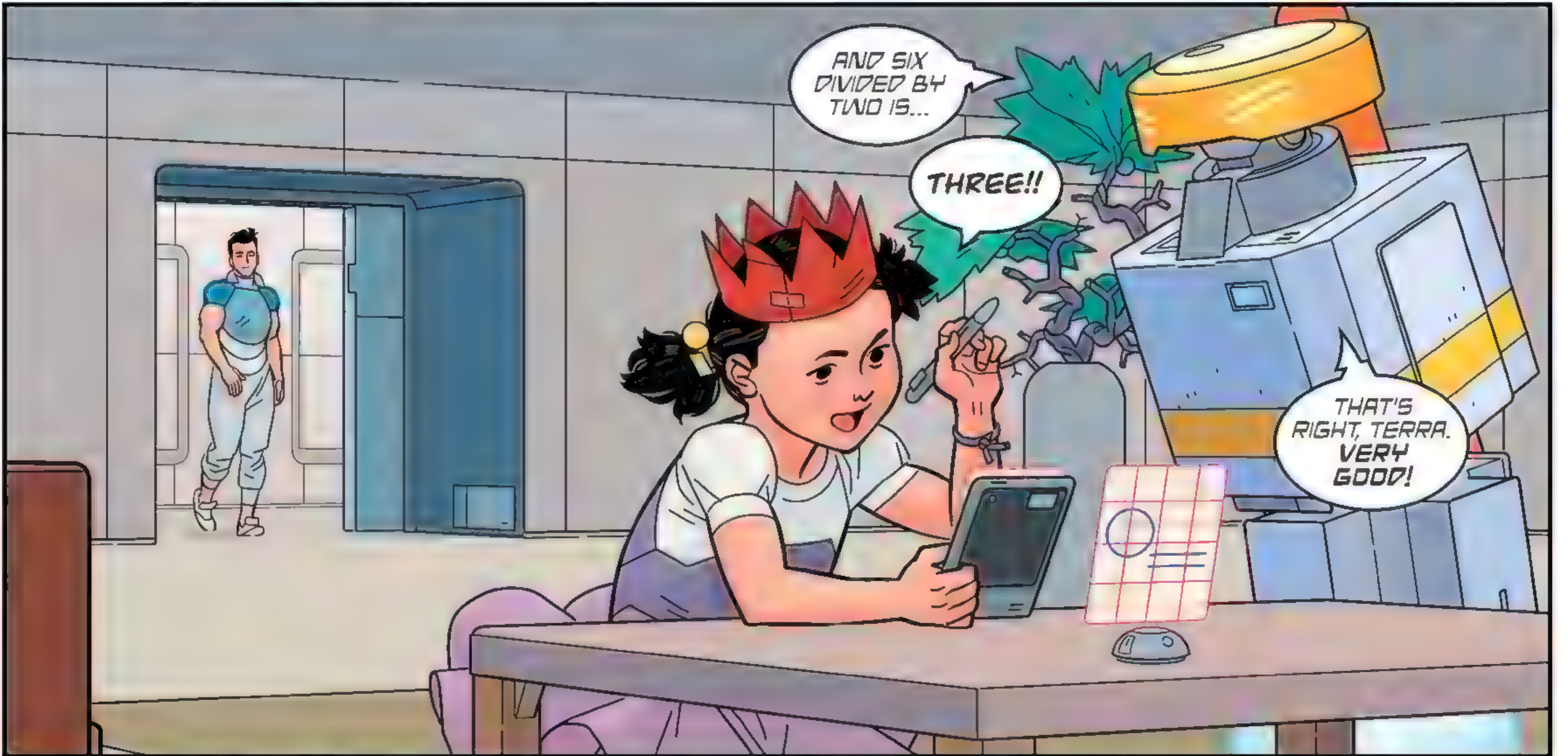
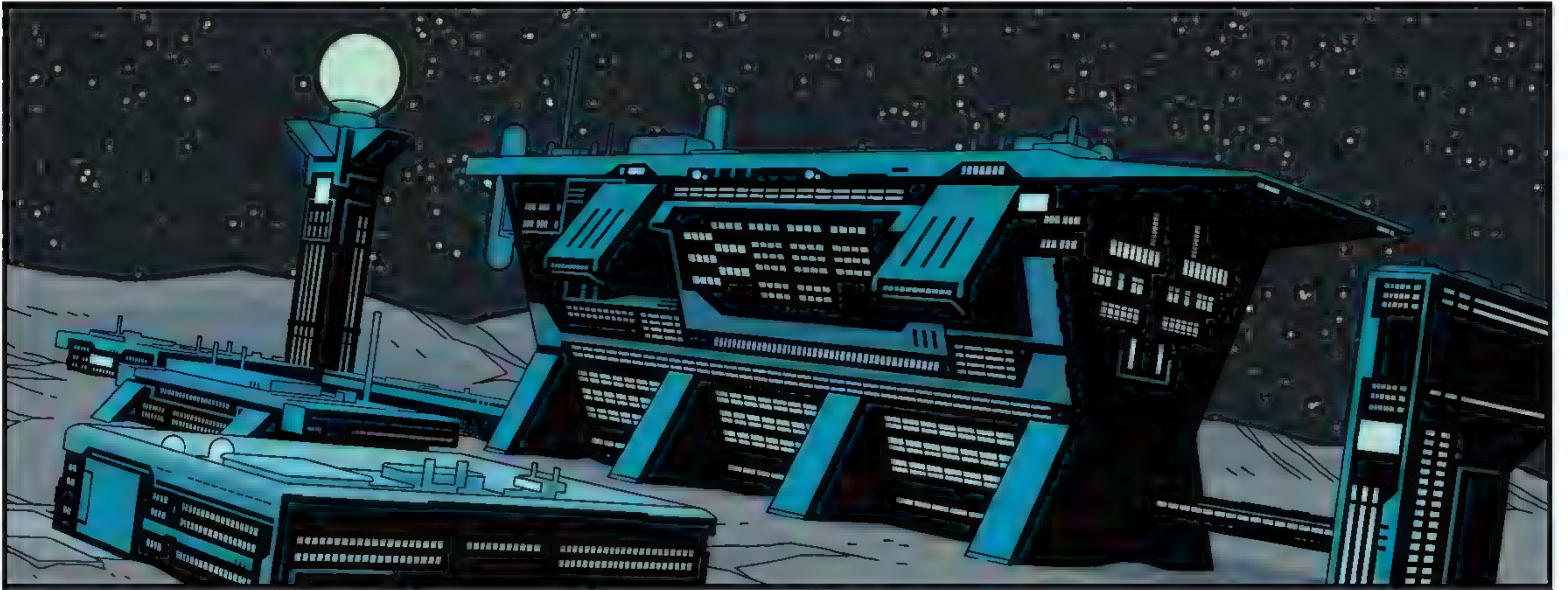
HE WAS YOUR FRIEND FOR MANY YEARS. NOW HE IS MINE. I KNOW REX IS NOT PERFECT, BUT HE IS ALWAYS WORKING FOR THE GREATER GOOD.



I DON'T TRUST HIM. I WILL NEVER TRUST HIM.

THAT'S WHY WE LEFT BEFORE...

...THAT'S WHY WE HAVE TO LEAVE AGAIN.





HOW'D IT
GO WITH
YOUR
PARENTS?

SAME OLD, SAME OLD.
MY MOM'S NICE, THEY
LOVE SEEING TERRA. MY
DAD BOUGHT TERRA A
BROOM TO PLAY WITH...
AND GOT OFFENDED
WHEN I SAID THAT
WASN'T AN
APPROPRIATE
GIFT.

OTHERWISE,
FINE. GOT TO
HEAR ABOUT
ALL THE "GOOD"
MY FRIEND REX
IS DOING.

HOW
DID THAT
GO?



NOT
GOOD.

REX HAS
WON NEARLY
EVERYONE OVER.
INCLUDING MY
FATHER. I CAN'T
STAND IT. I SEE
SOMETHING TERRIBLE
HAPPENING, BUT
NOBODY WILL
LISTEN.

I JUST...
WE CAN'T
STAY HERE.
WE SHOULD
LEAVE
NOW.

YOU
READ MY
MIND.



YOU GUYS ARE
THE WORST. I'M
SURPRISED YOU
STAYED AS
LONG AS YOU
DID.

GLAD
YOU'RE
ALIVE,
SON.

I'LL MISS
YOU THE
MOST,
BUTTON.

DON'T
CALL ME
THAT!

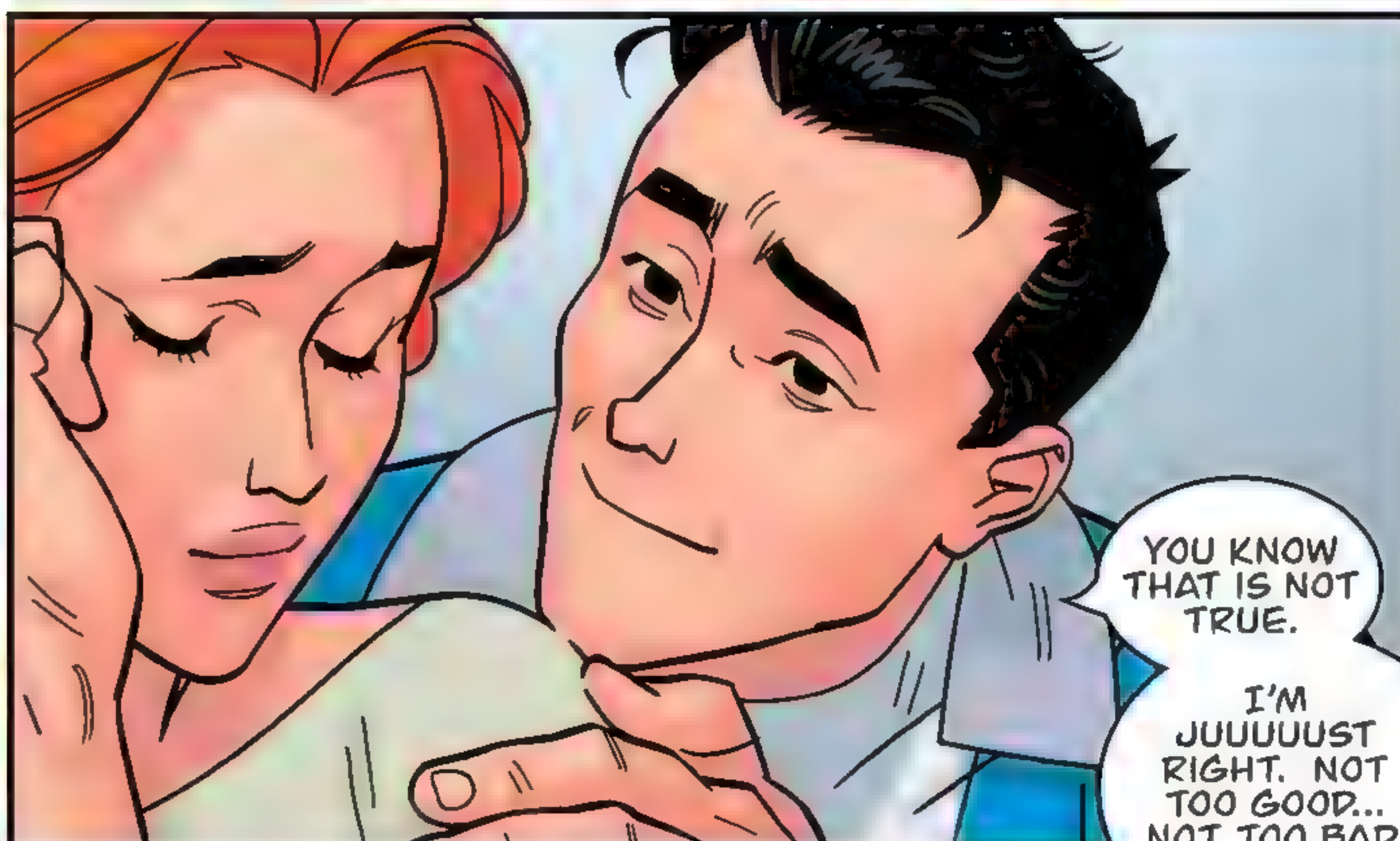
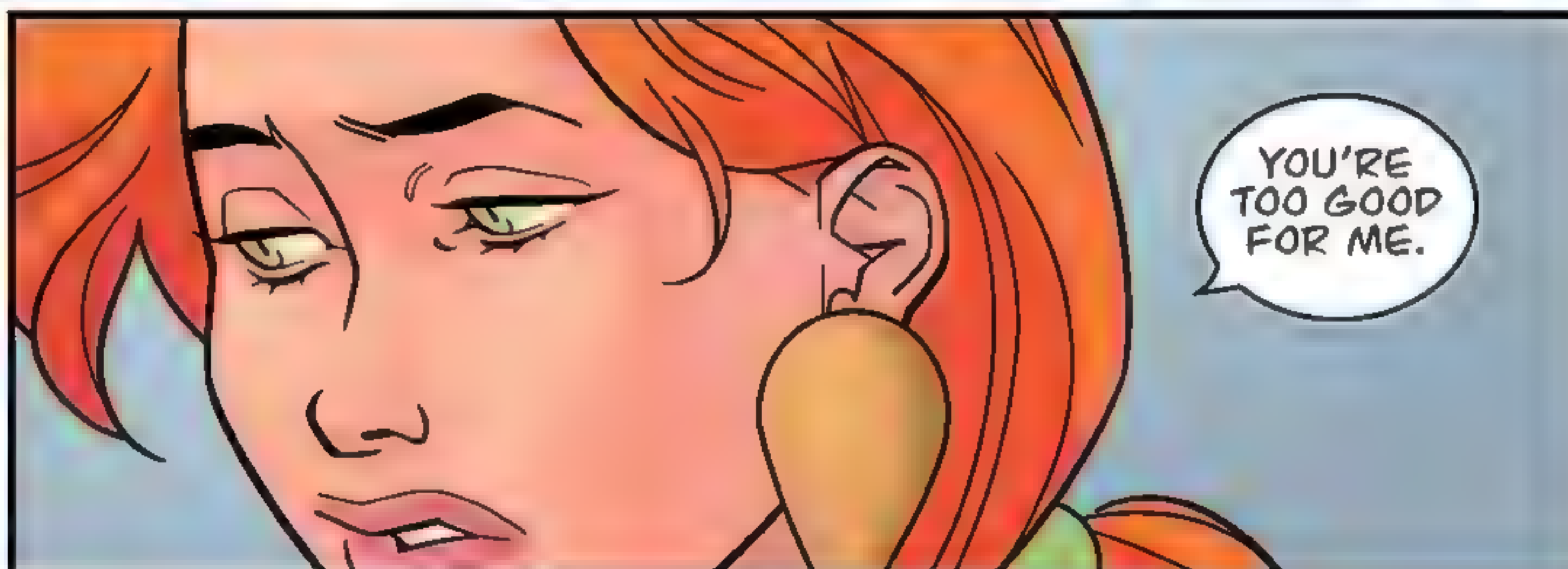
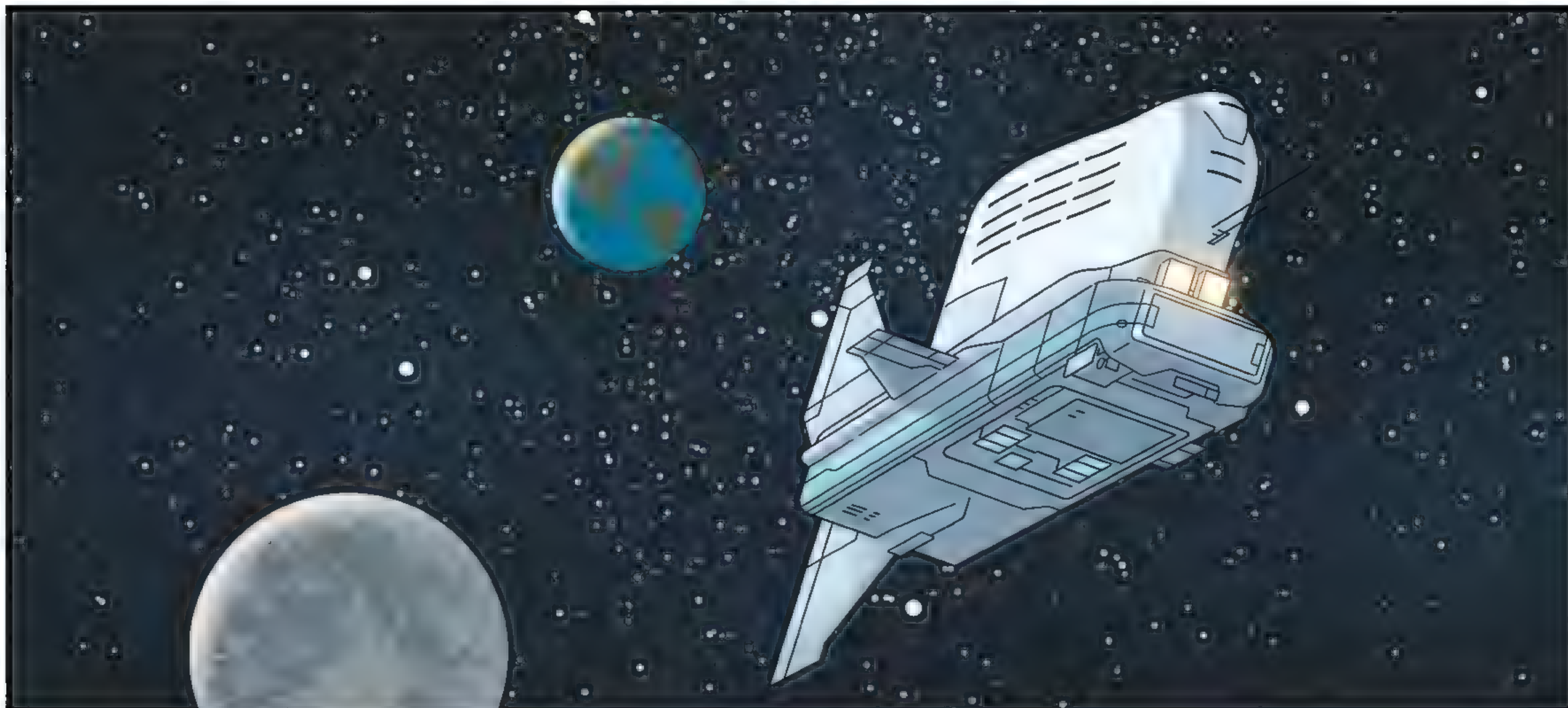
CALL ME
PENELOPE
PANCAKE!

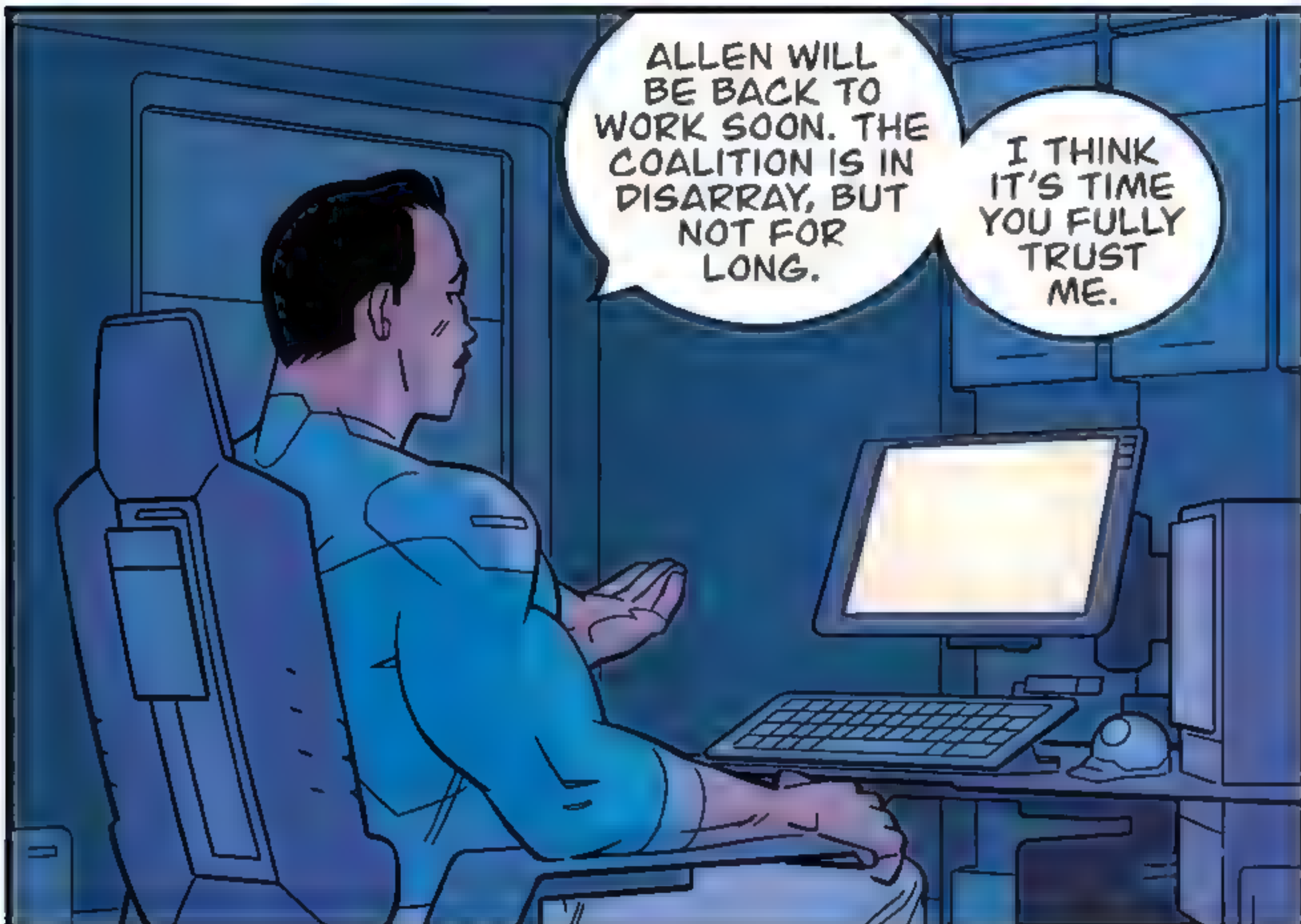
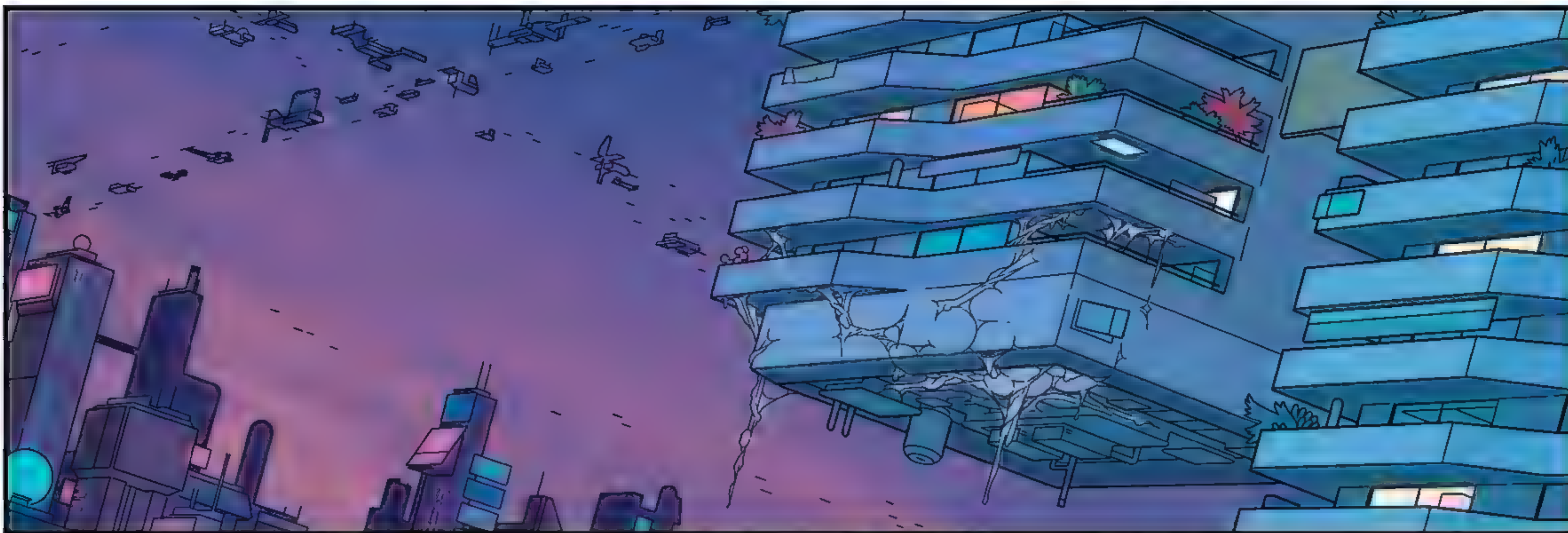


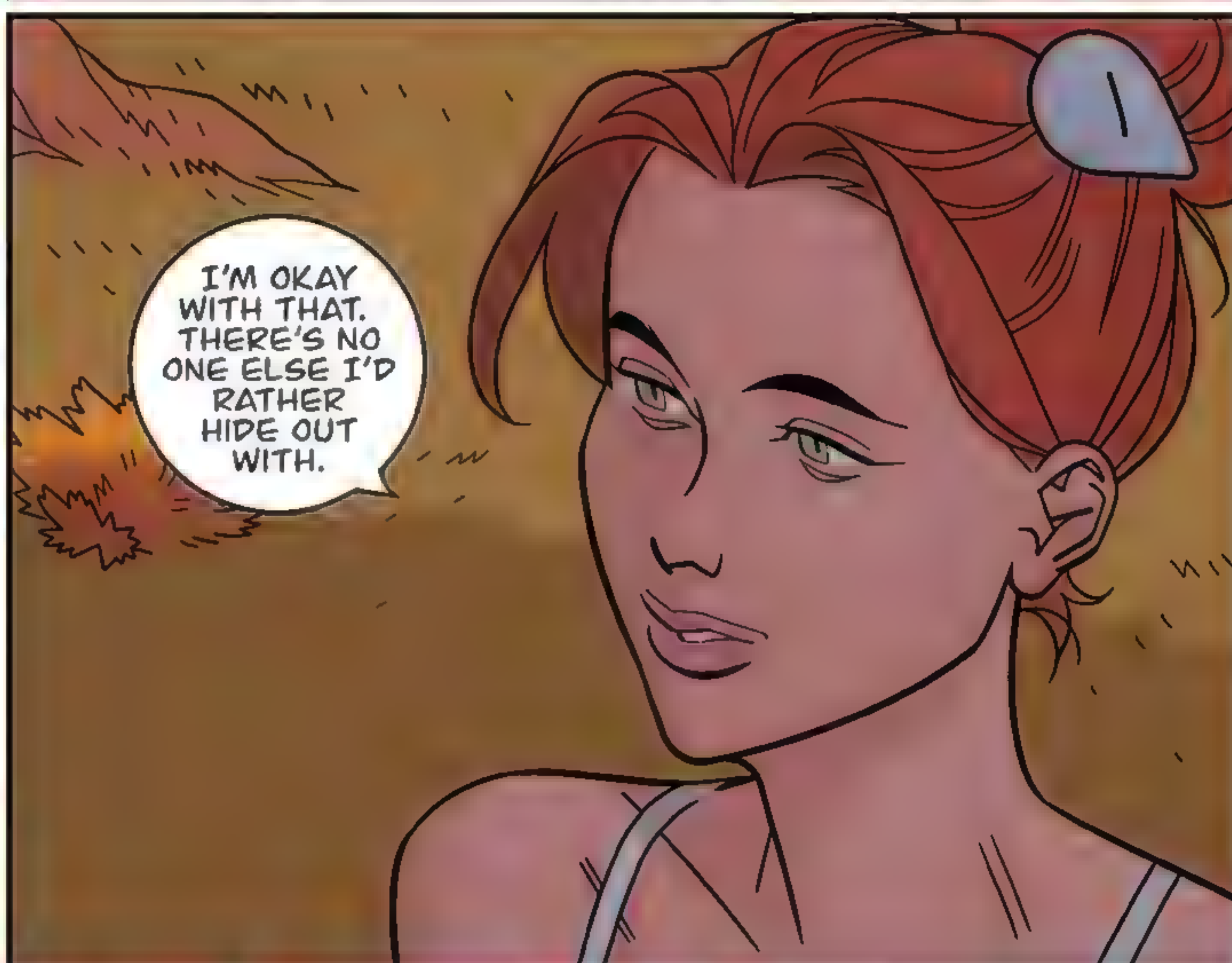
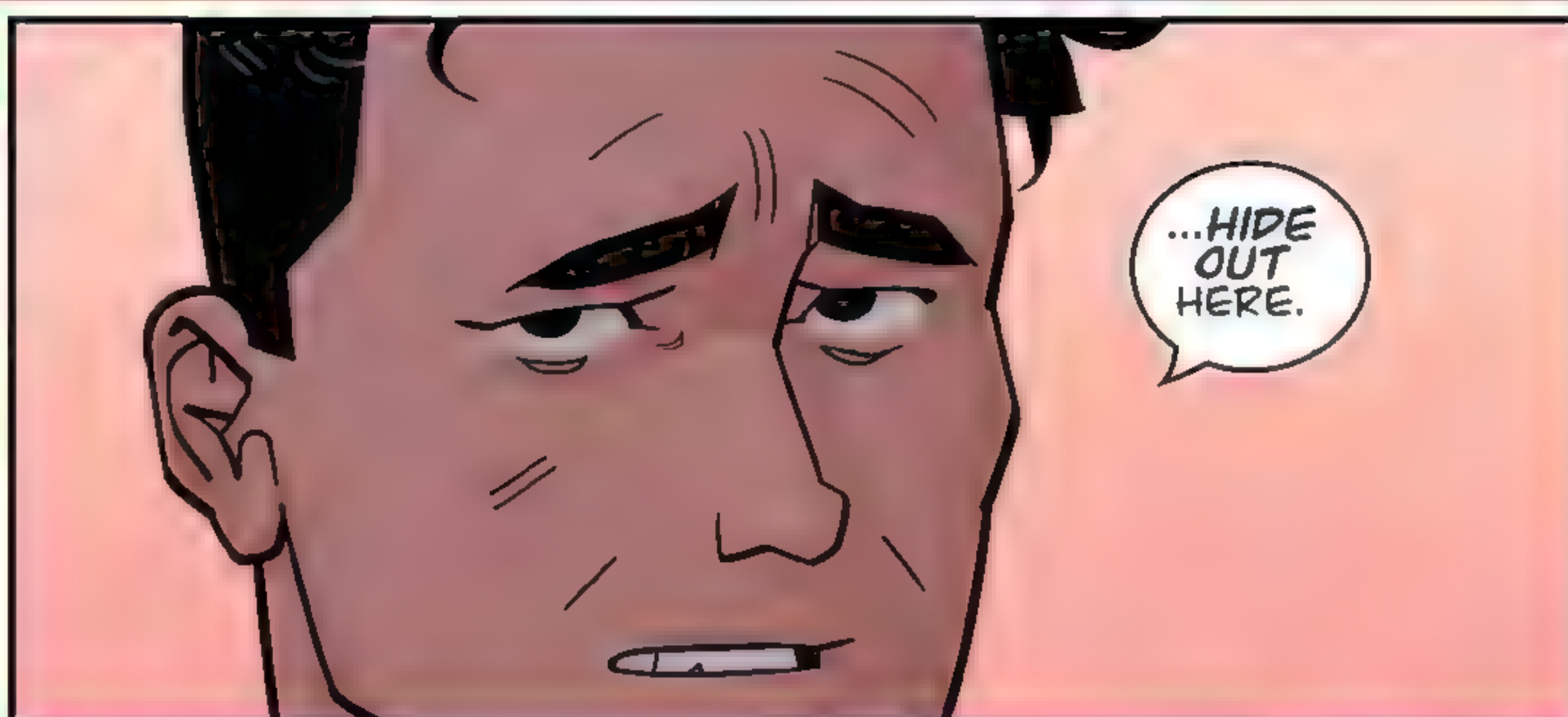
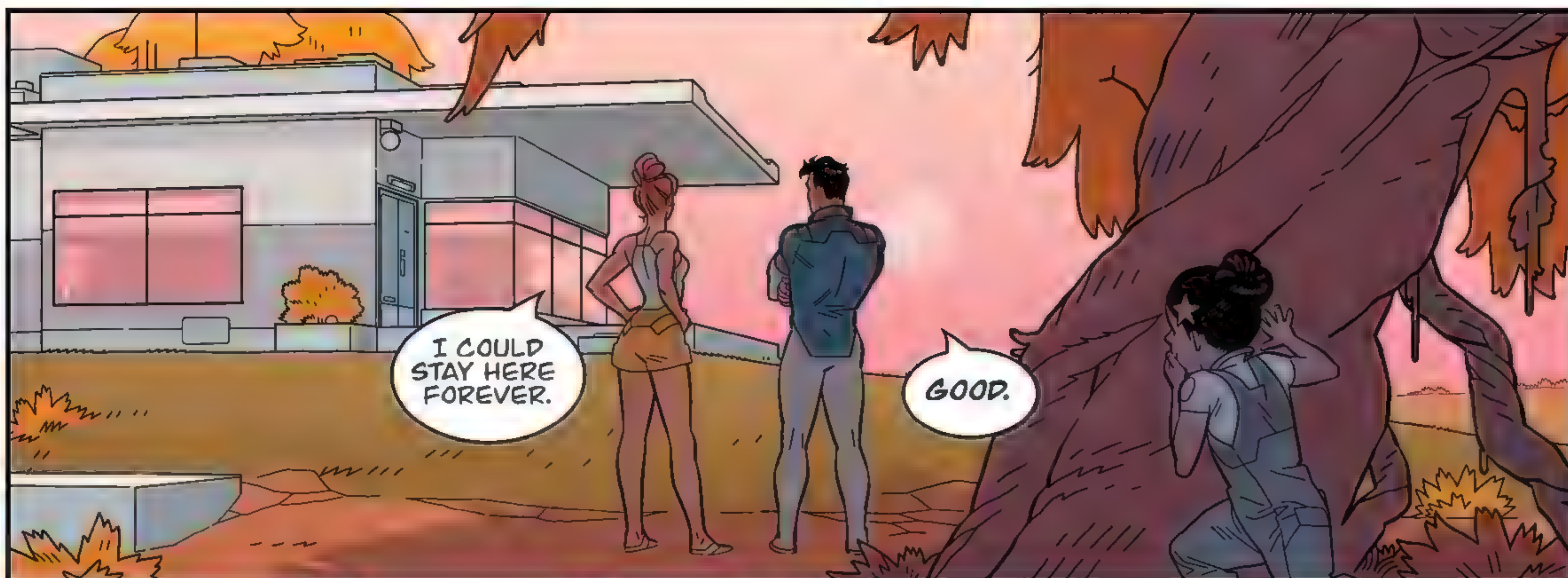
BE
CAREFUL
OUT
THERE.

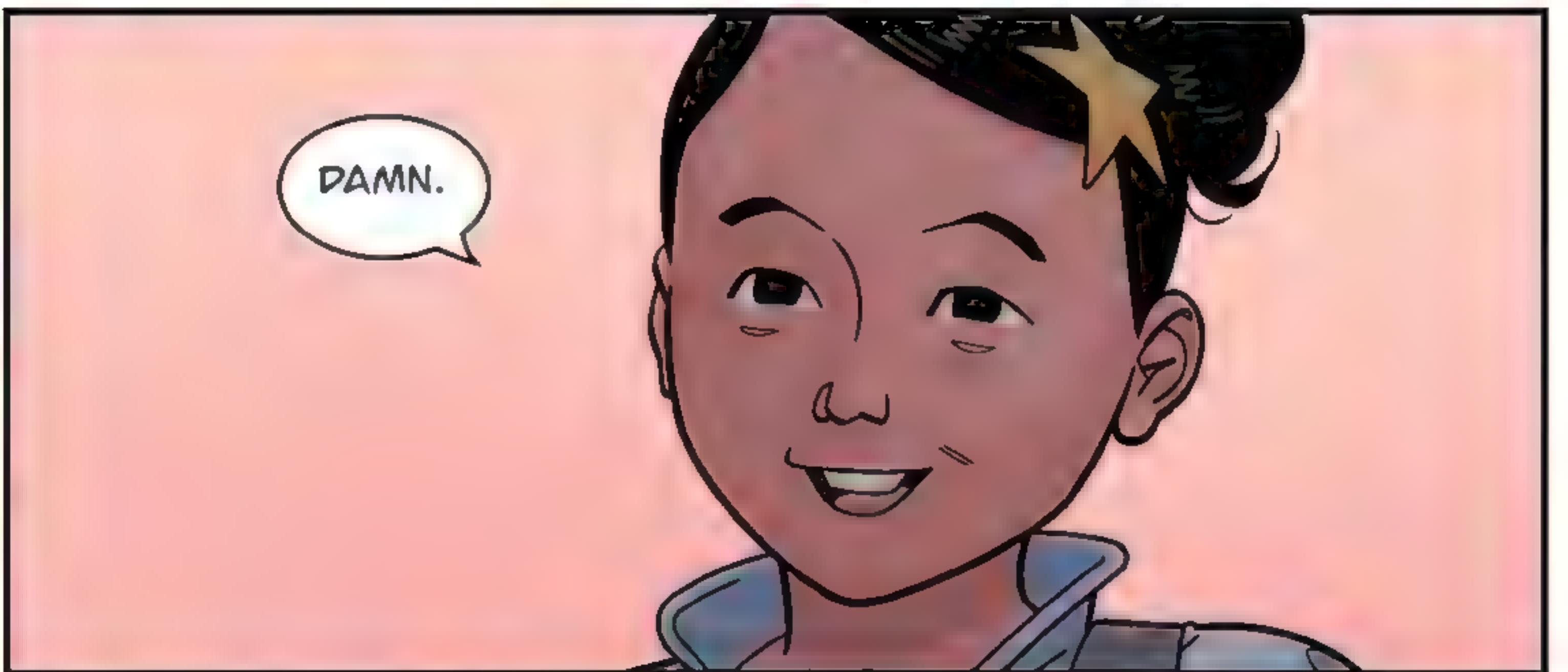
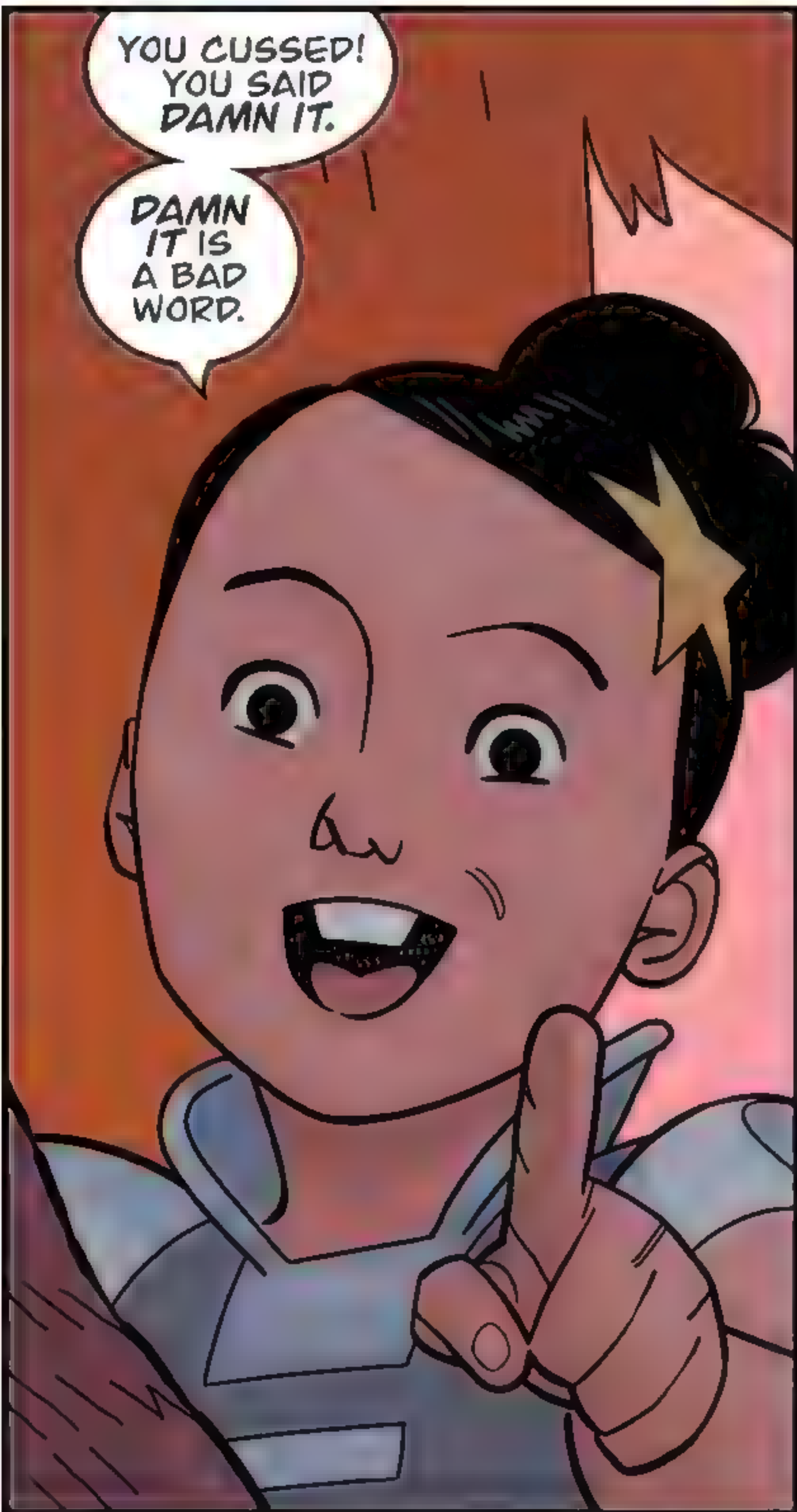
I WILL.

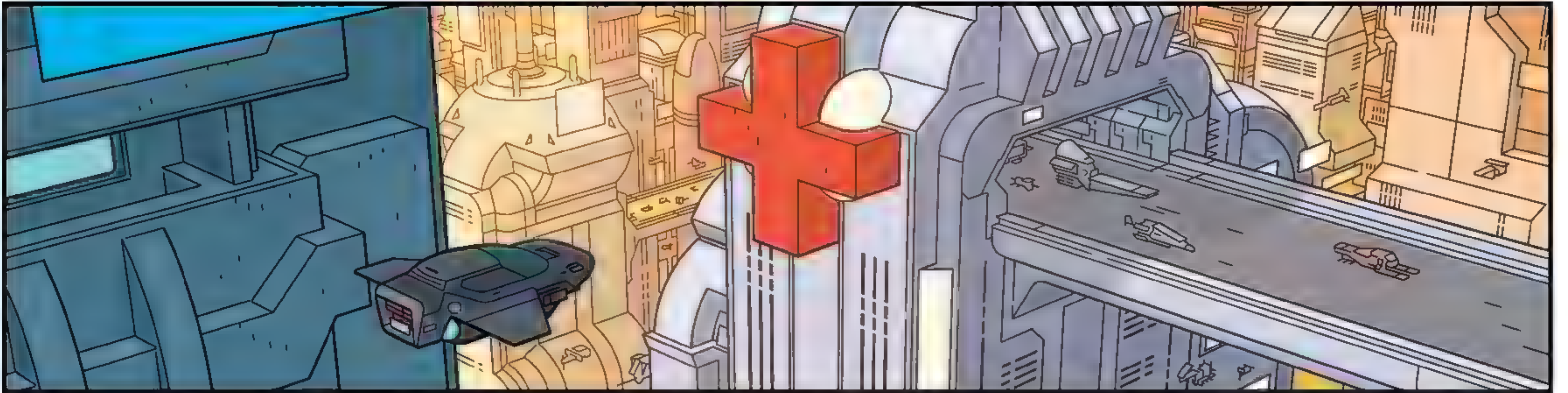
DAD,
PLEASE...
JUST... KEEP
AN EYE
ON REX,
OKAY?











THE GELDARIAN REFUGEES HAVE BEEN GIVEN HOUSING. THE ECONOMY REPORTS HAVE BEEN LOADED INTO YOUR TABLET FOR YOUR REVIEW. I'VE PUSHED BACK YOUR MEETING WITH THE ULGAN CHANCELLOR... OH, AND...

LASTLY... THAT OTHER THING... IT'S DONE.

THANK YOU---

==UNGH!==

--FOR THE UPDATE.

WHO WAS THAT?

AN AGENT OF MINE. IT WAS AN OFFICIAL MATTER. NOTHING IMPORTANT.

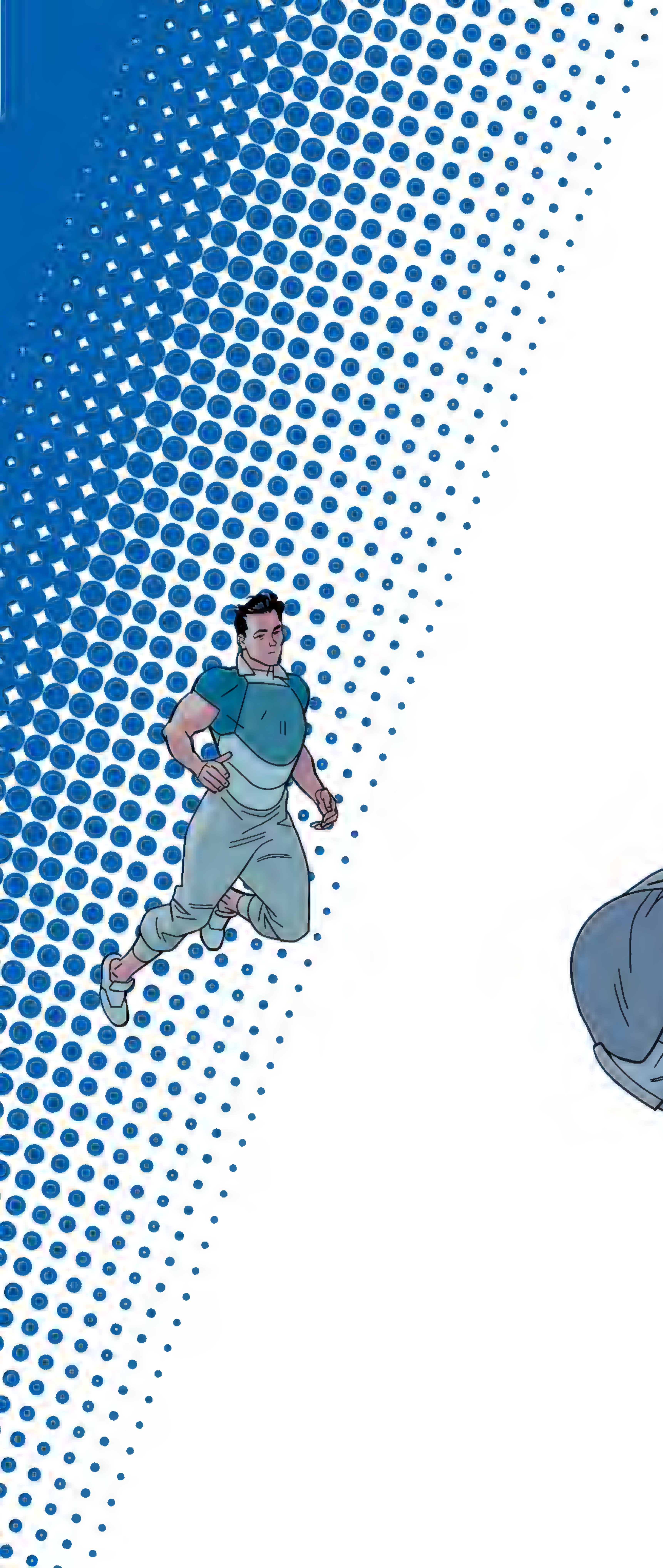
JUST LOOK AT YOU. YOU'LL BE WALKING LIKE NORMAL IN A MATTER OF DAYS.

I'M SO PROUD OF YOU.



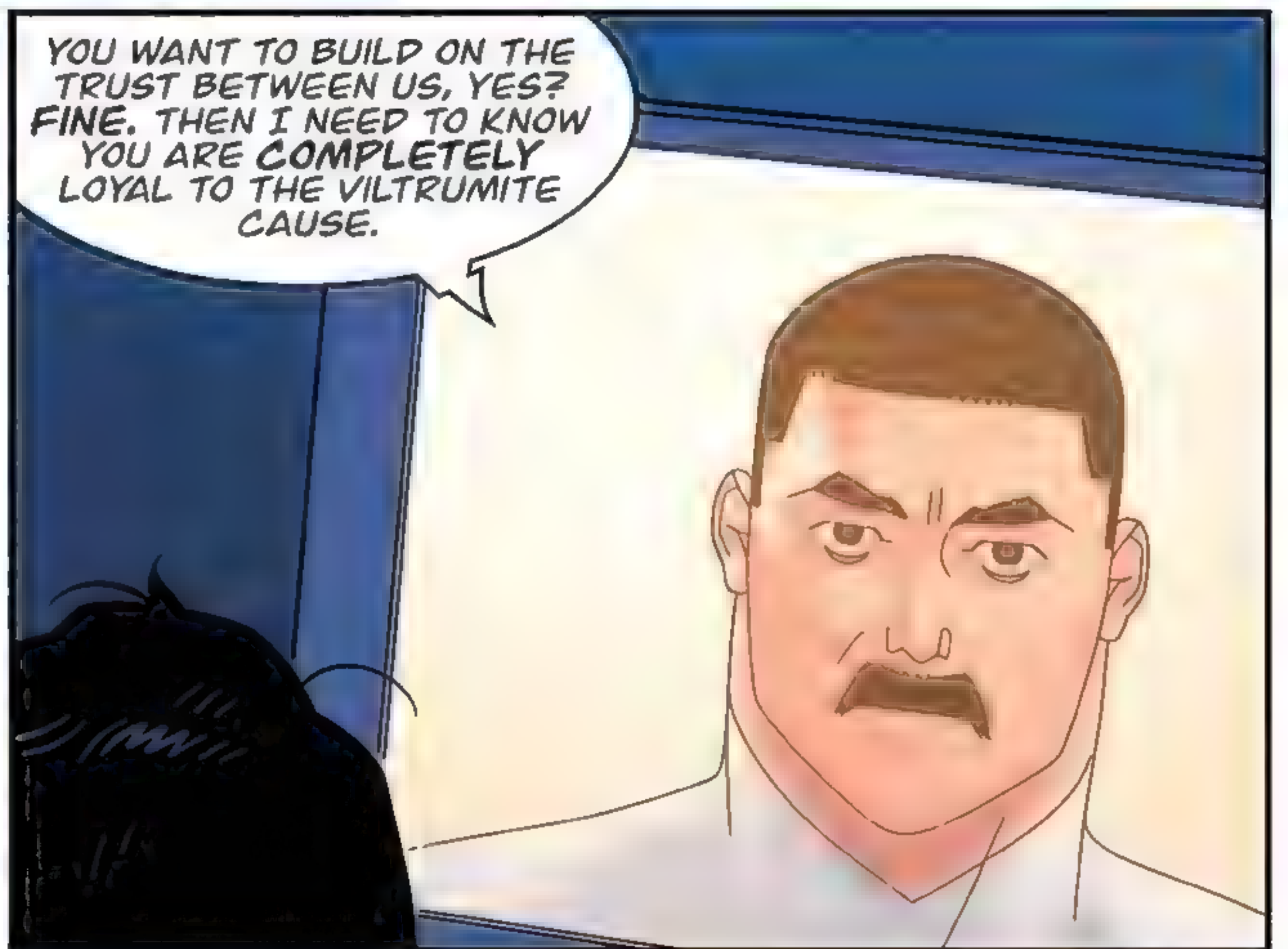
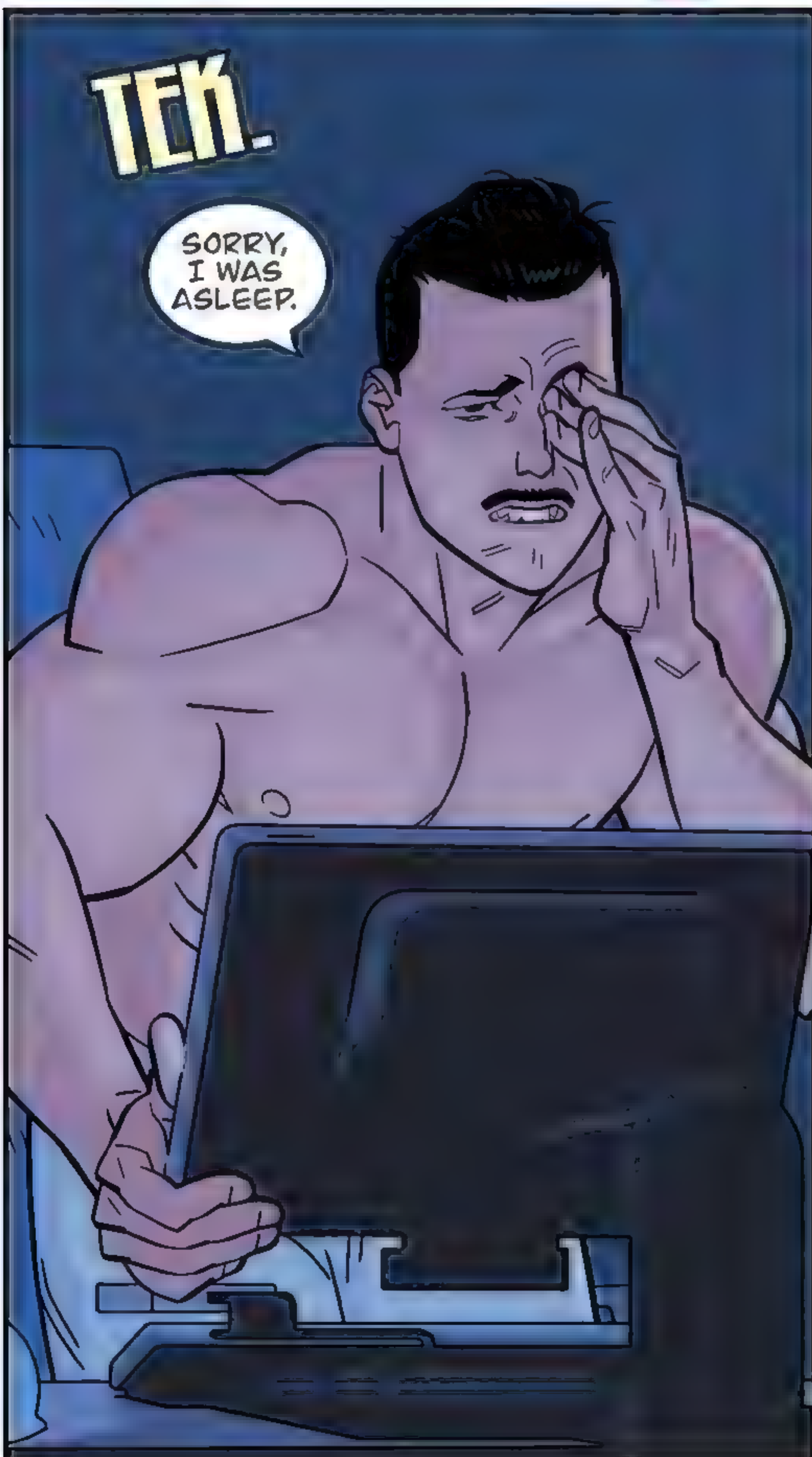




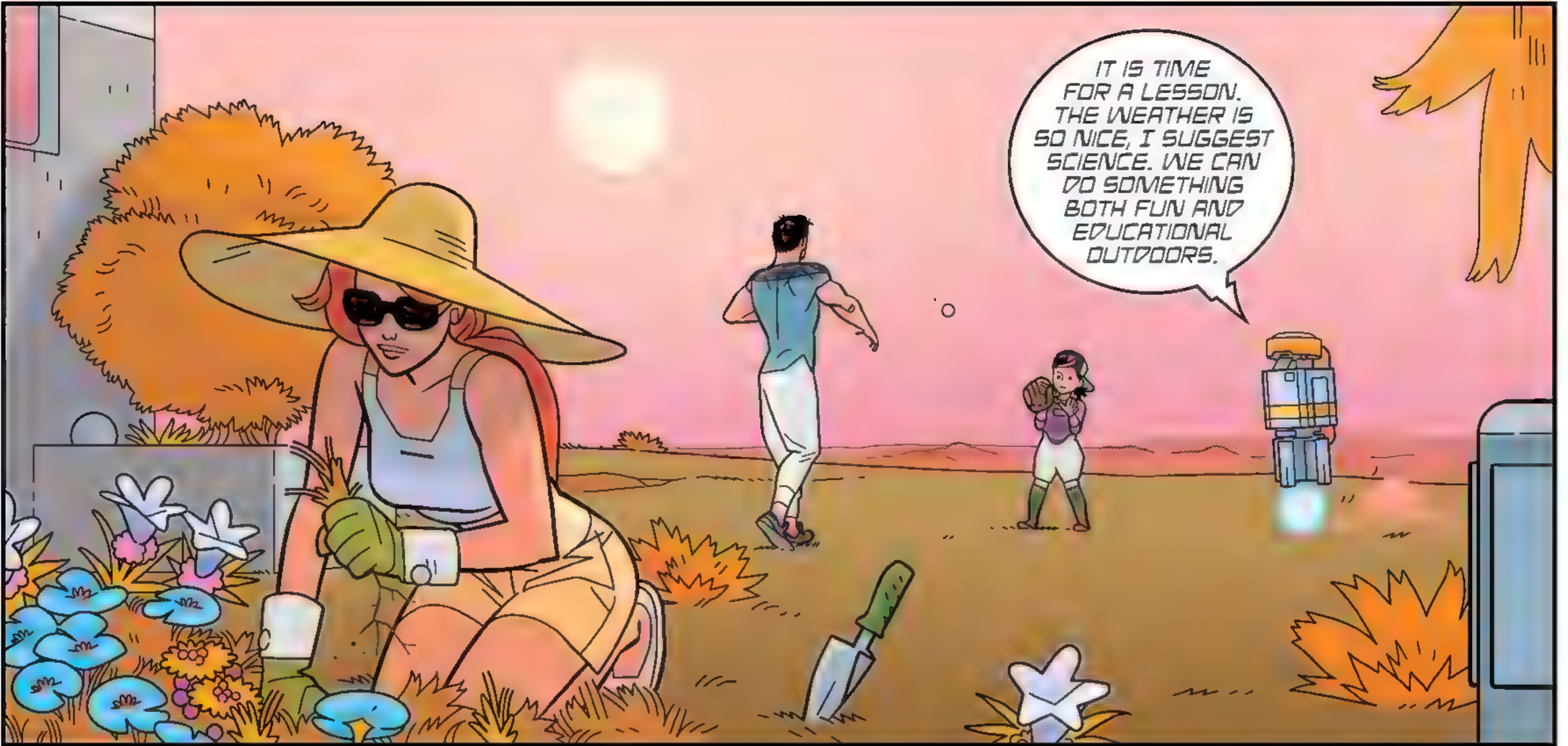


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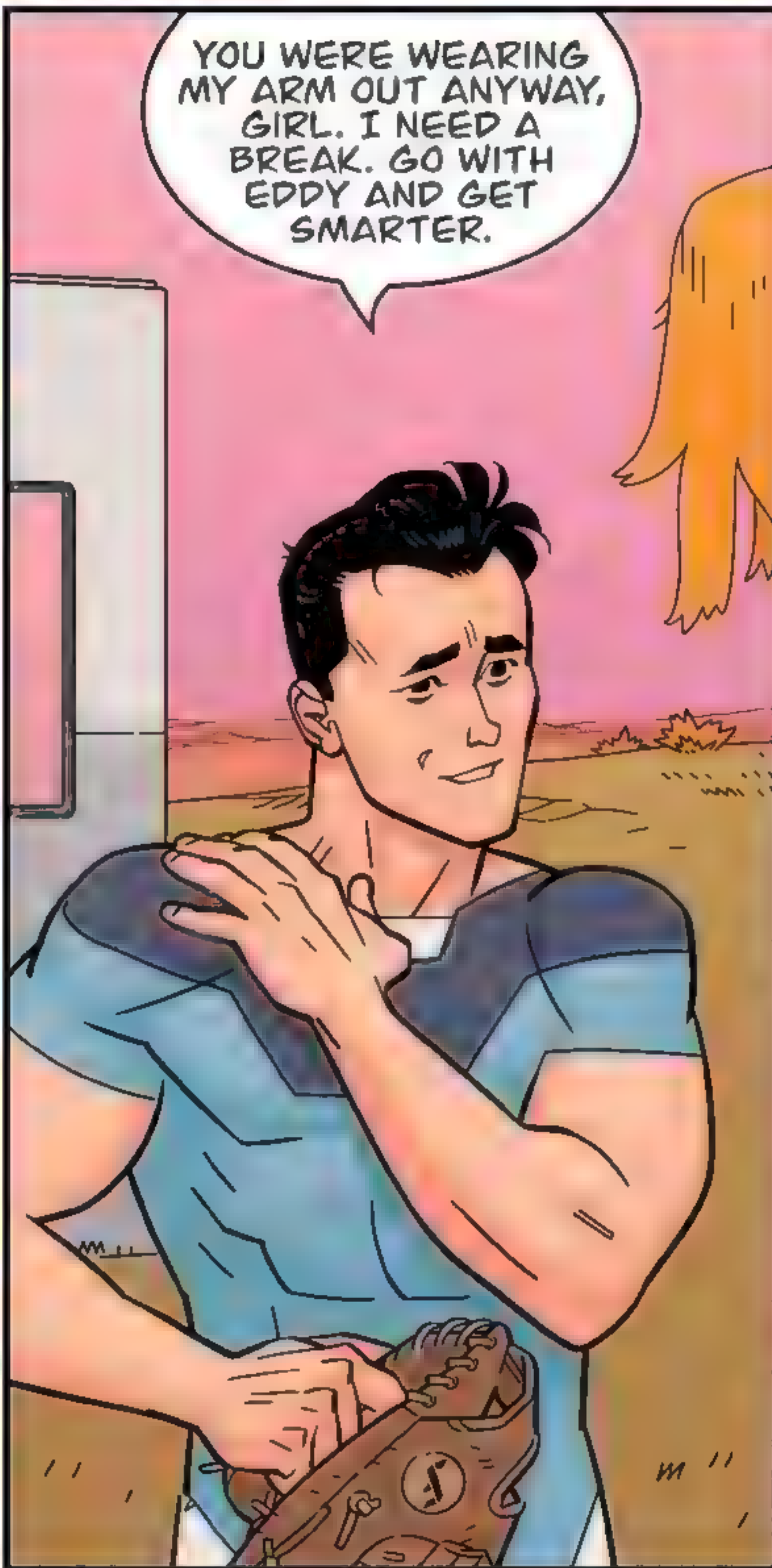


IT IS TIME FOR A LESSON. THE WEATHER IS SO NICE, I SUGGEST SCIENCE. WE CAN DO SOMETHING BOTH FUN AND EDUCATIONAL OUTDOORS.



OH, BOO! DAD AND I ARE ALREADY HAVING FUN!

WE CAN HAVE JUST AS MUCH FUN IF YOU GIVE IT A CHANCE.



YOU WERE WEARING MY ARM OUT ANYWAY, GIRL. I NEED A BREAK. GO WITH EDDY AND GET SMARTER.



I'M PLENTY SMART! I KNOW ALL THE MATH!

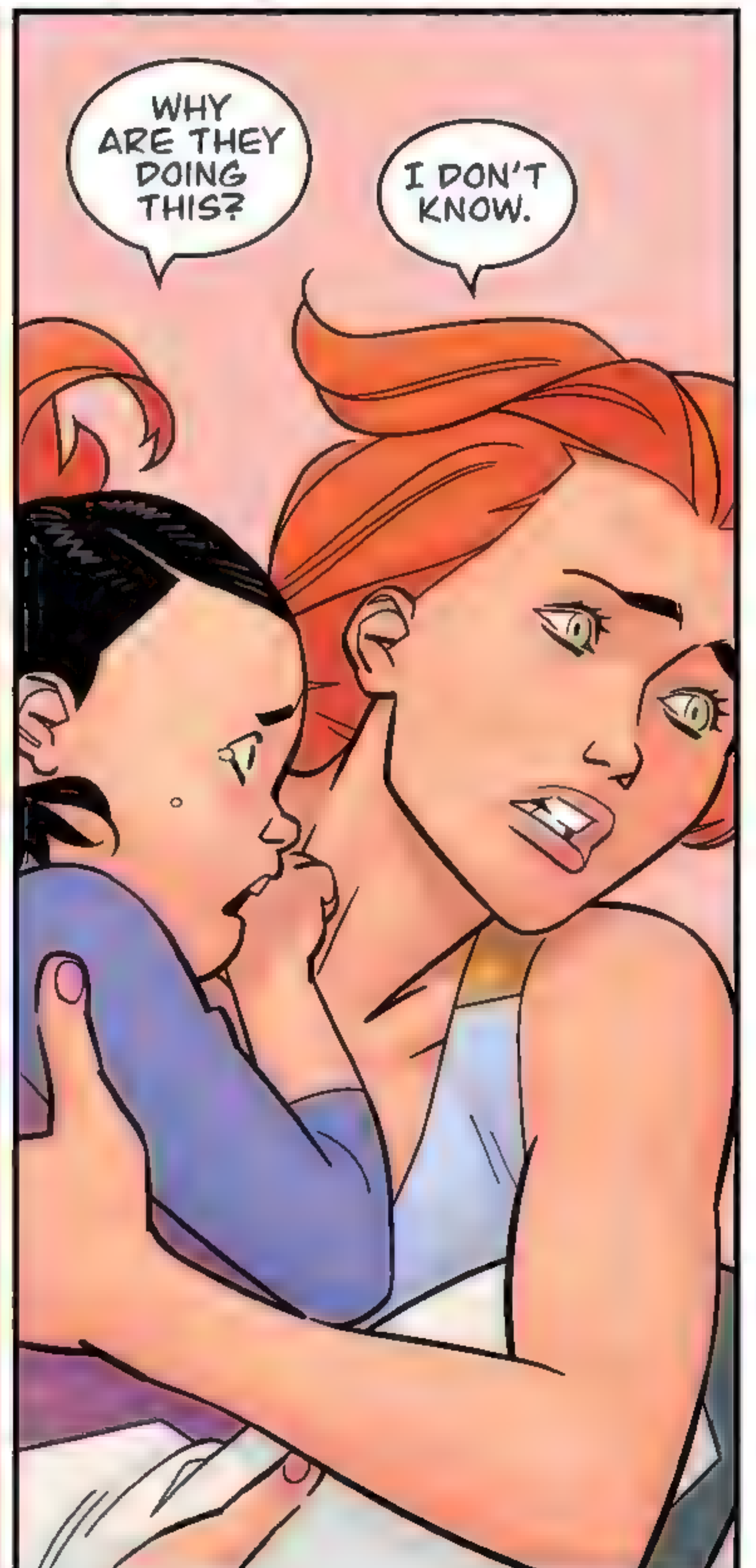
C'MON!

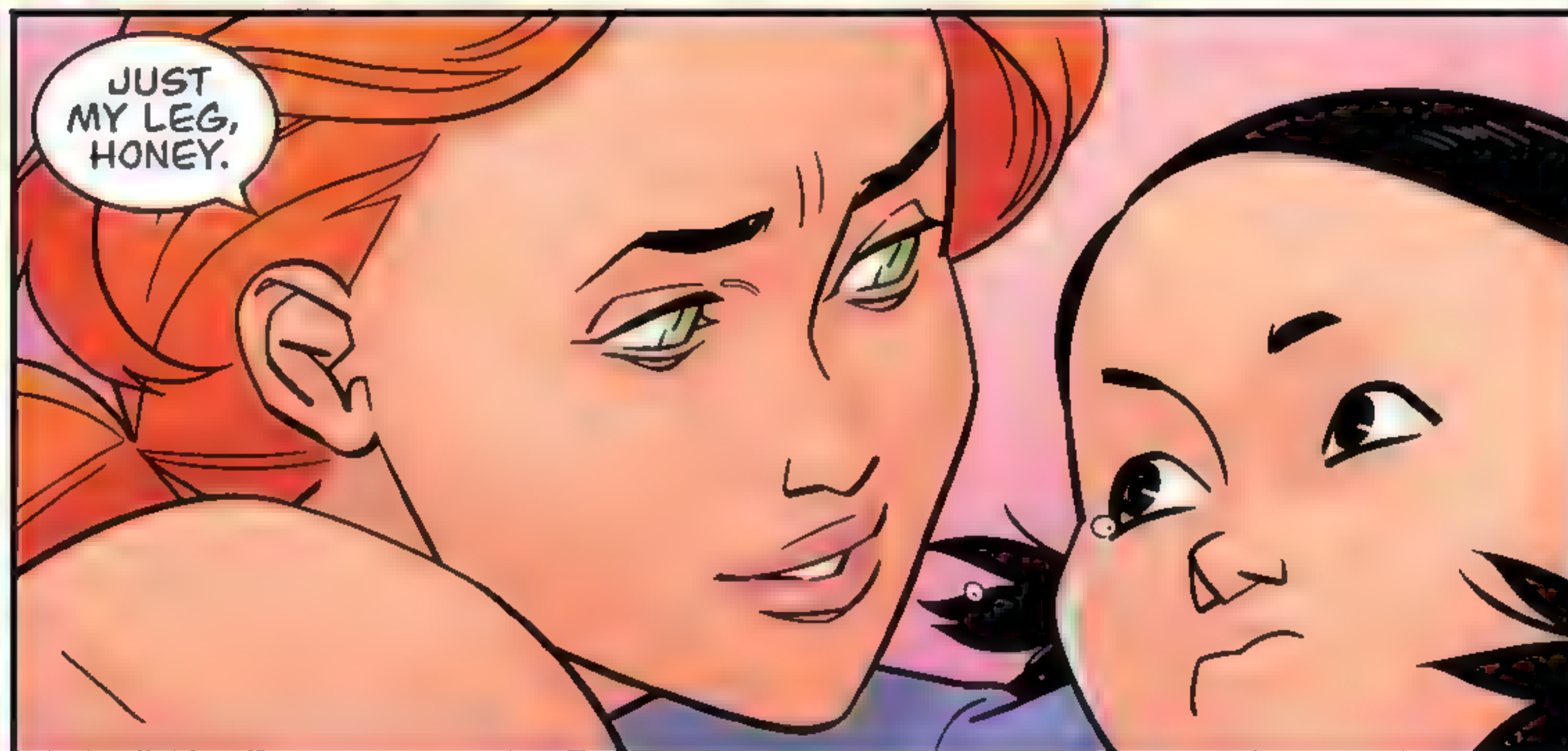
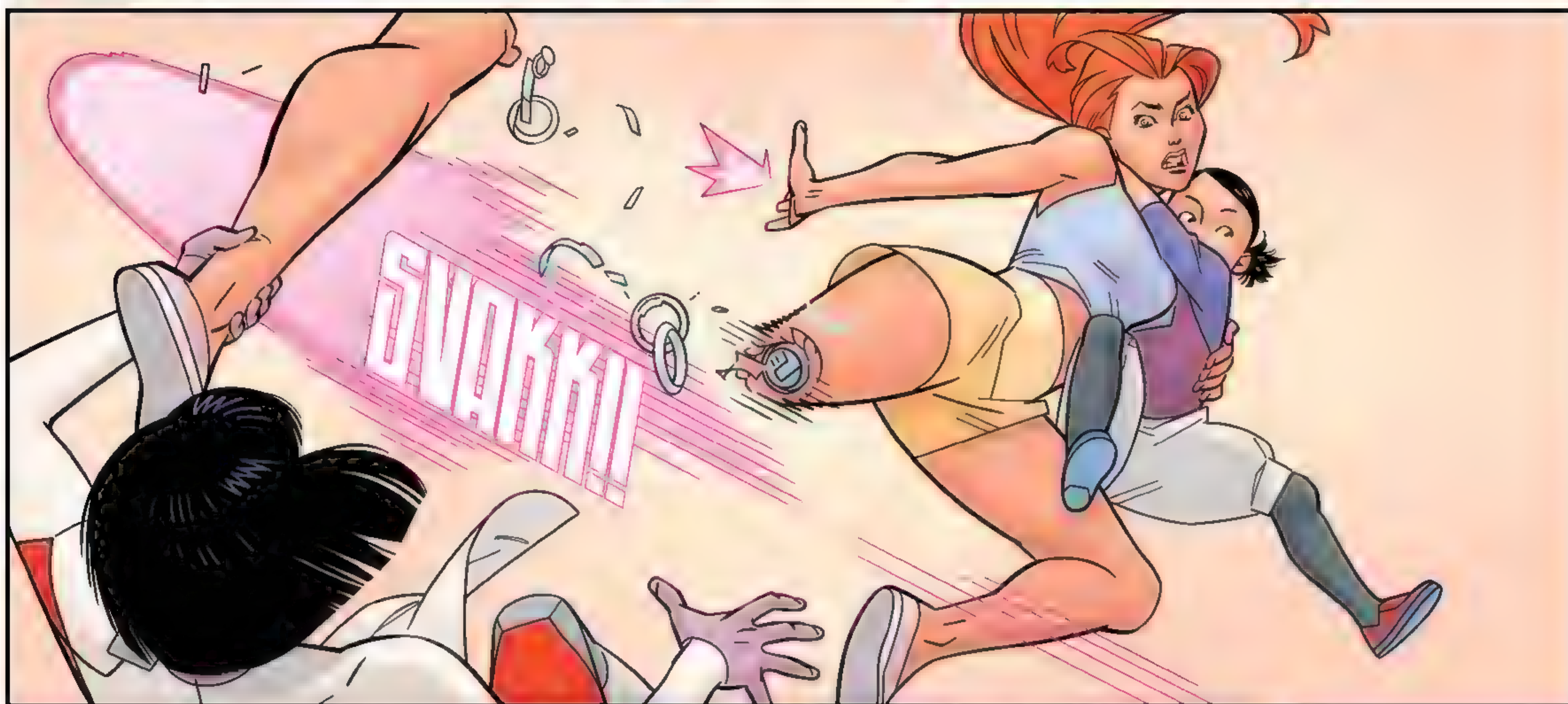


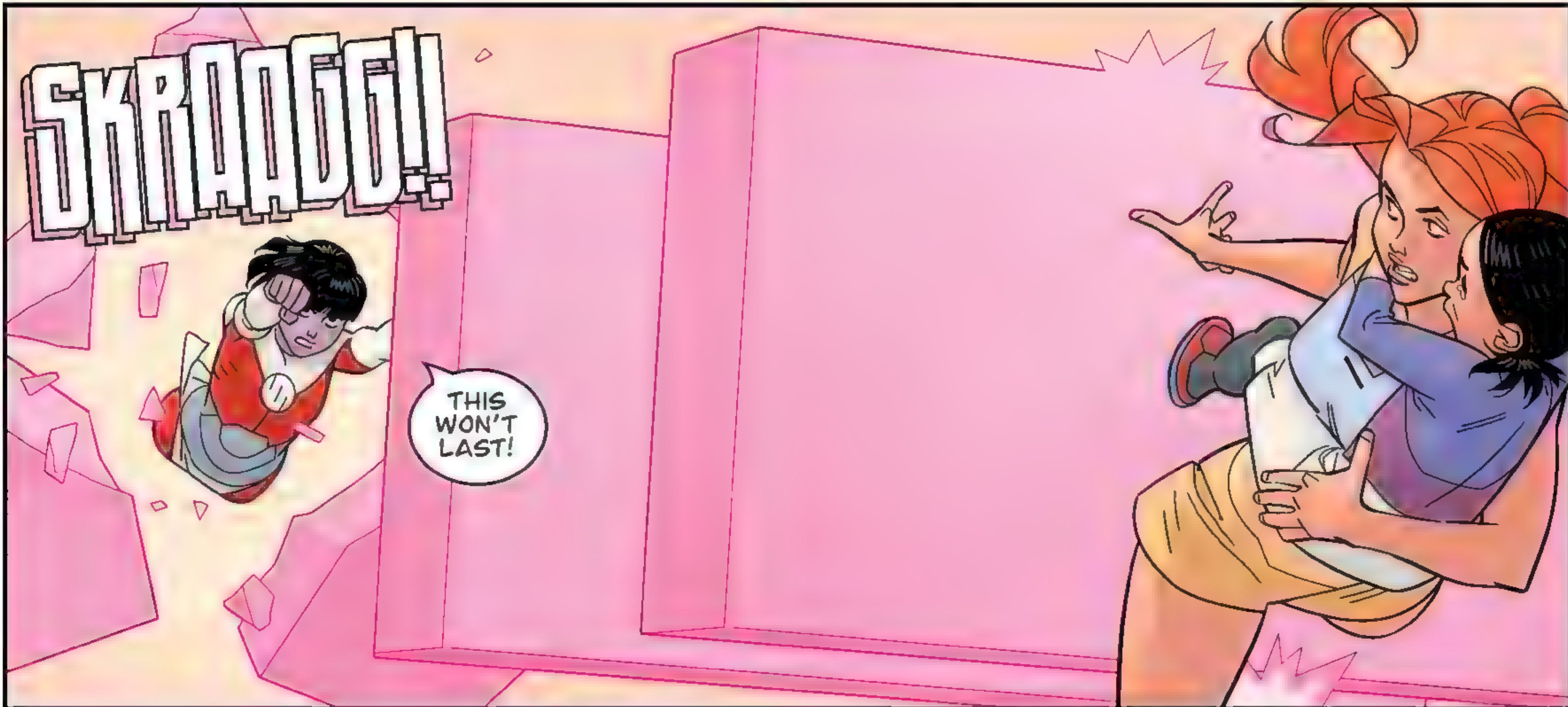
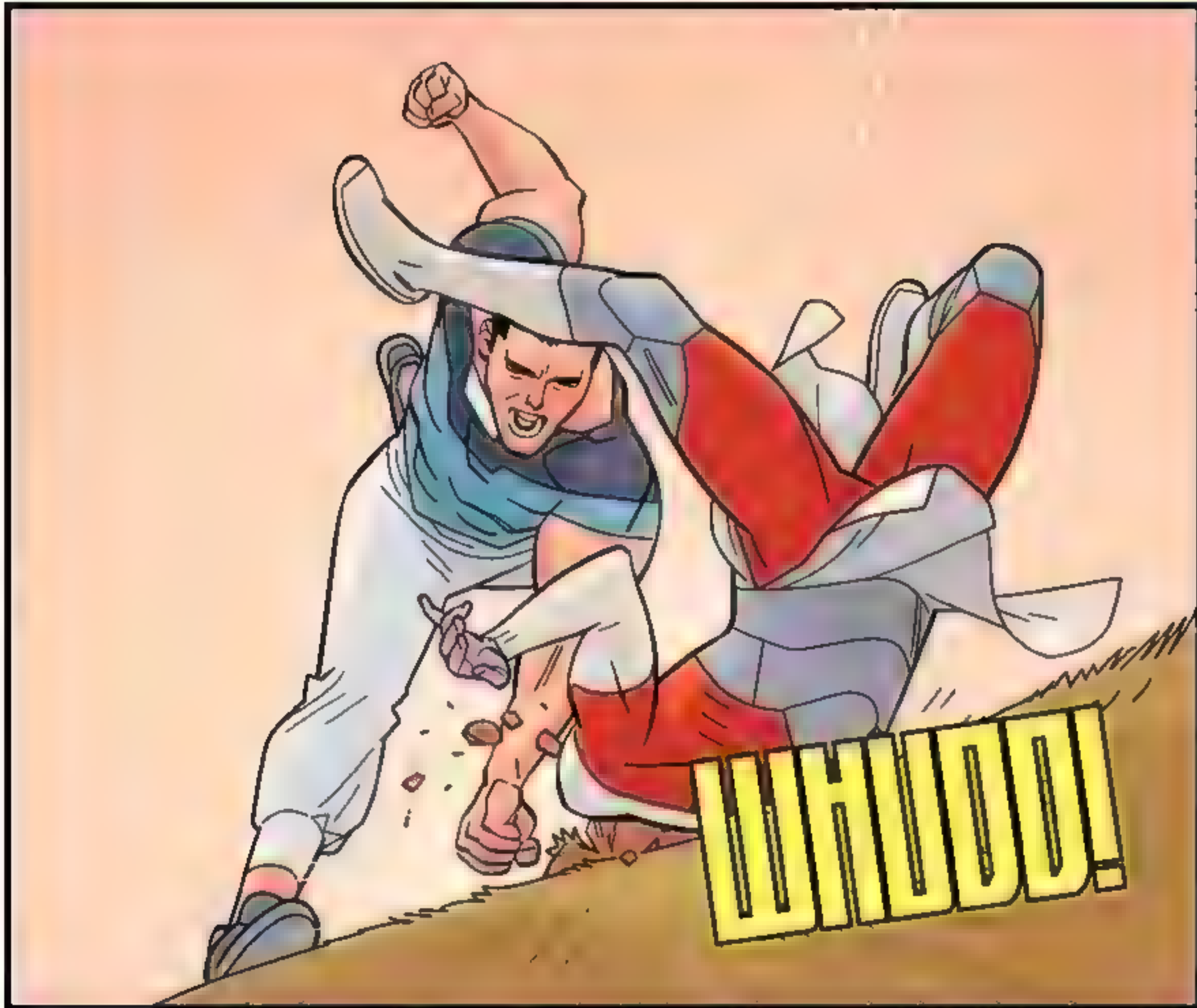
TERRA! GO!

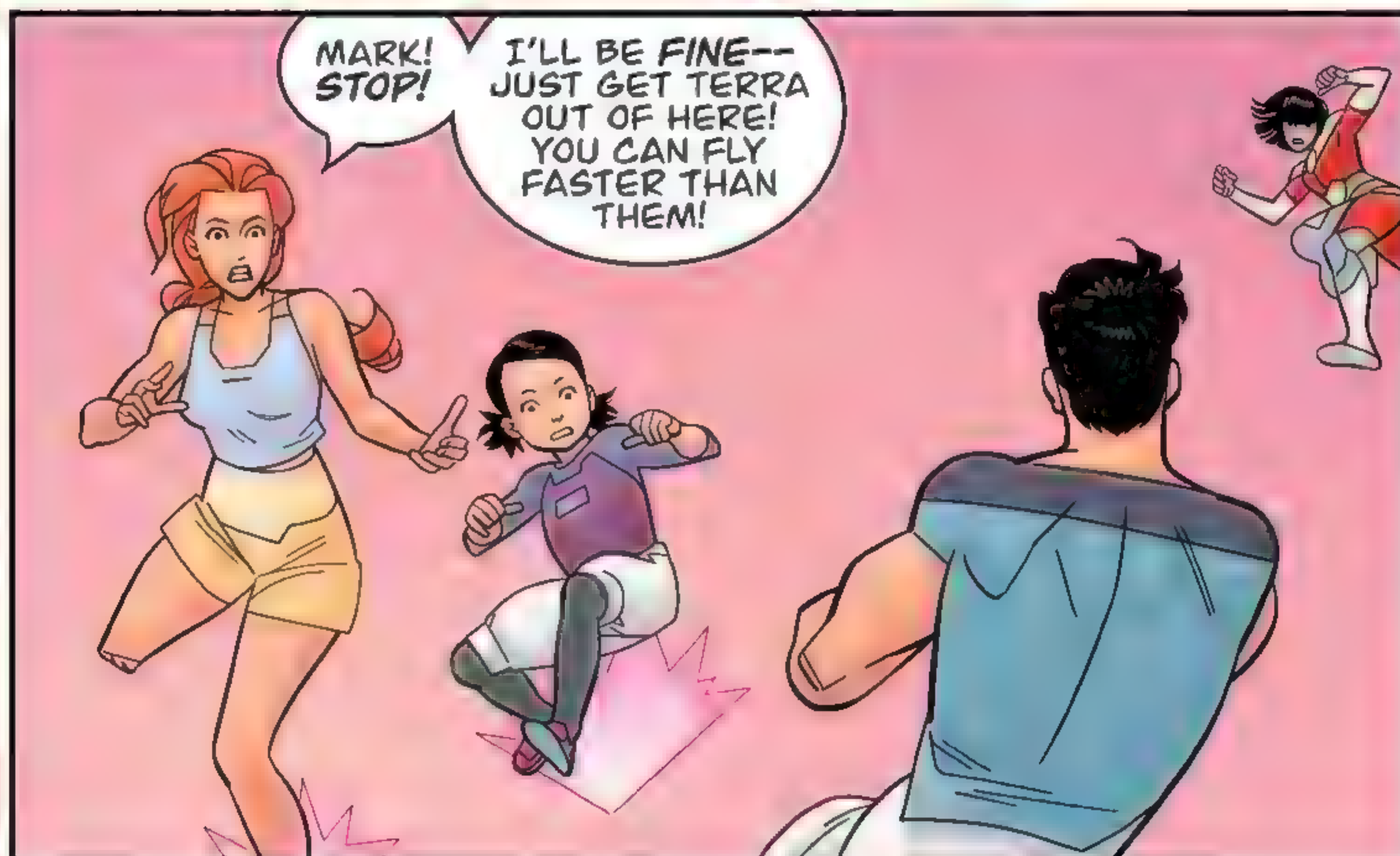
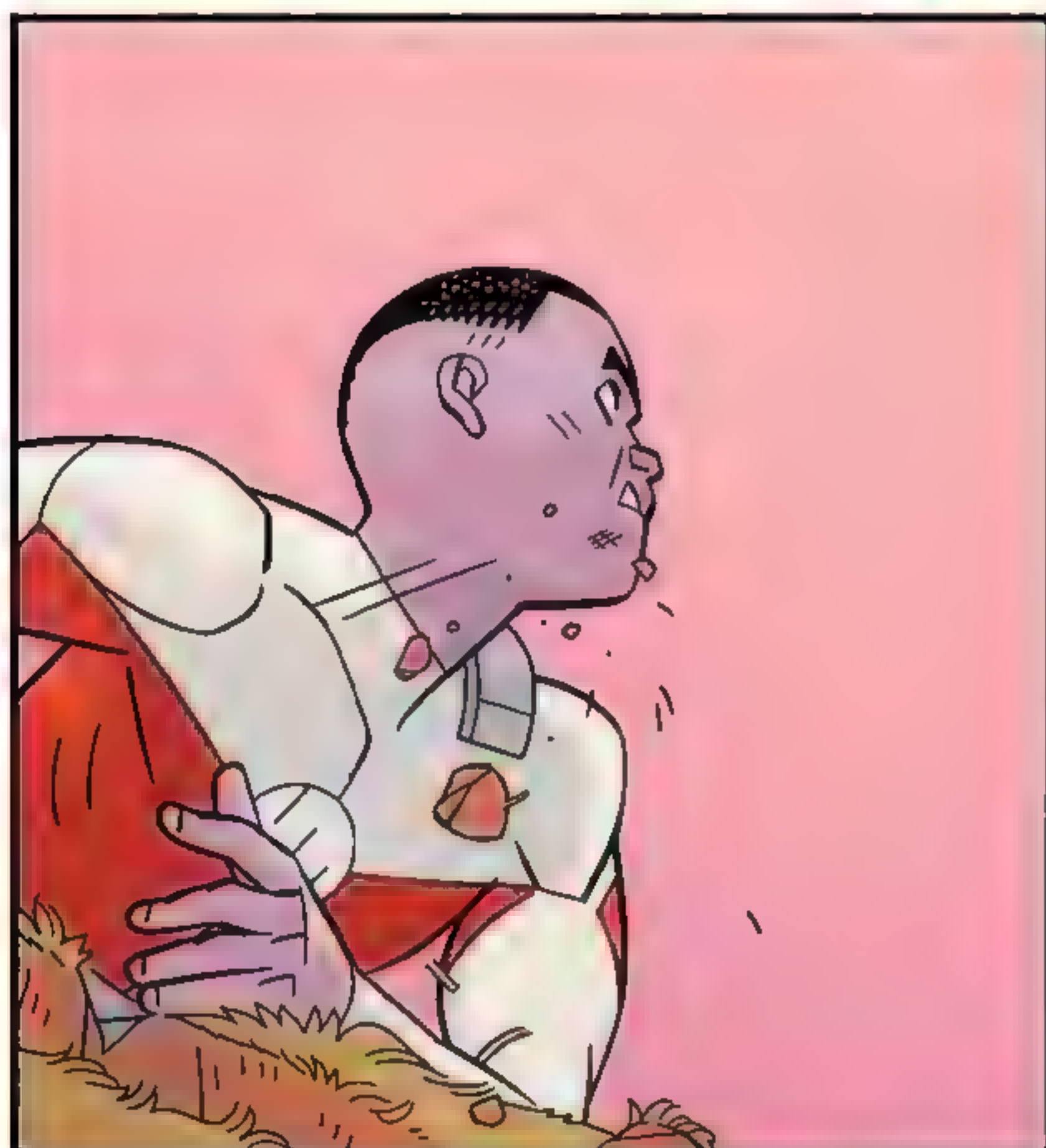
FINE. FINE. WHAT-EVER!

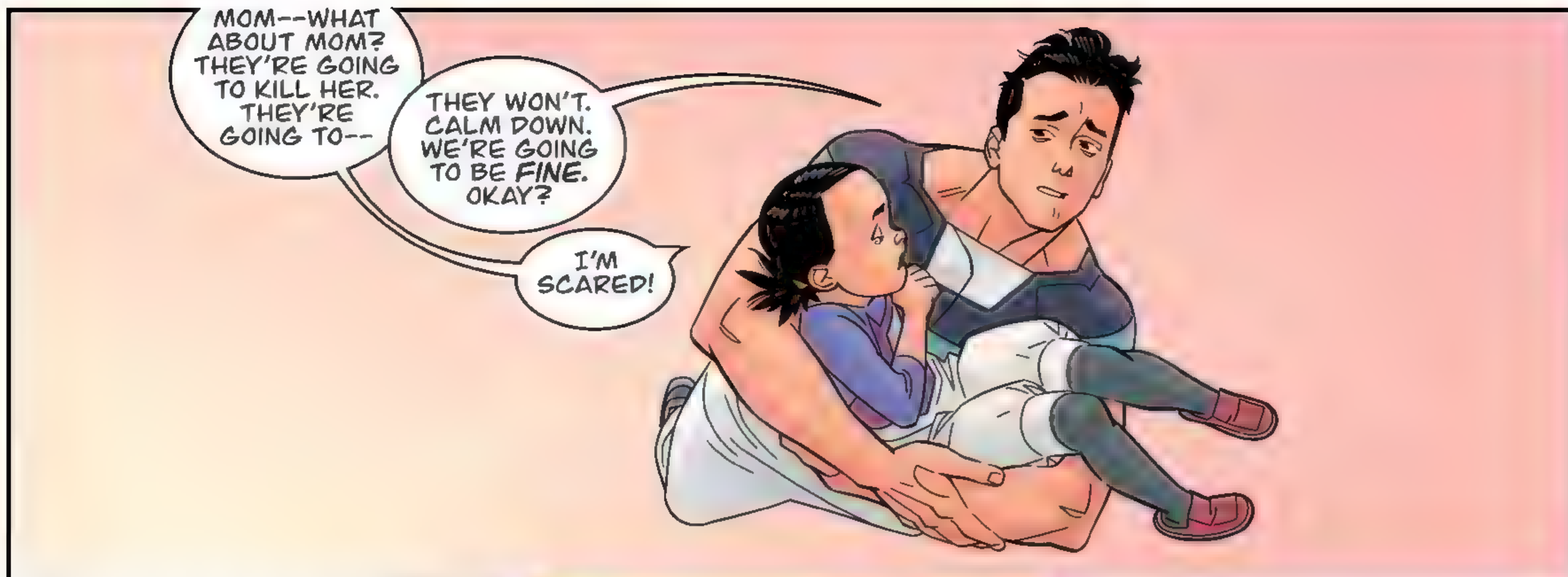












I KNOW. I KNOW YOU'RE SCARED. I'M HERE AND I'M GOING TO PROTECT YOU. I NEED TO FLY FAST AND REALLY, REALLY HIGH NOW... AND I NEED YOU TO BE BRAVE.

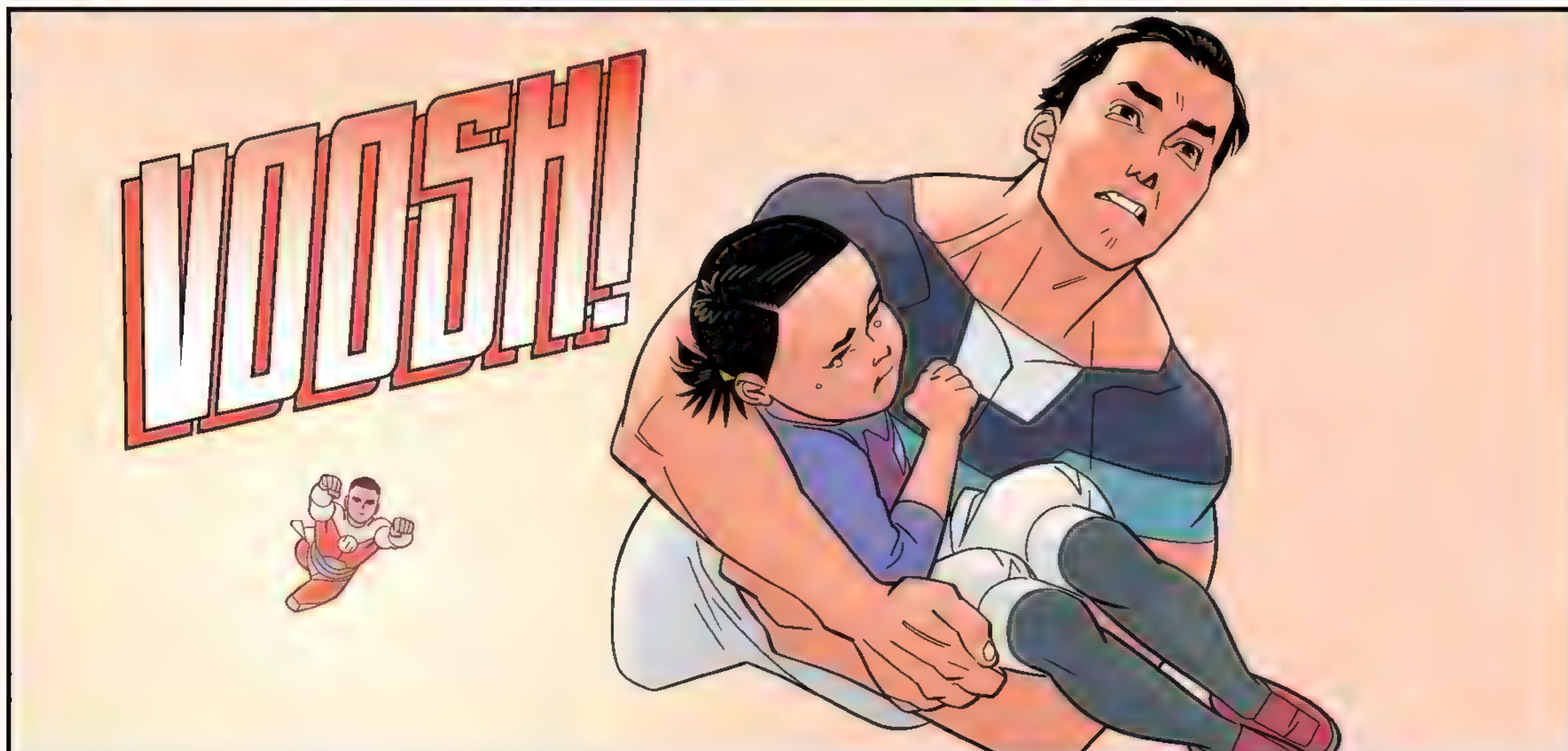
CAN YOU BE BRAVE FOR ME, TERRA?

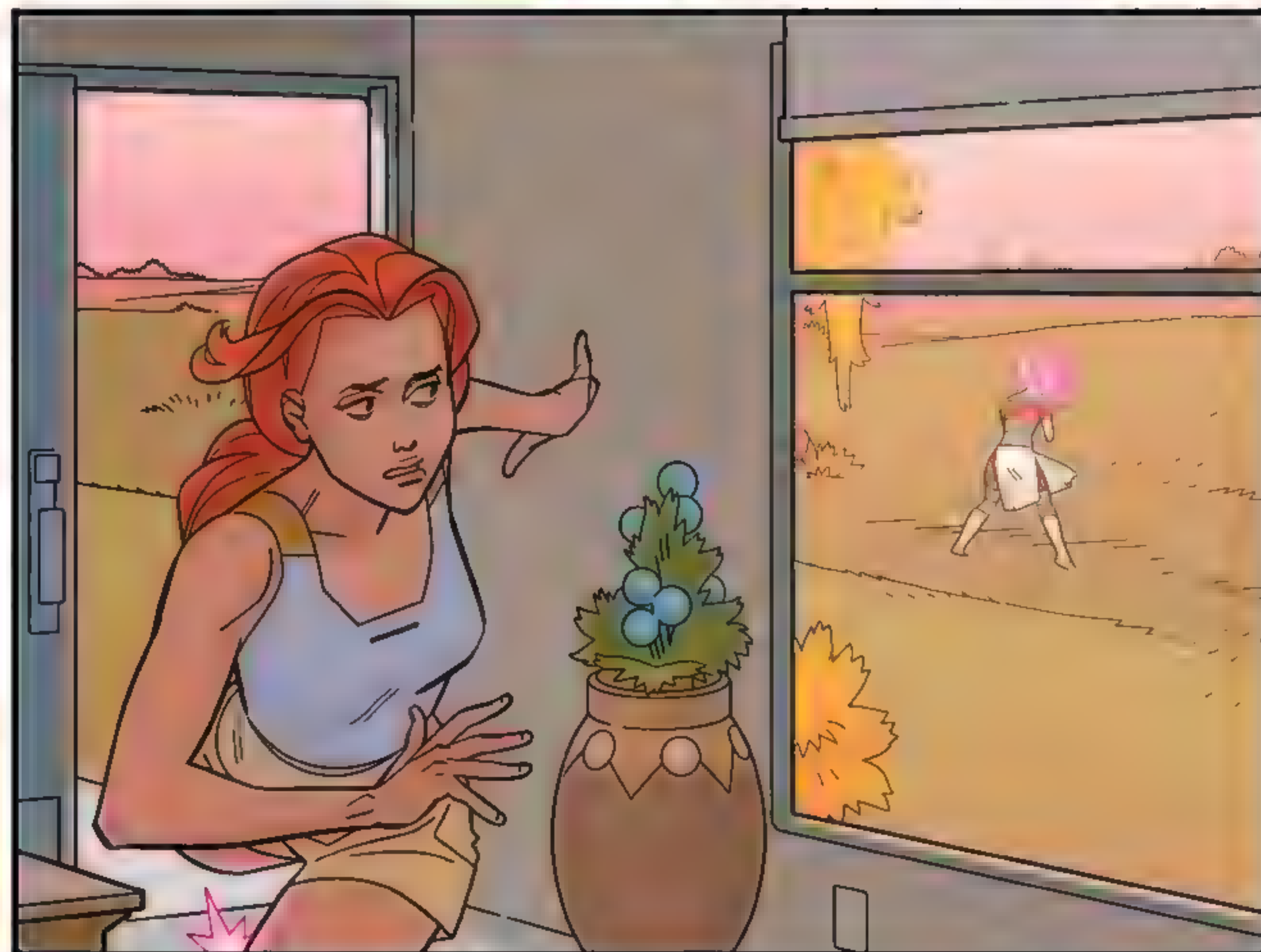
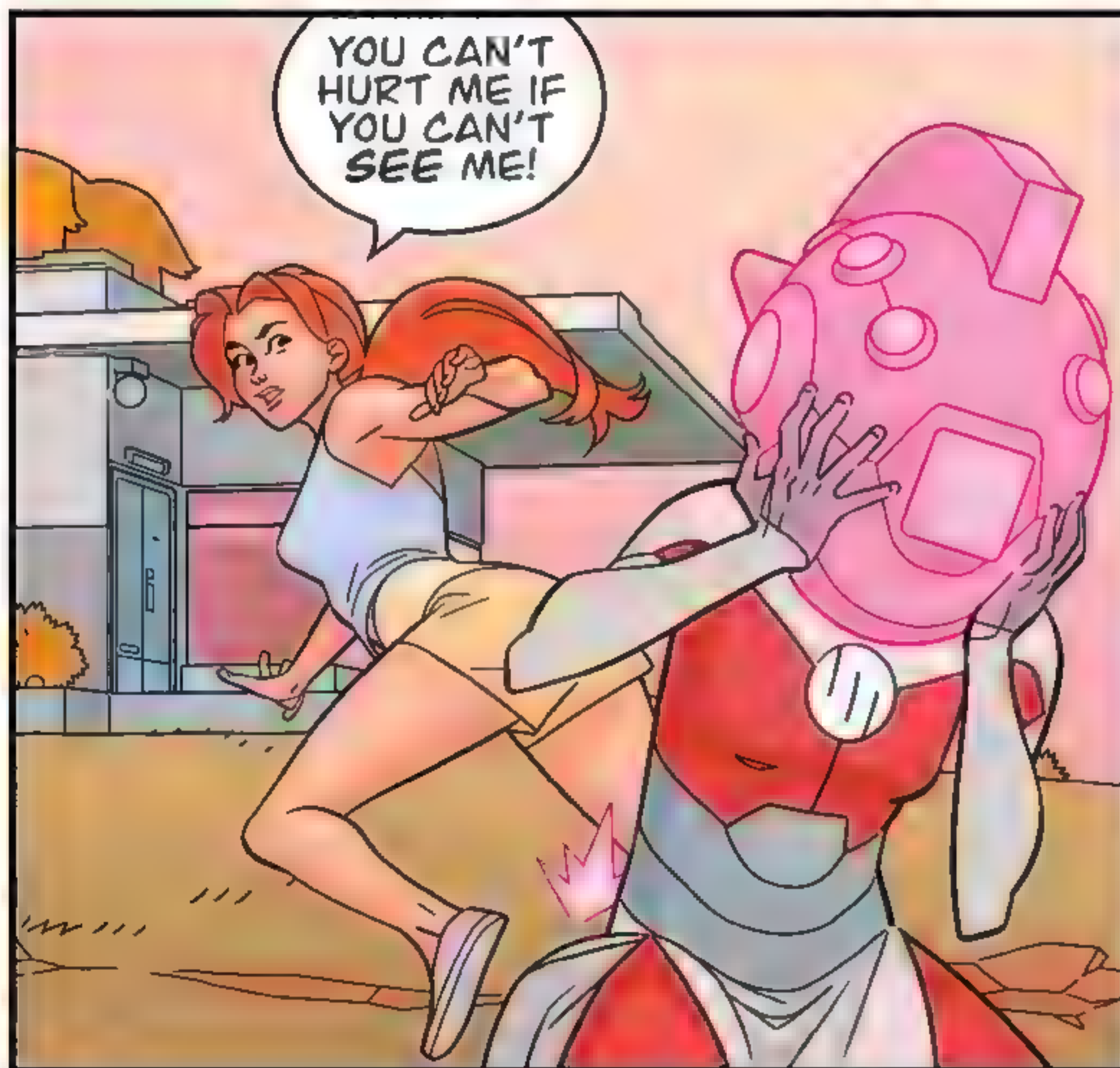
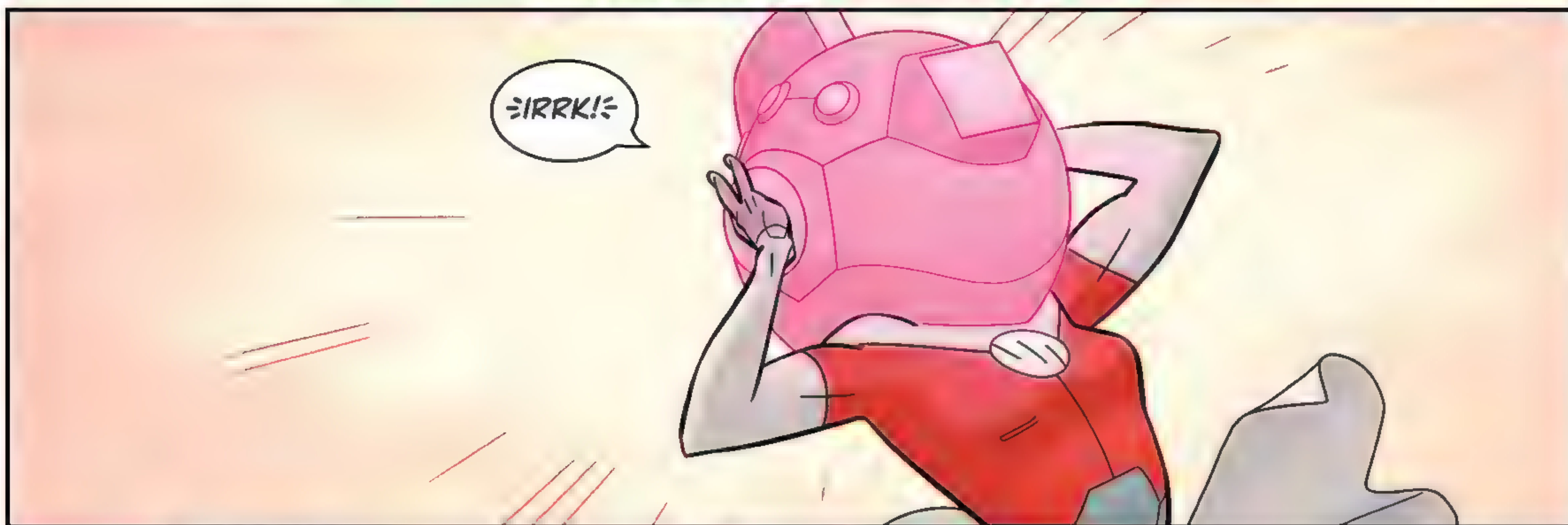


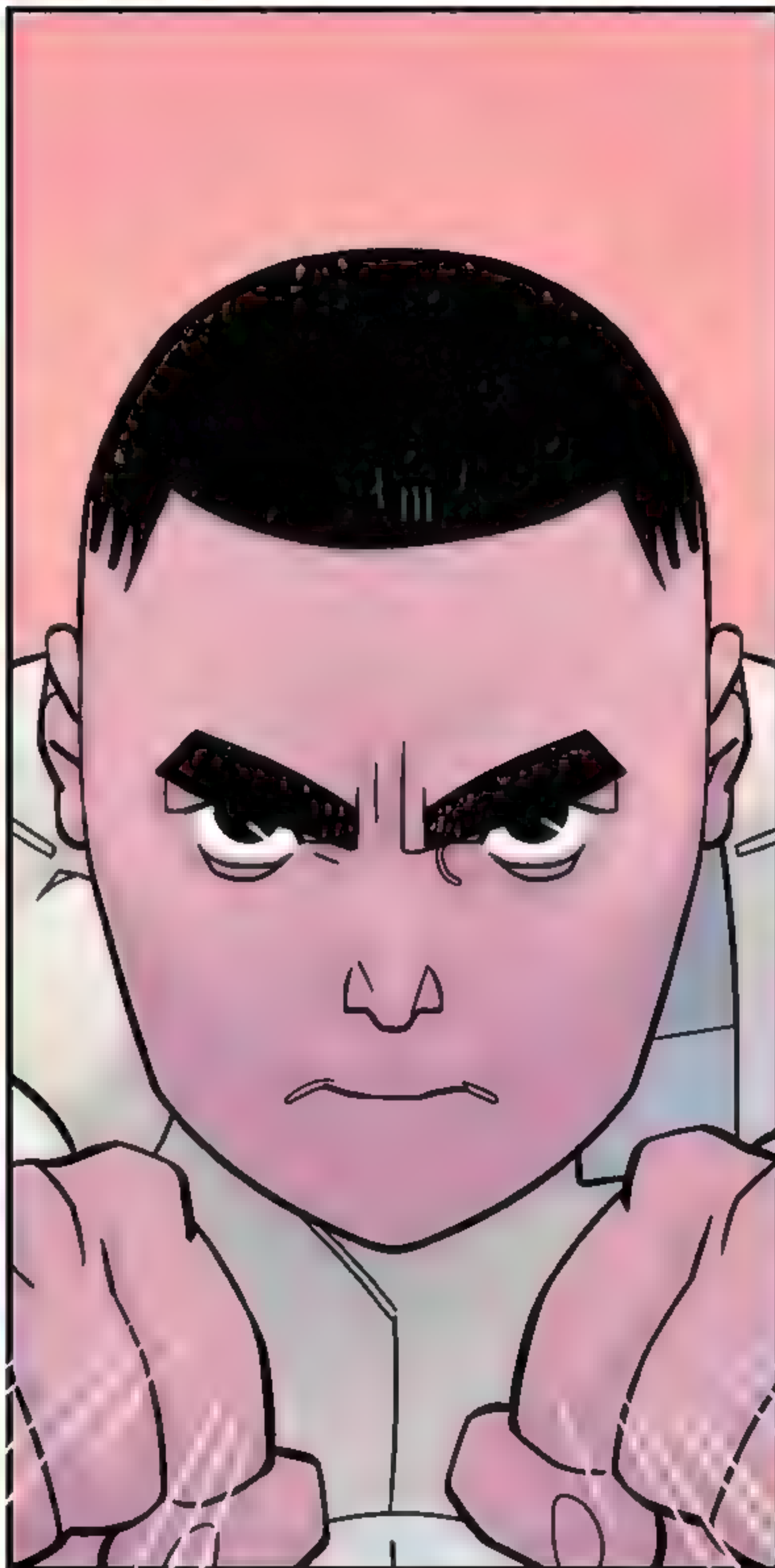
YES, DADDY.



OKAY. HOLD ON TIGHT.



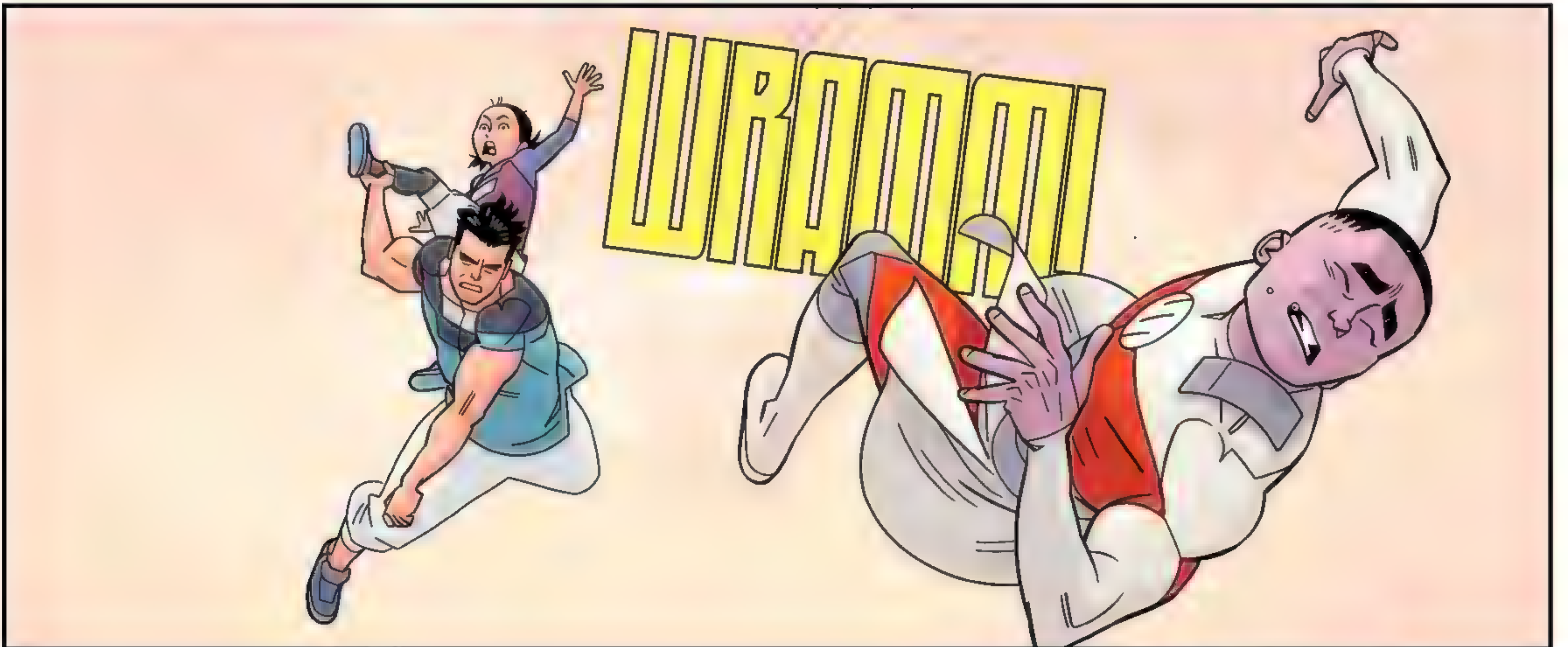
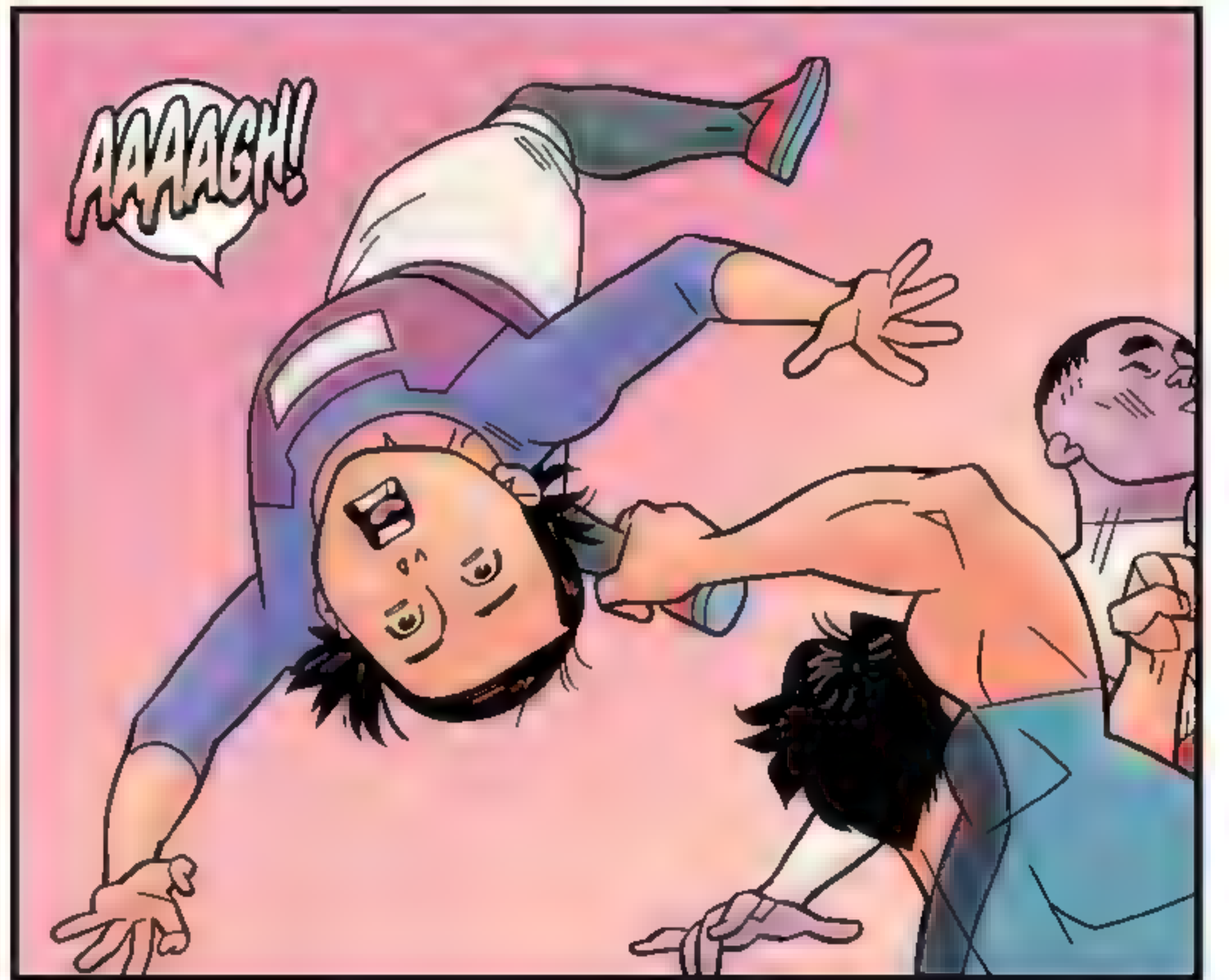


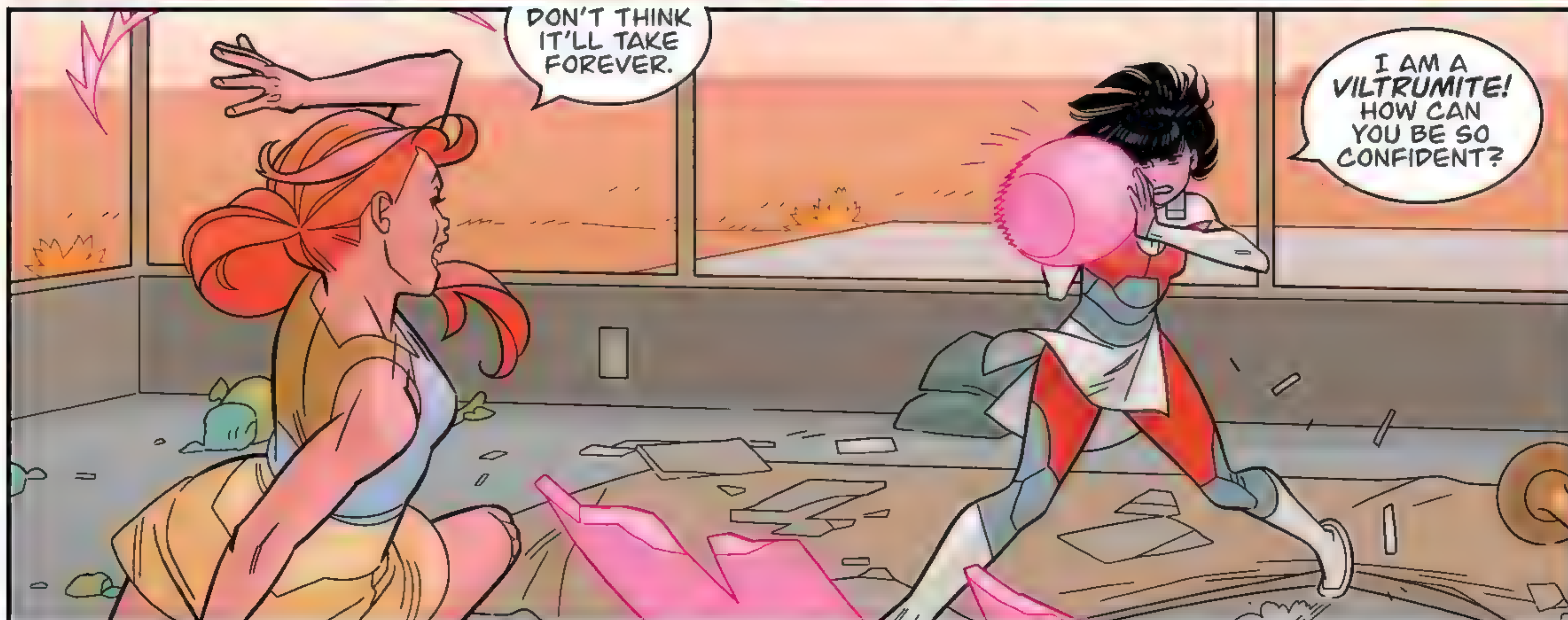
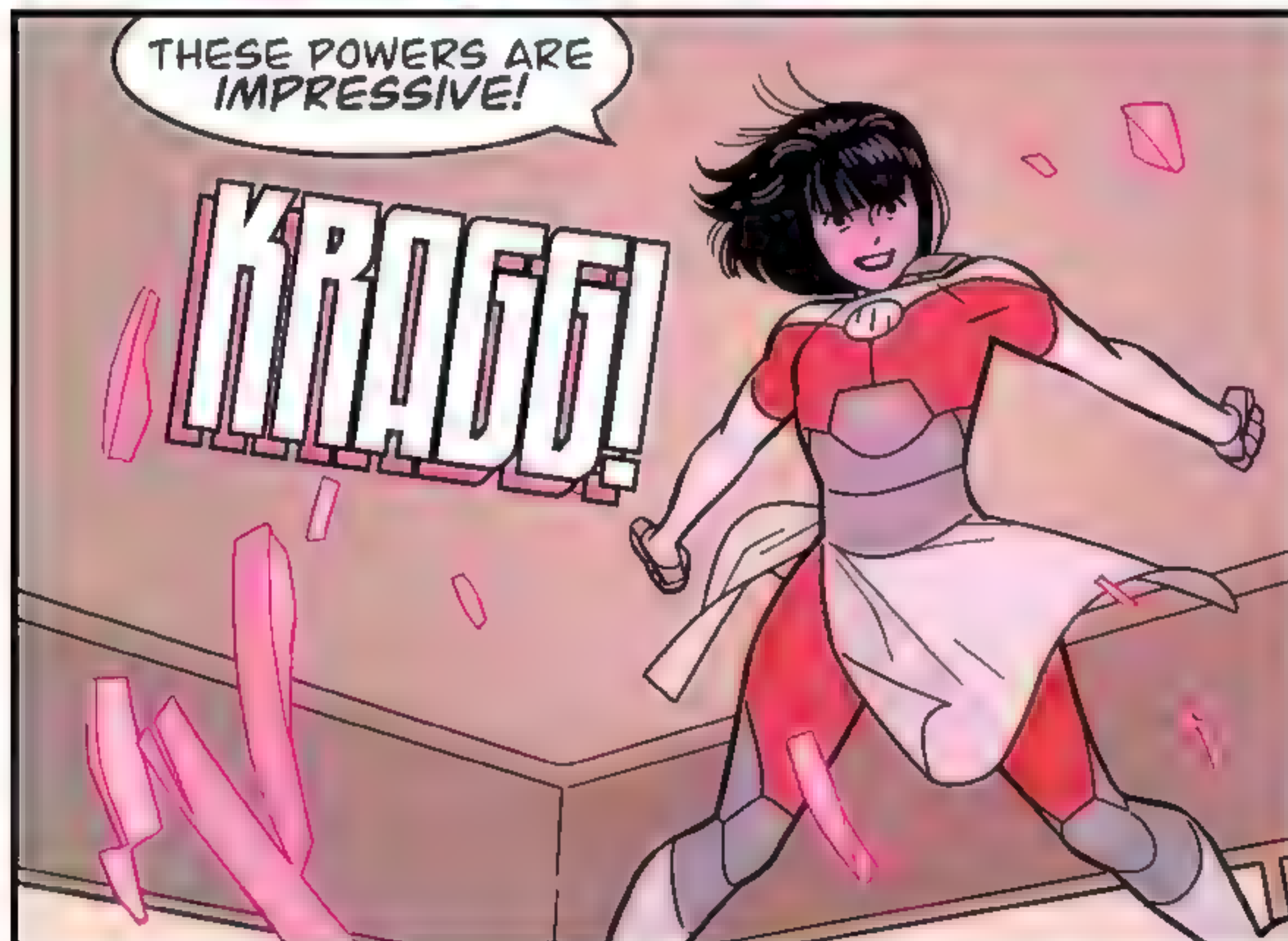
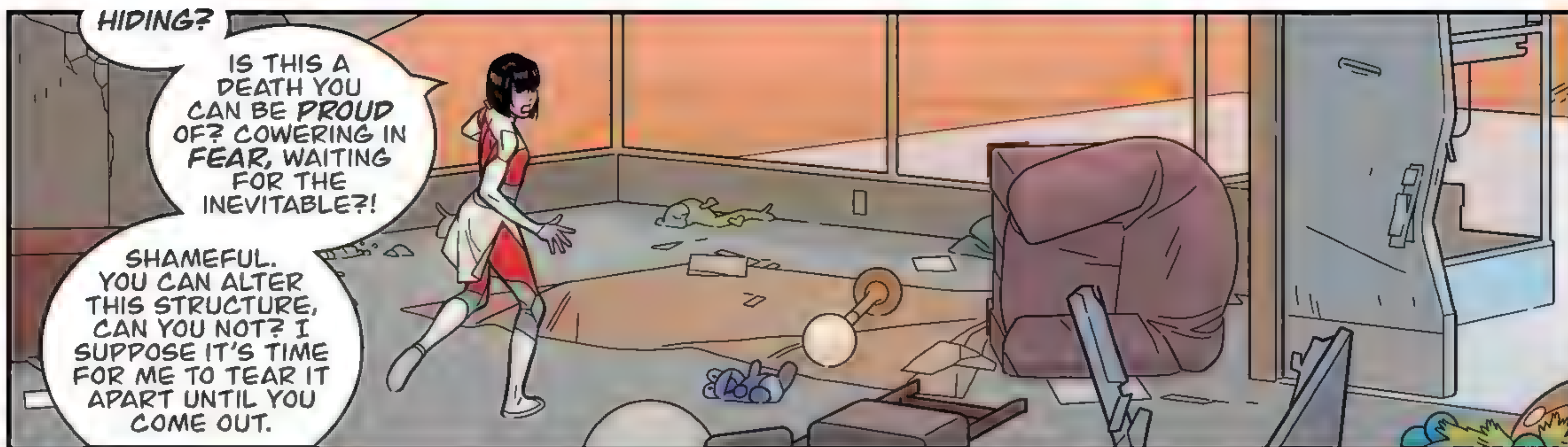


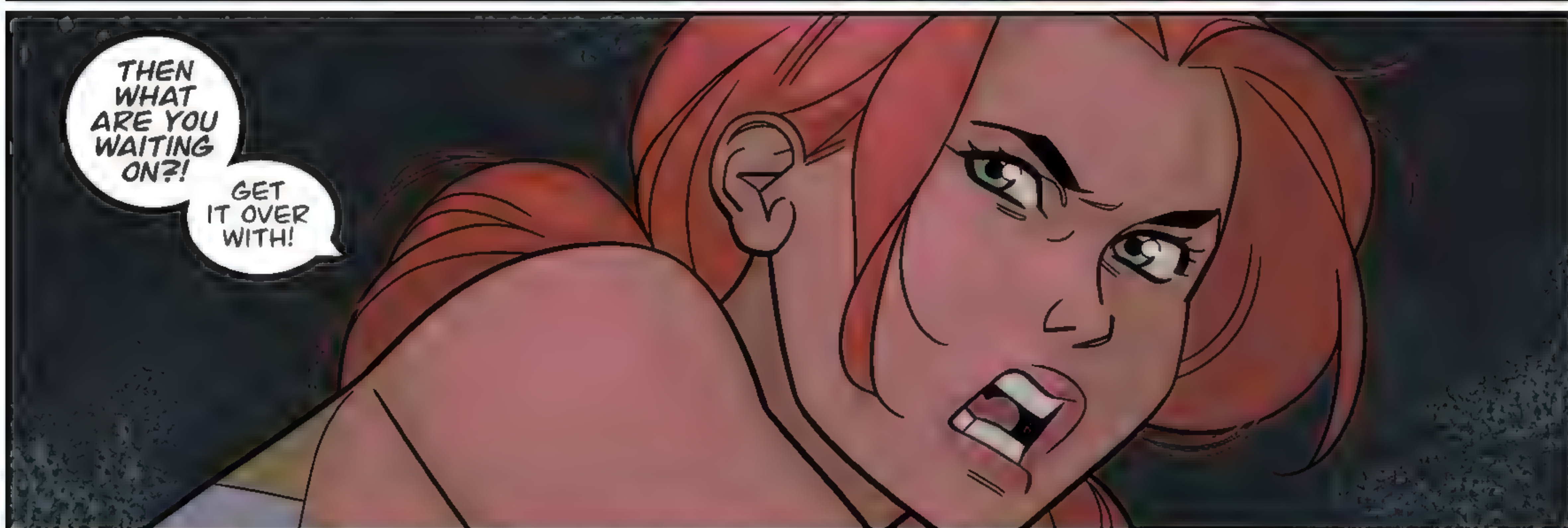
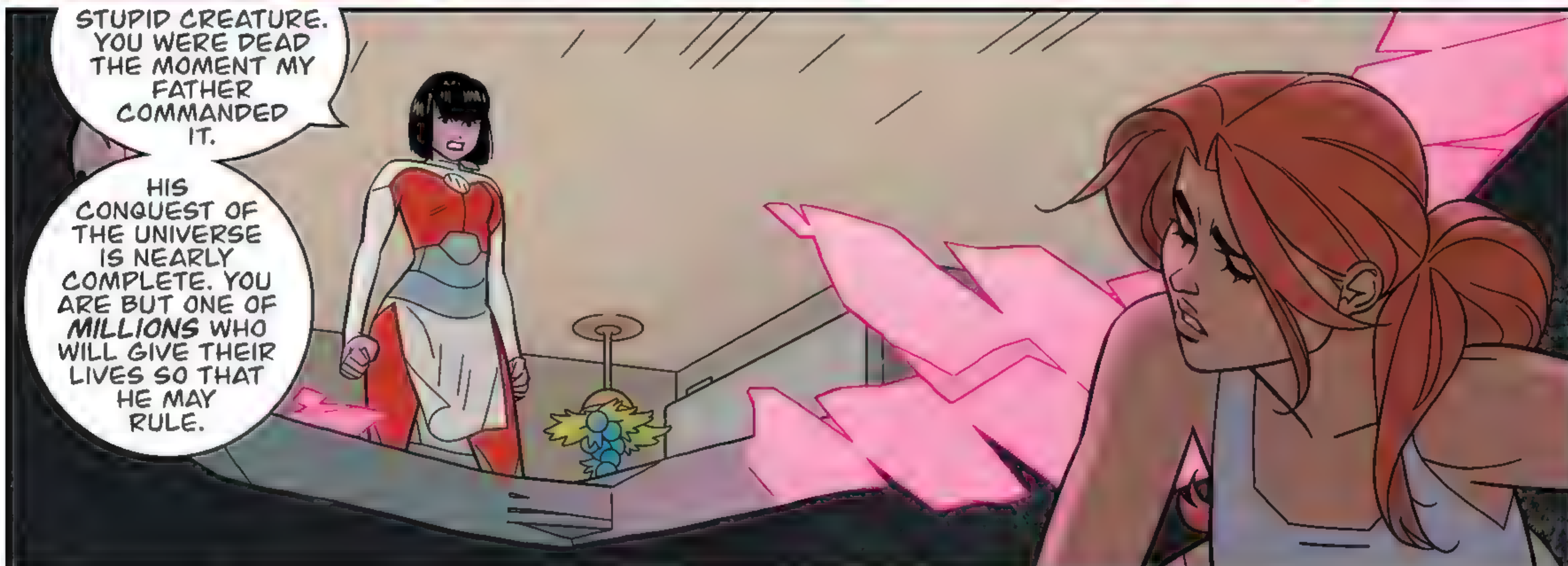
FLWA-BOOOOM!!!

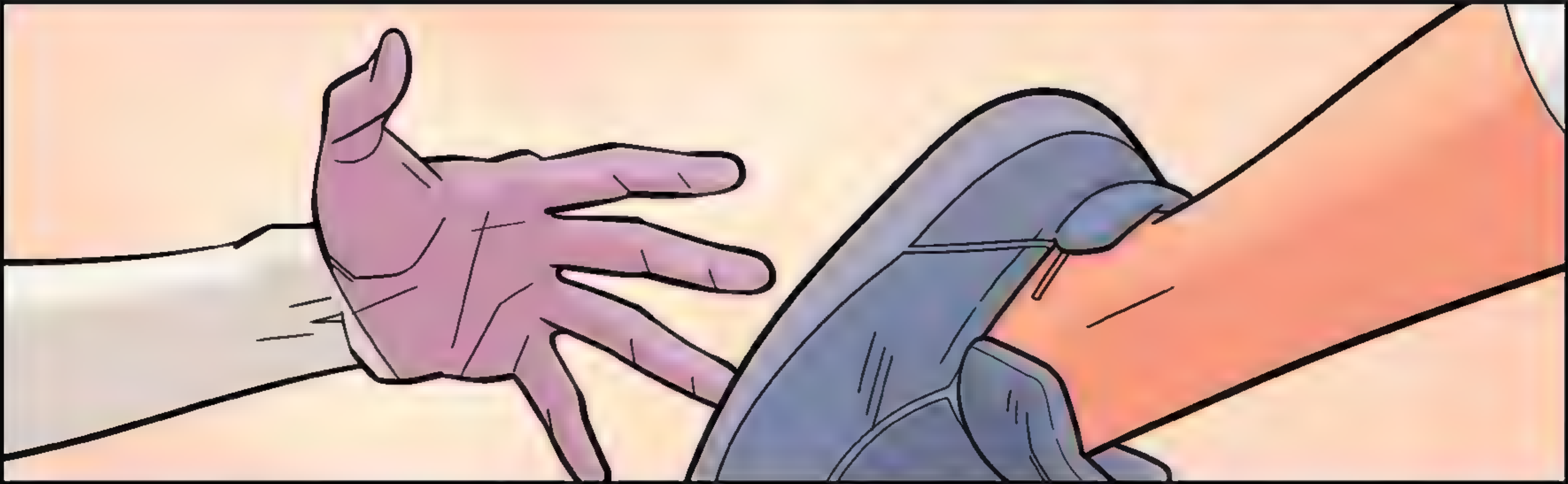
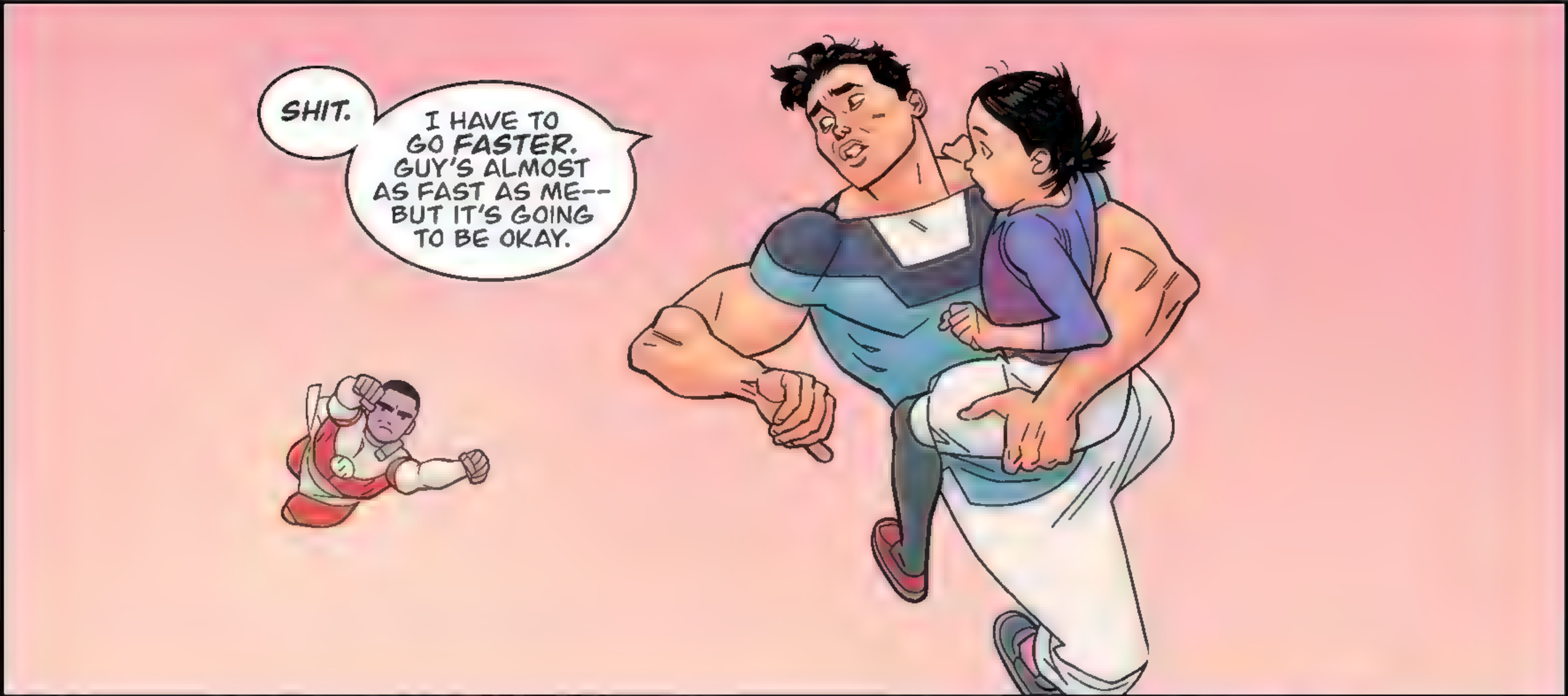














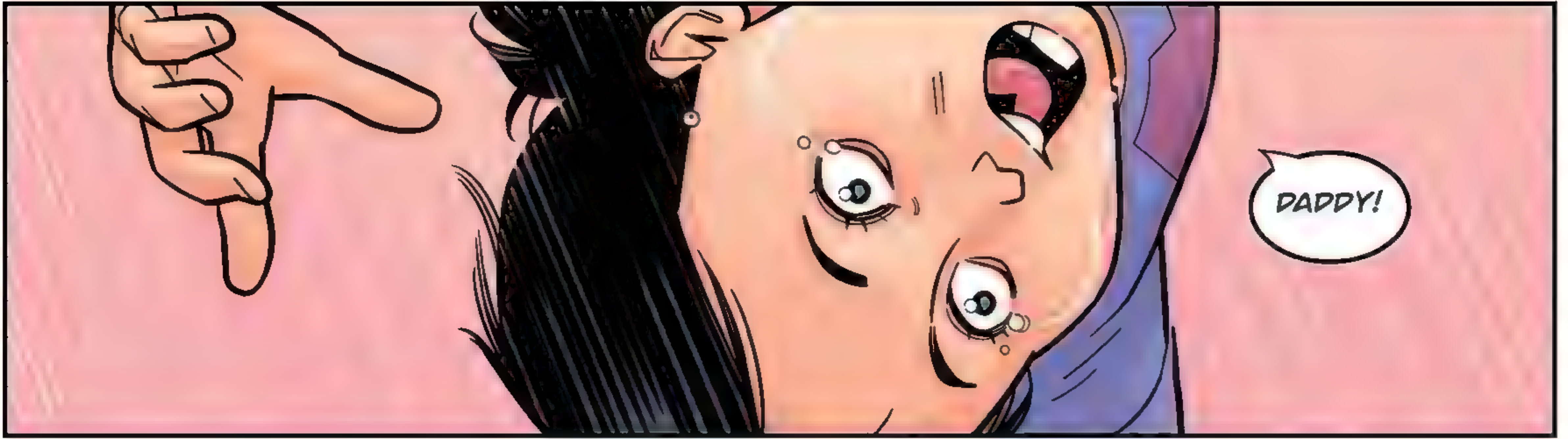


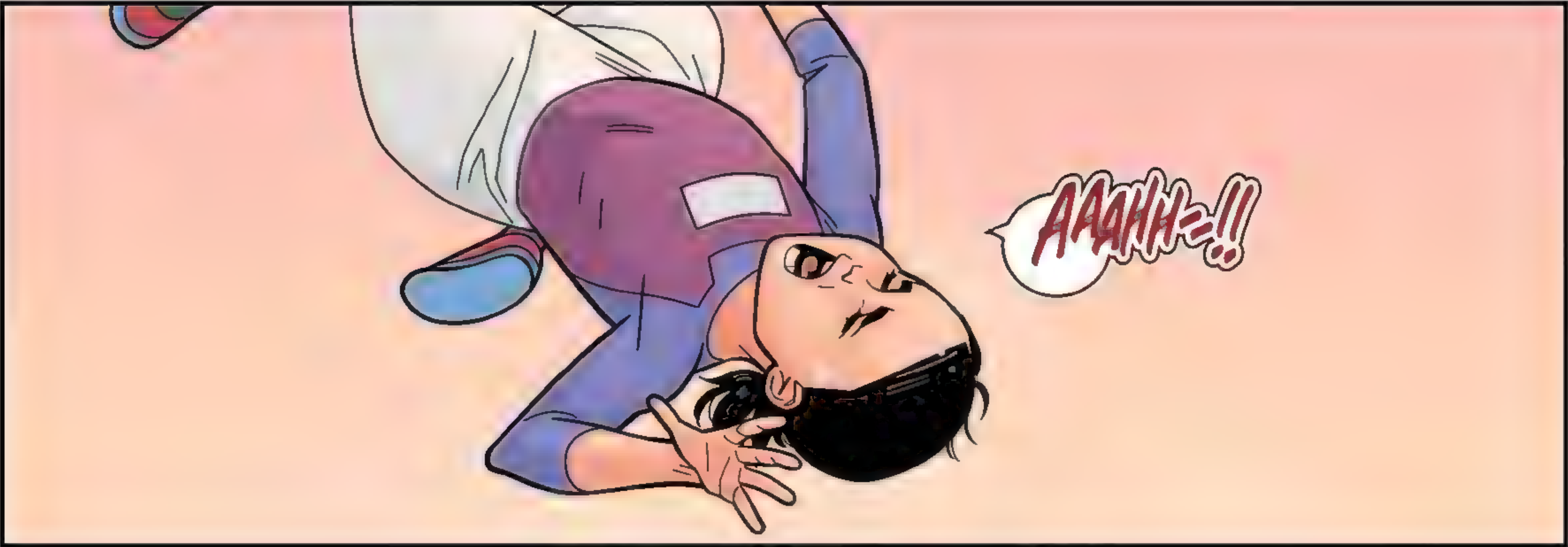




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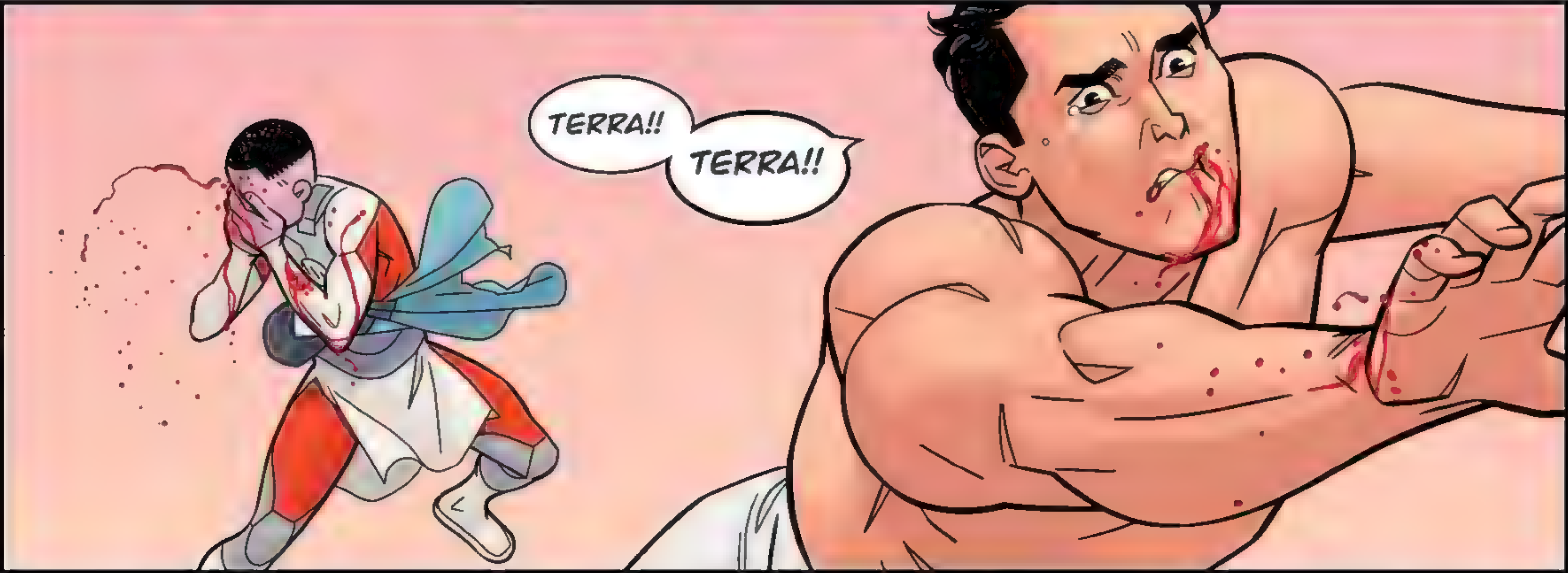


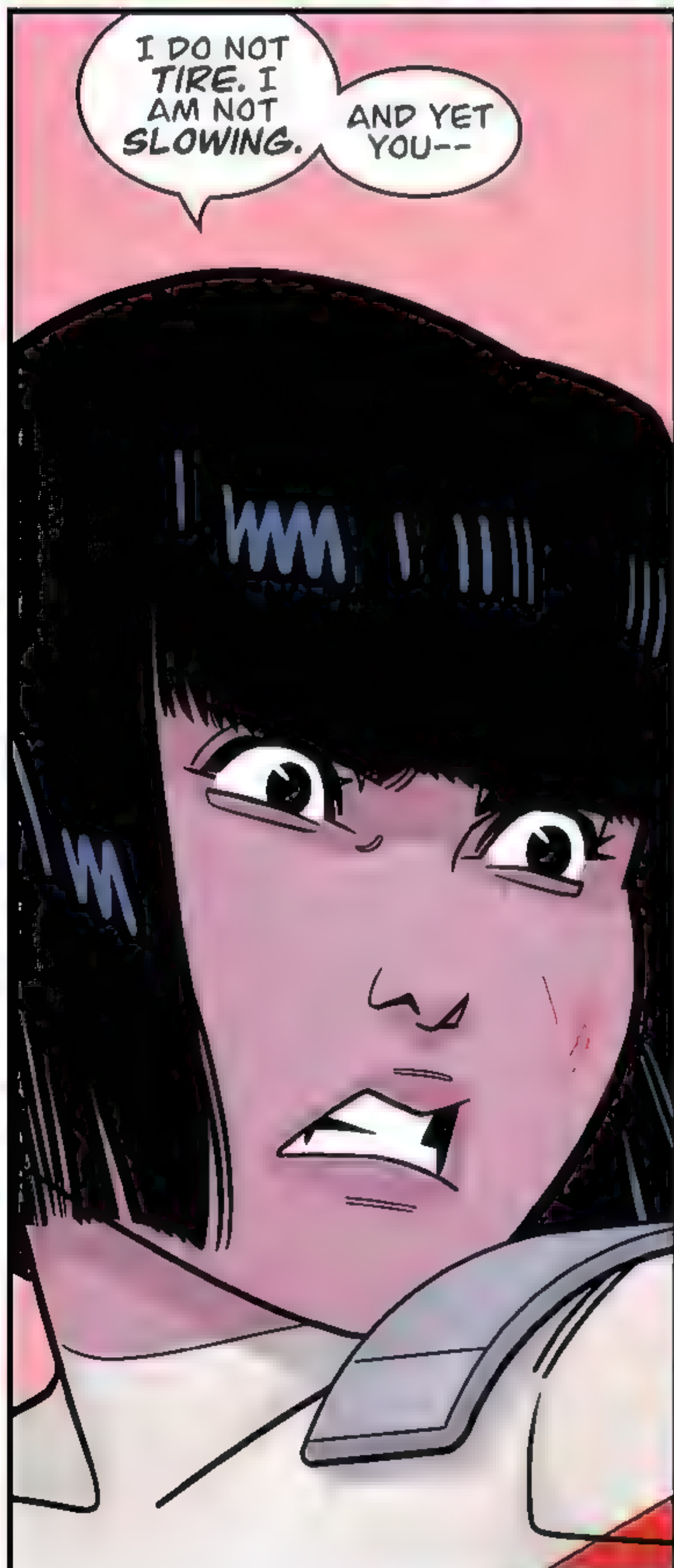
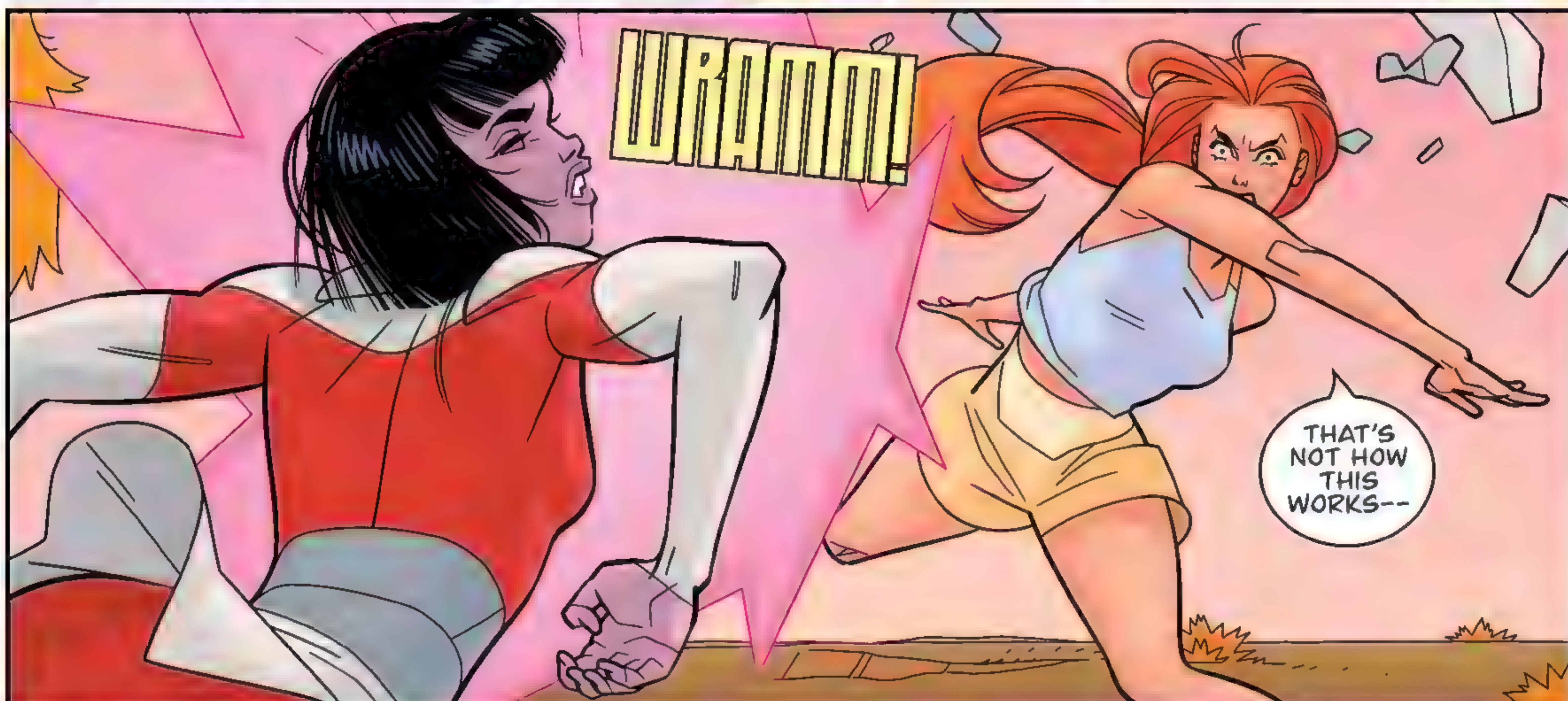
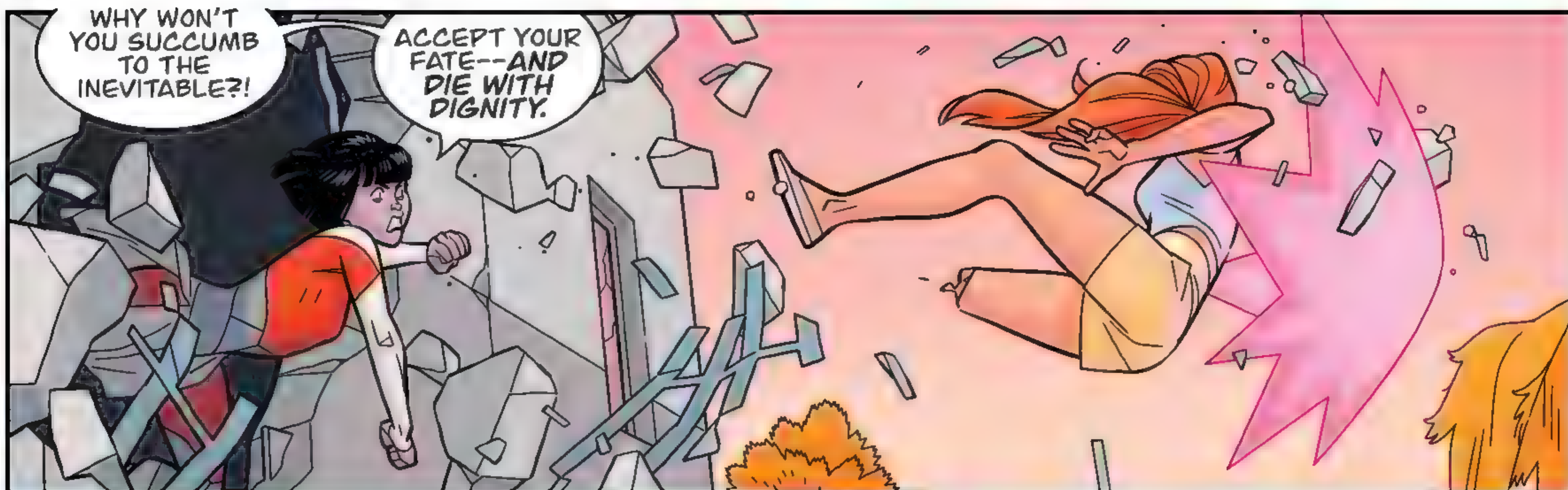
SHAME...

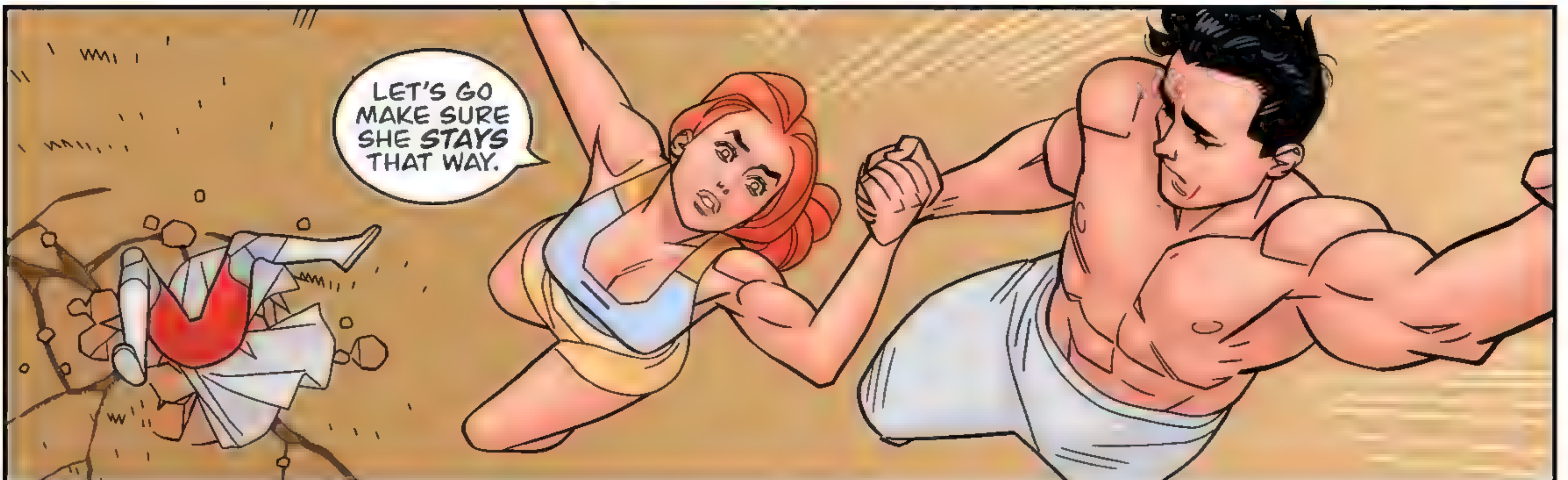
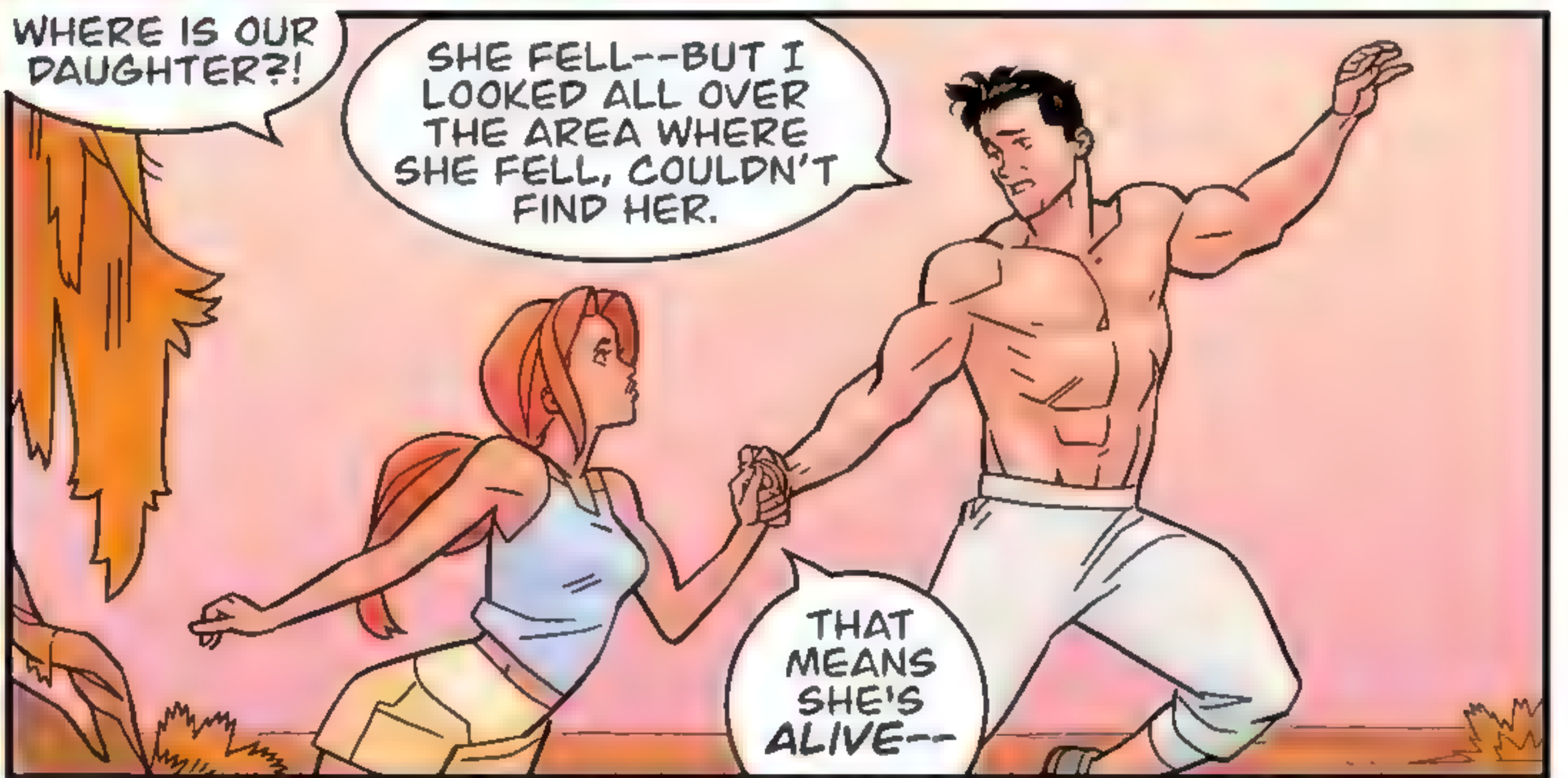
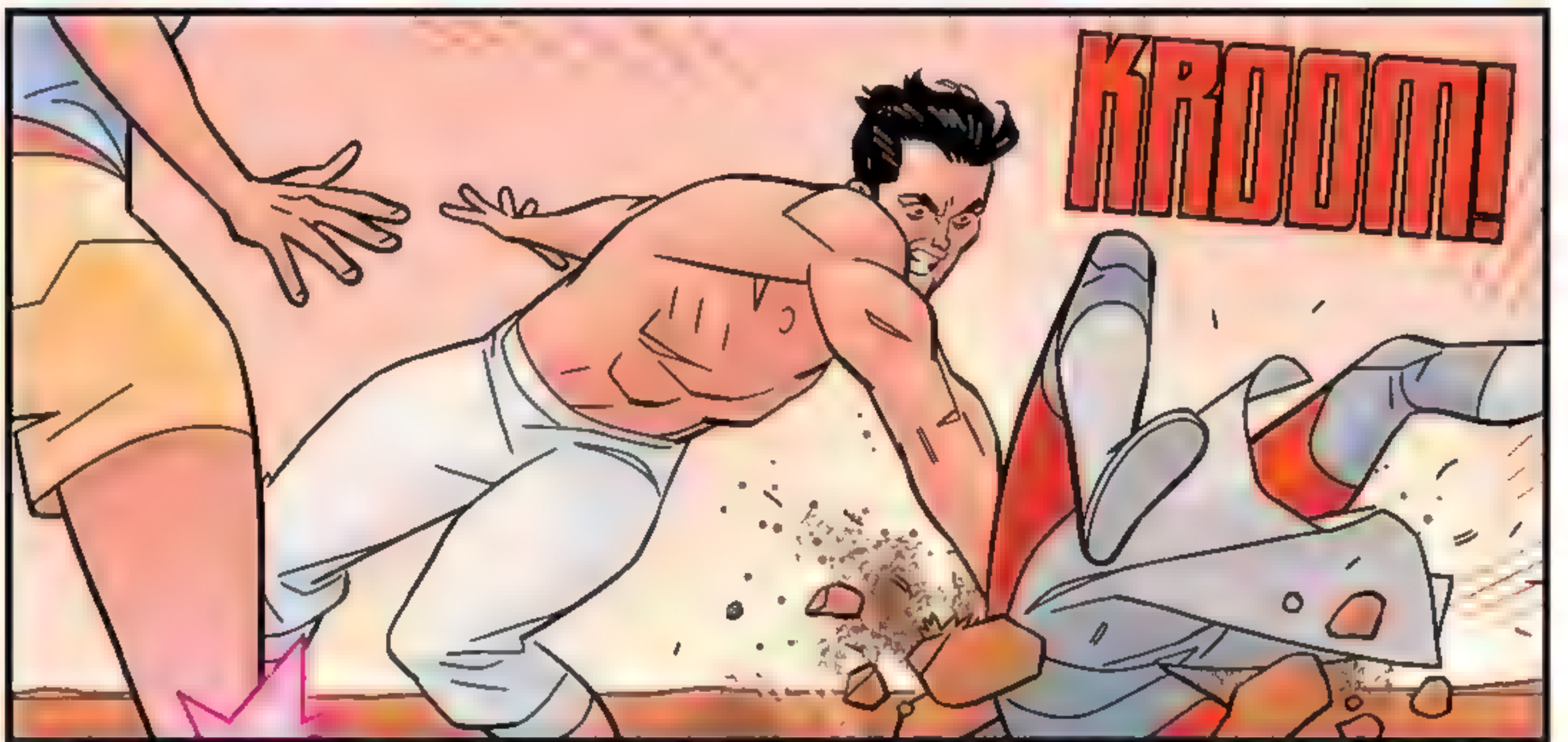
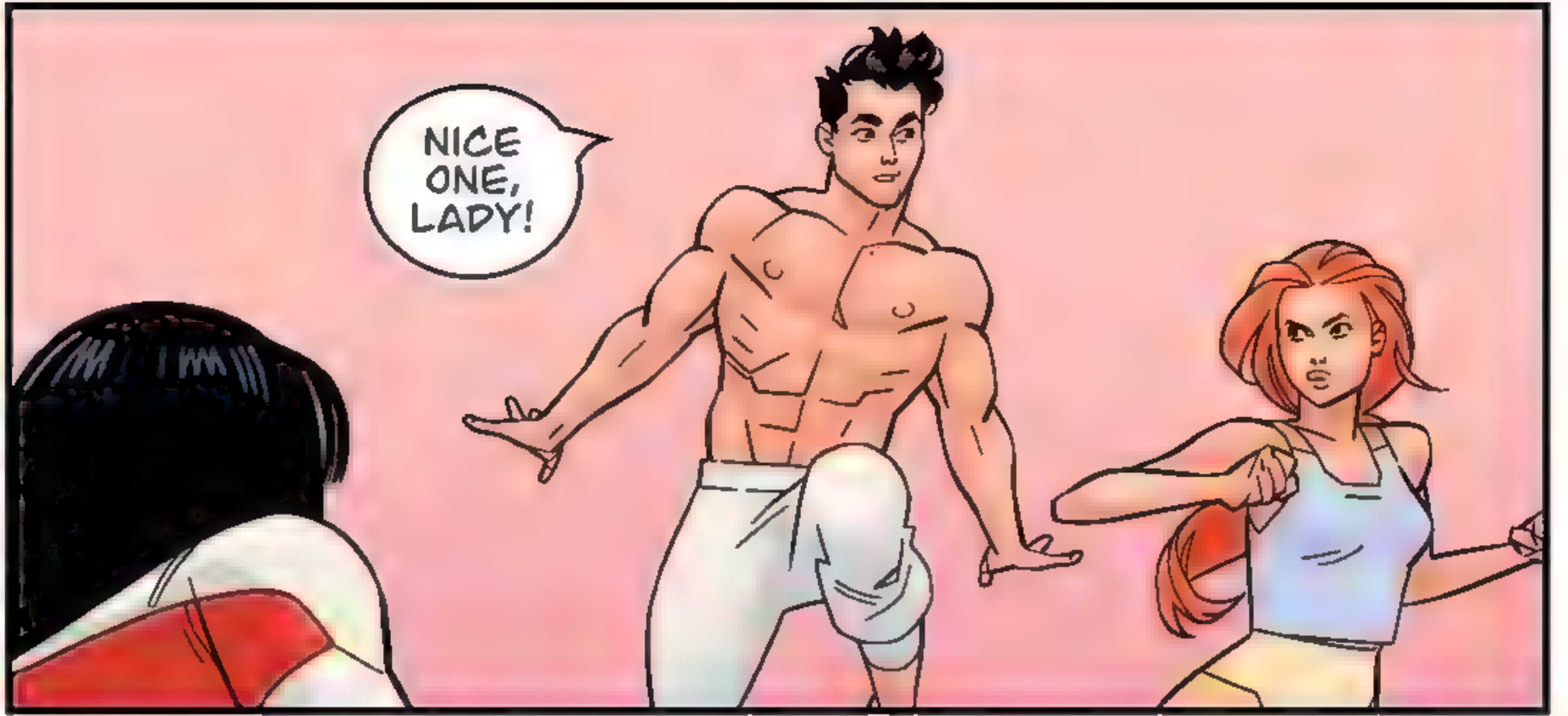
...FALLING
WOULD HAVE
BEEN A FAR
LESS PAINFUL
DEATH...

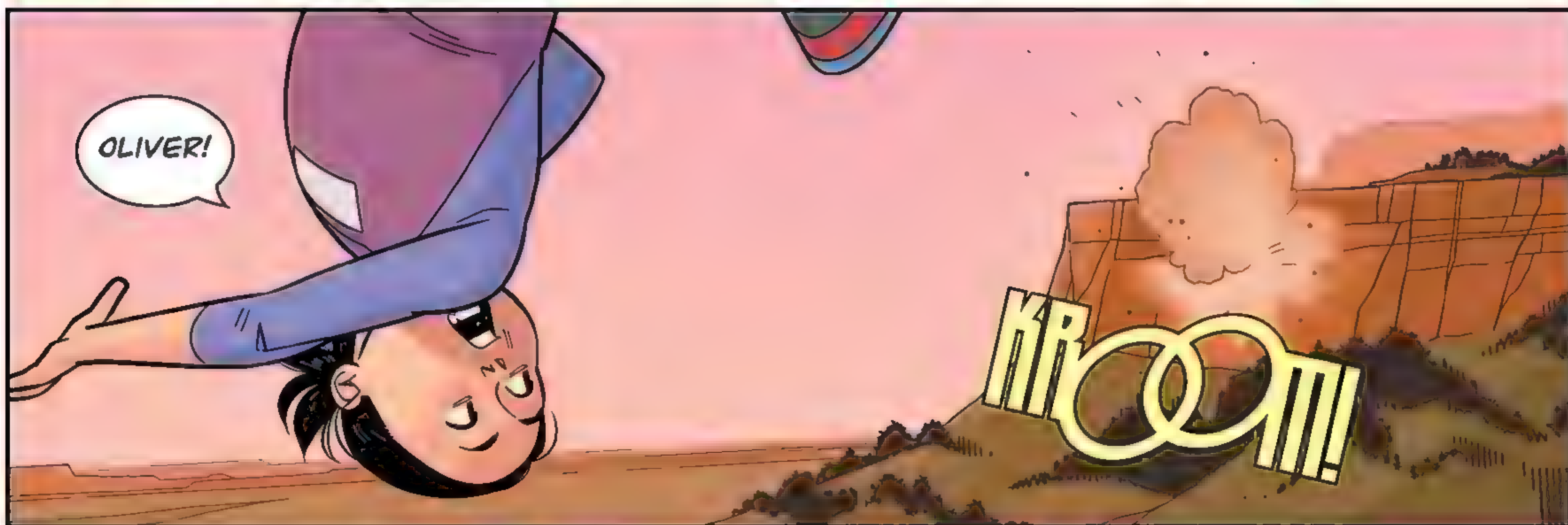


















DON'T BE AFRAID, CHILD.

IT SERVES NO PURPOSE.

IT WON'T SAVE YOU.



WHAT IS TAKING THOSE PARENTS OF YOURS SO LONG, ANYWAY?

SURELY THEY--



YOU HAVE MY DAUGHTER. I HAVE YOUR SON.

THIS CAN END HERE. JUST LET HER GO.

JUST... THRAGG... DON'T KILL HER.

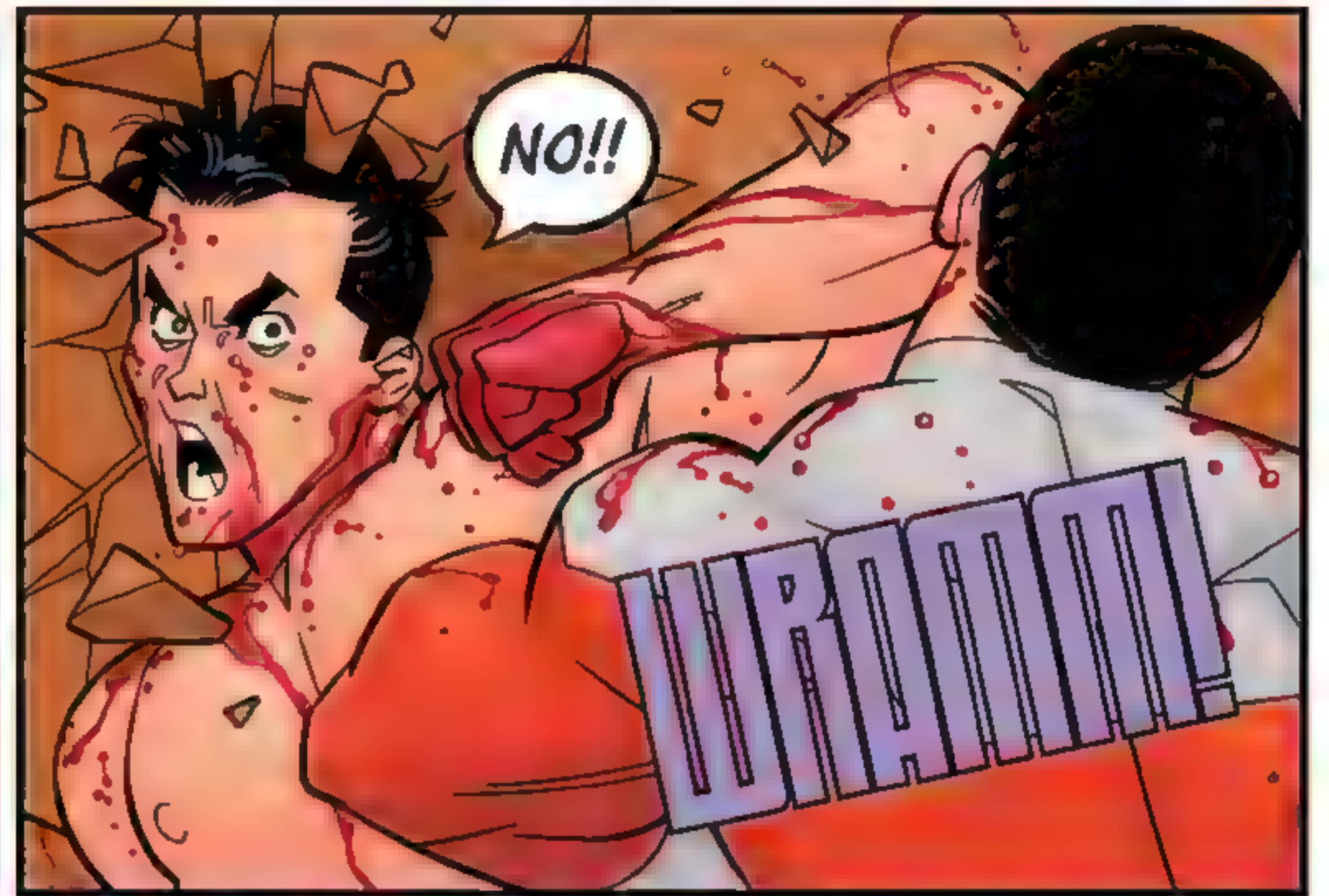
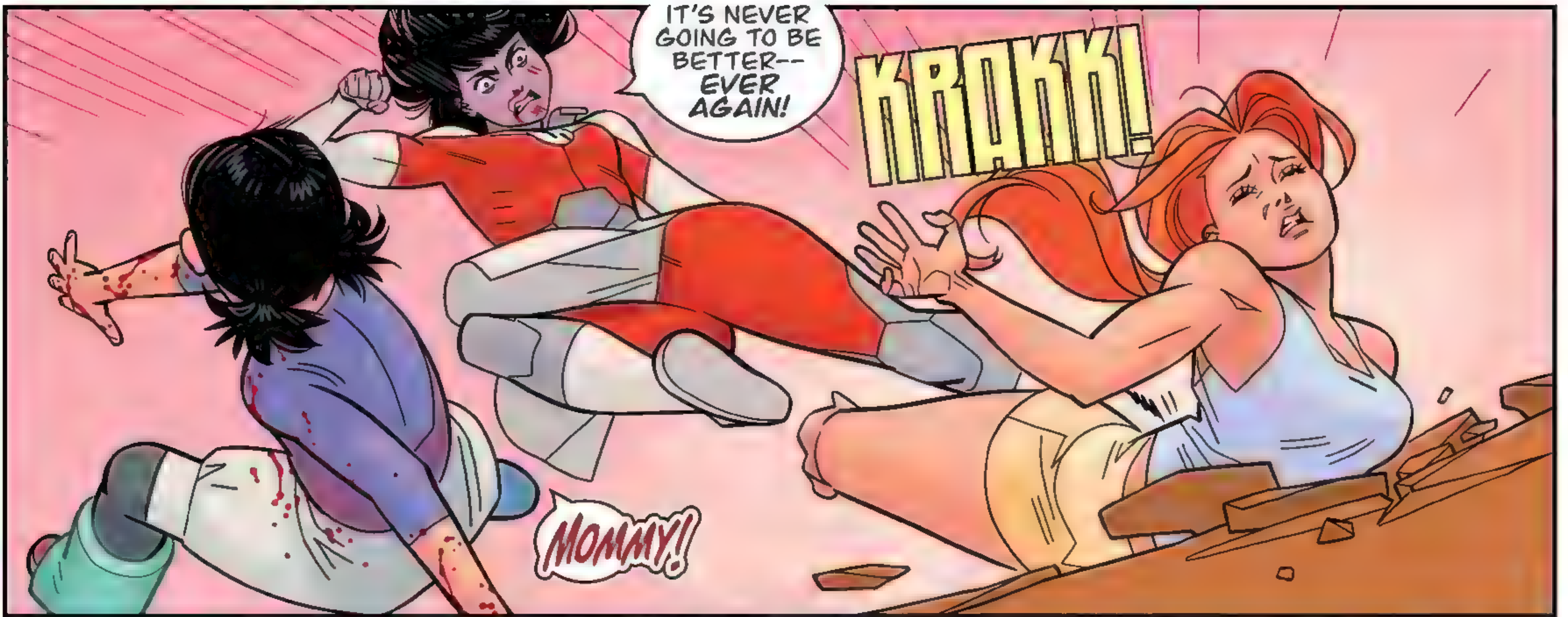


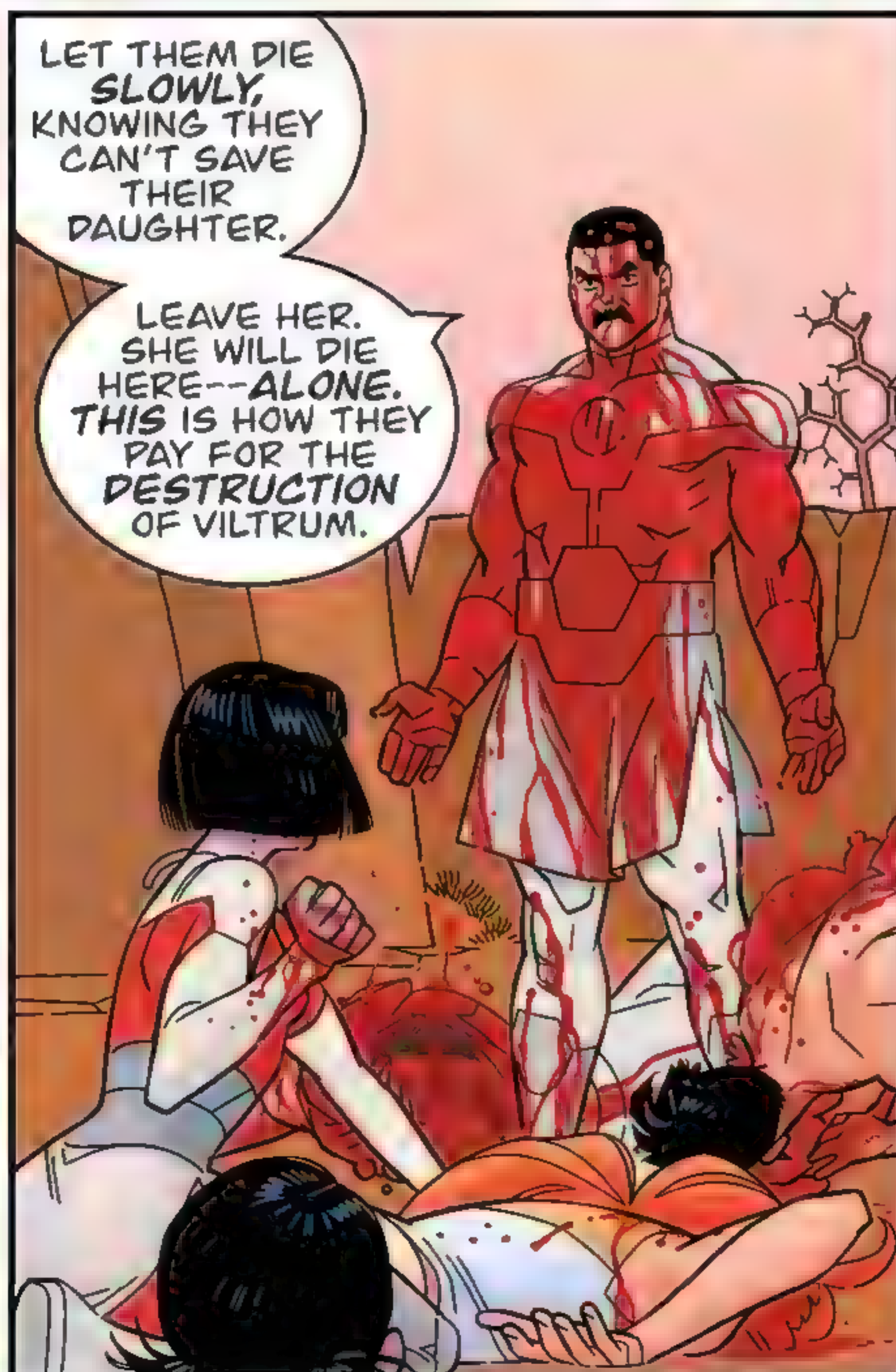
YOUR BROTHER BETRAYED YOU. HE WAS WORKING FOR ME... BUT HE JUST COULDN'T LET ME KILL YOU. THAT MAKES HIM **USELESS TO ME**. A TRAITOR TO HIS KIND--SEEMS TO RUN IN YOUR FAMILY, DOESN'T IT?

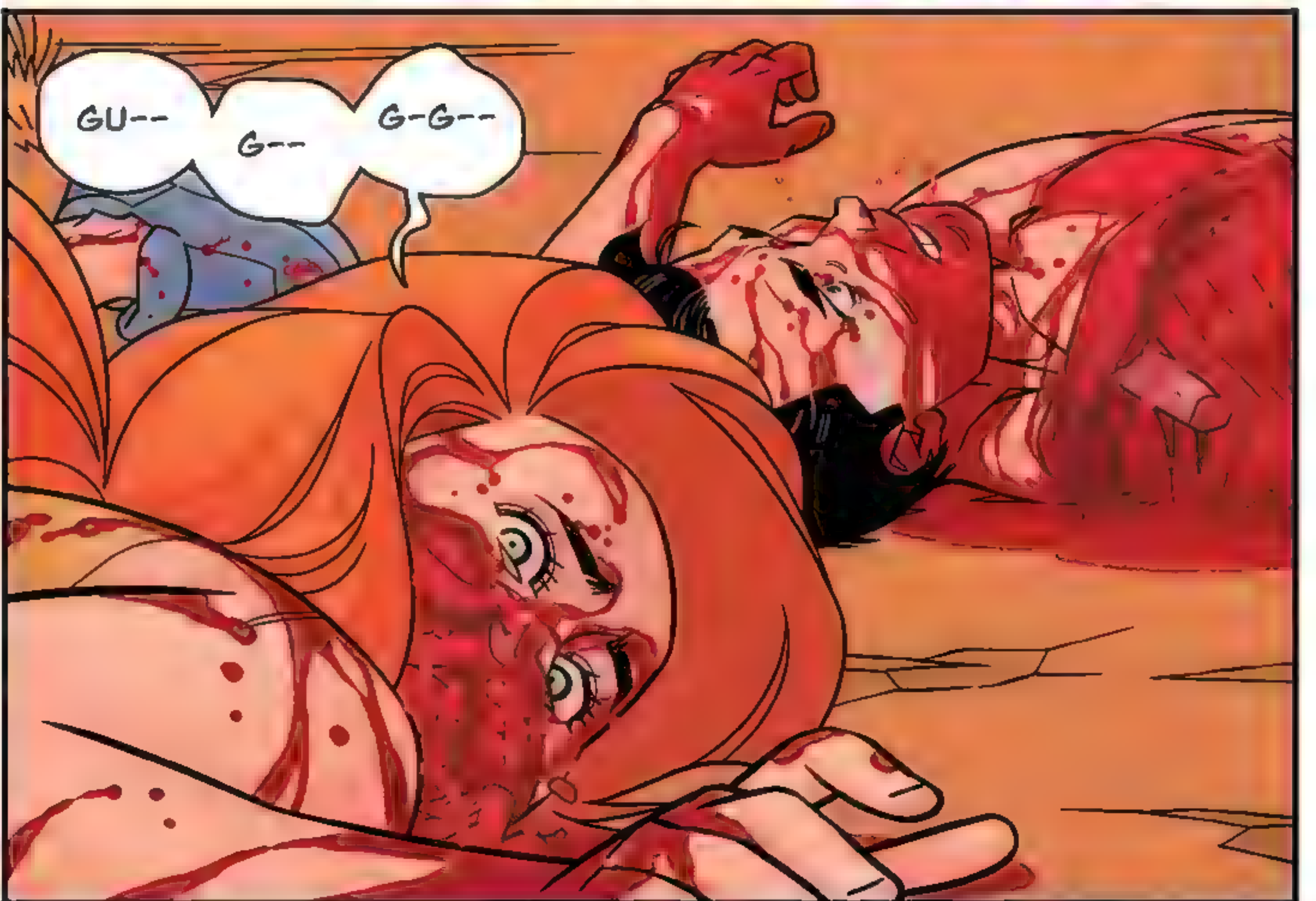
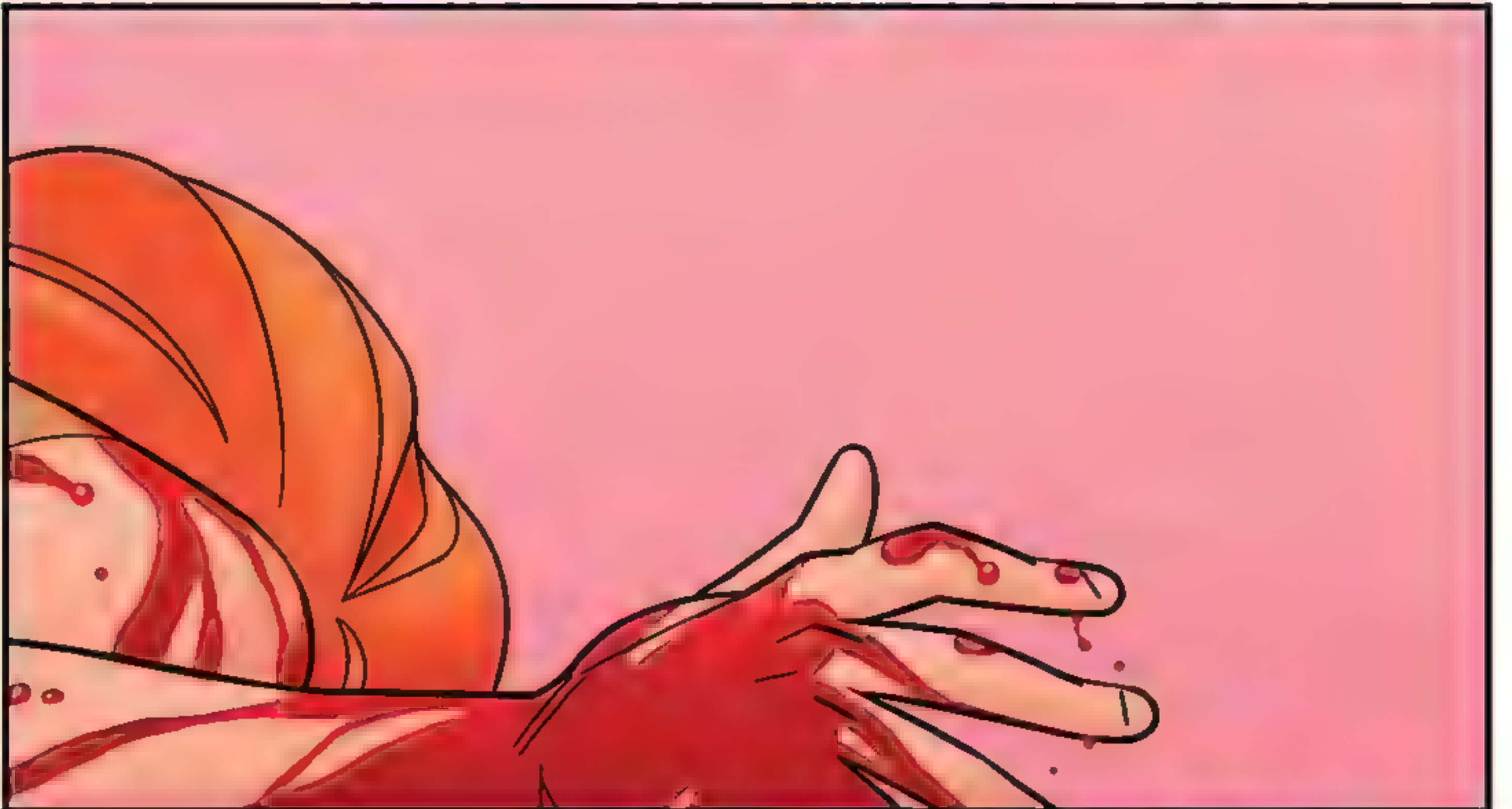
YOU THINK I BELIEVE FOR ONE SECOND MY CHILD IS IN DANGER? YOU FIGHT FOR WHAT'S **RIGHT**. THAT'S YOUR WEAKNESS. YOU ALWAYS DO WHAT IS **HEROIC**.

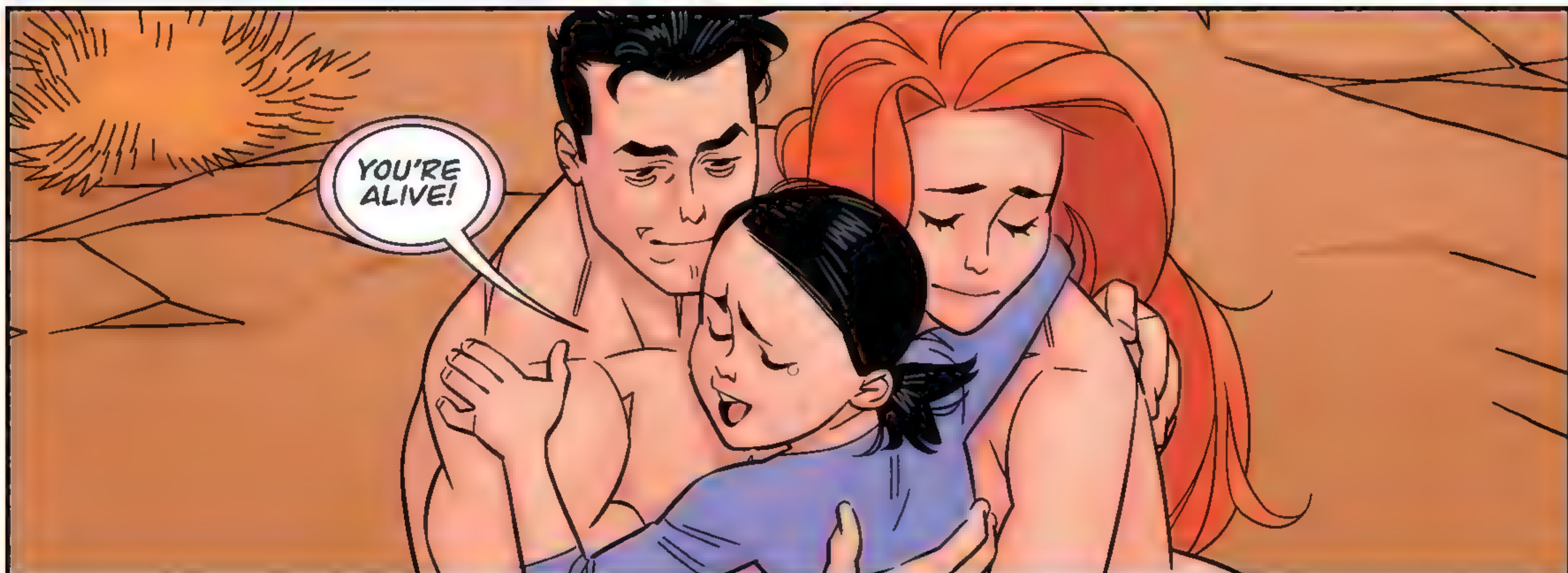
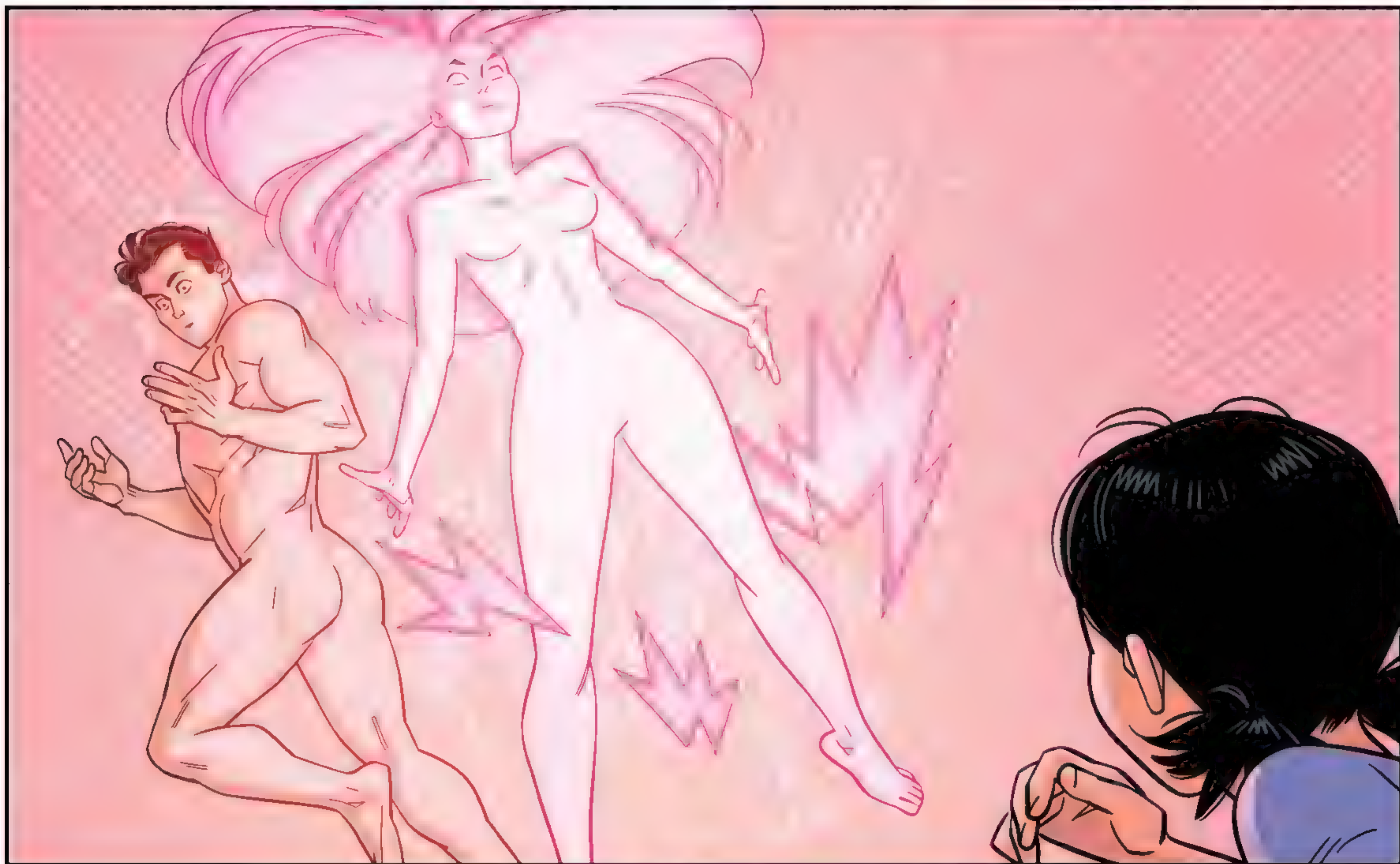
THAT'S WHY EVERYONE AROUND YOU WILL DIE.

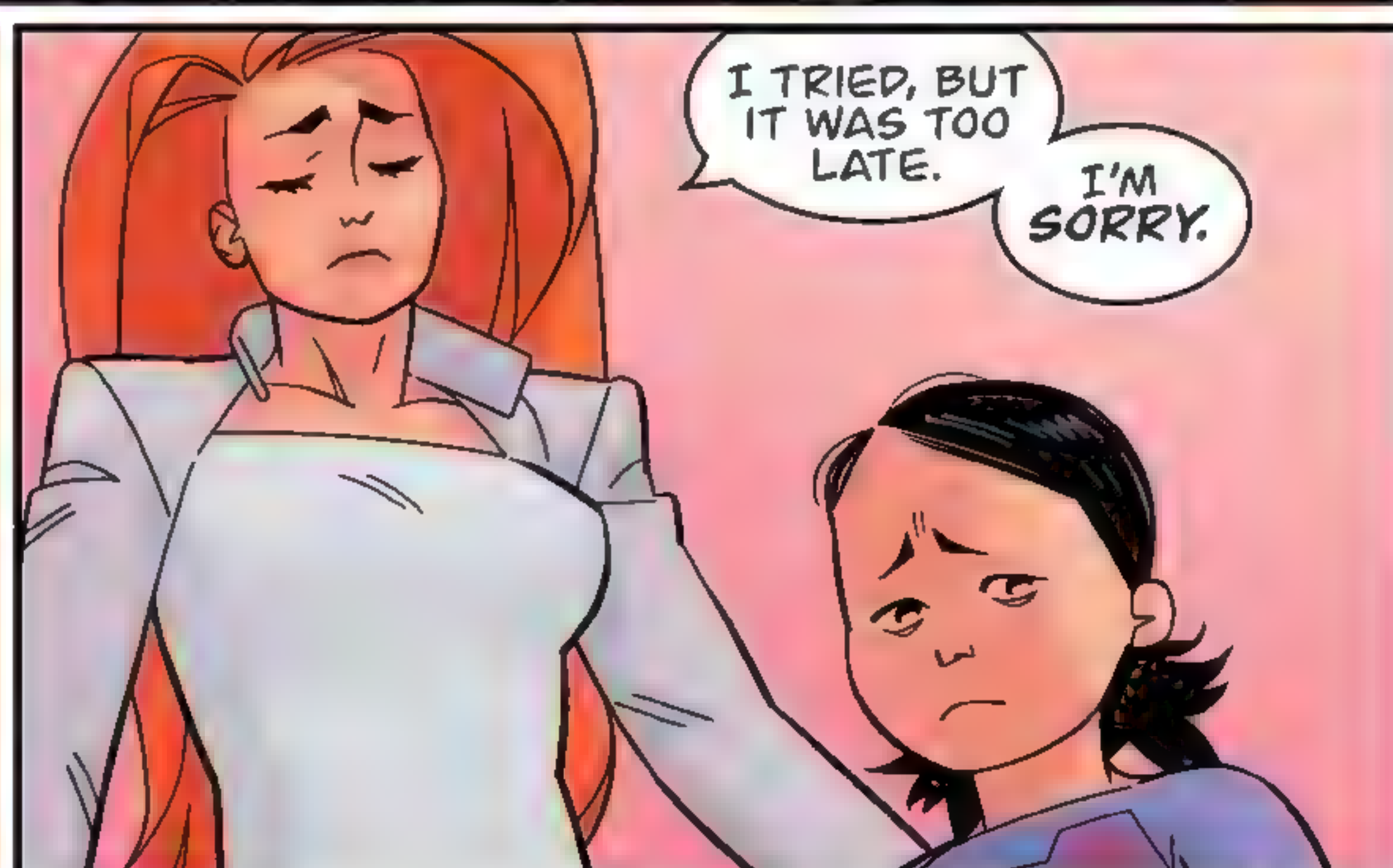
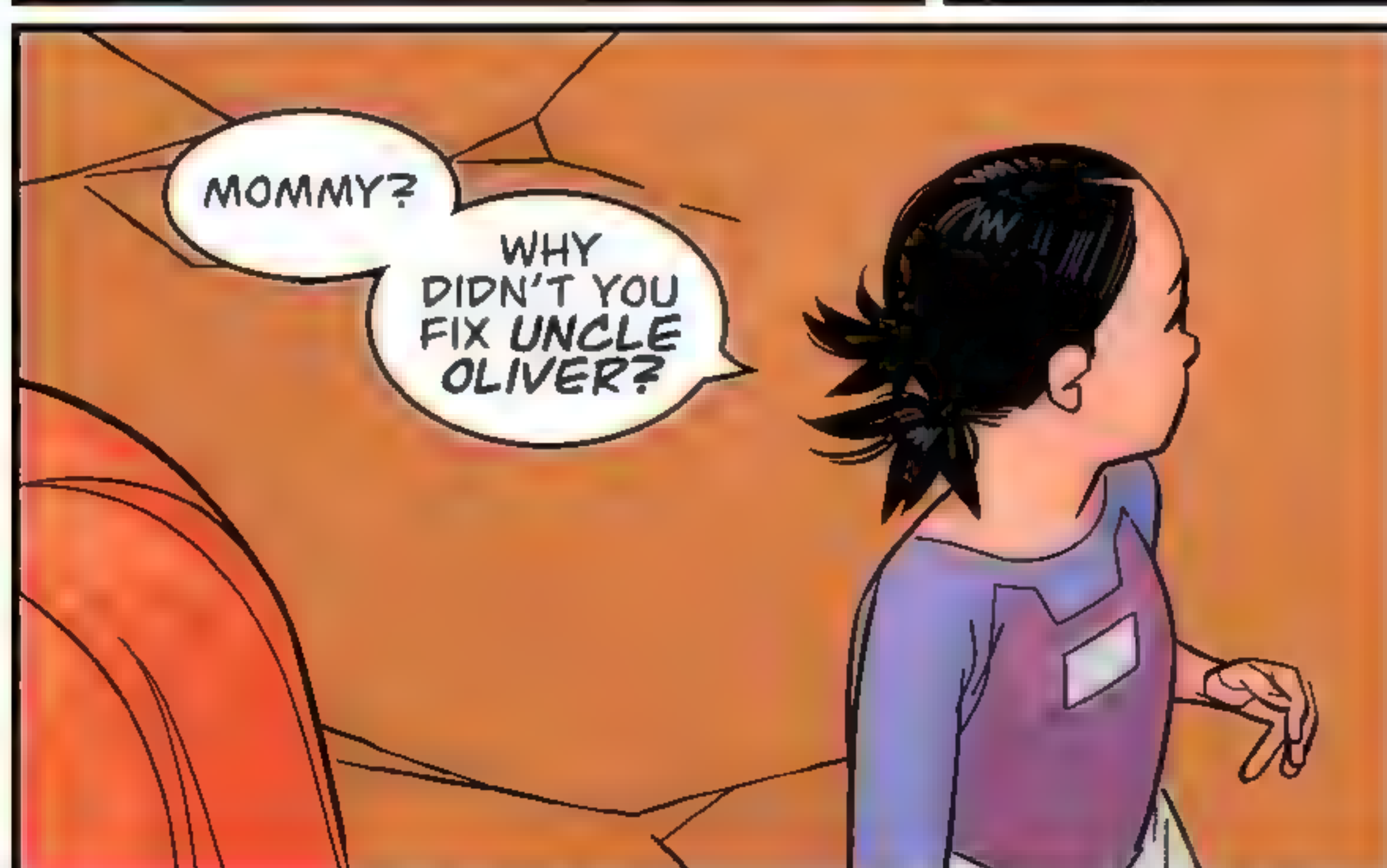
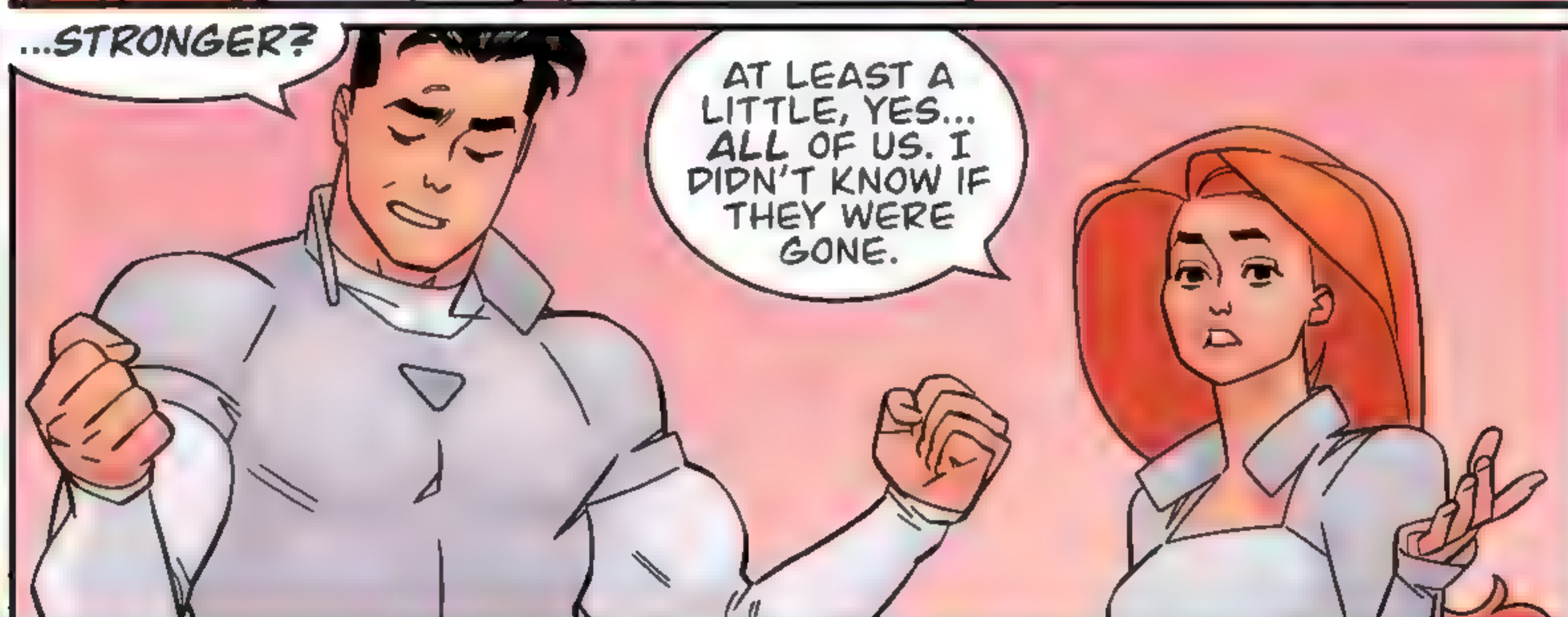
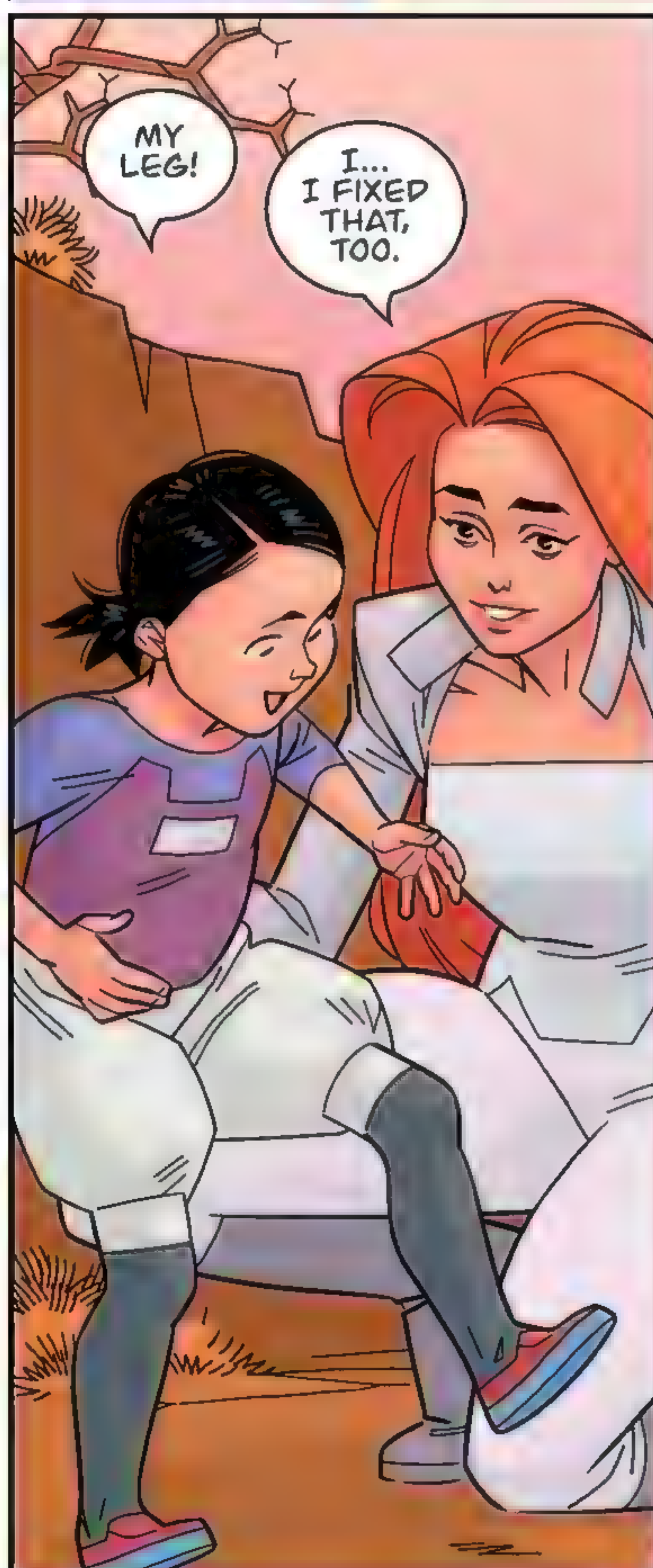
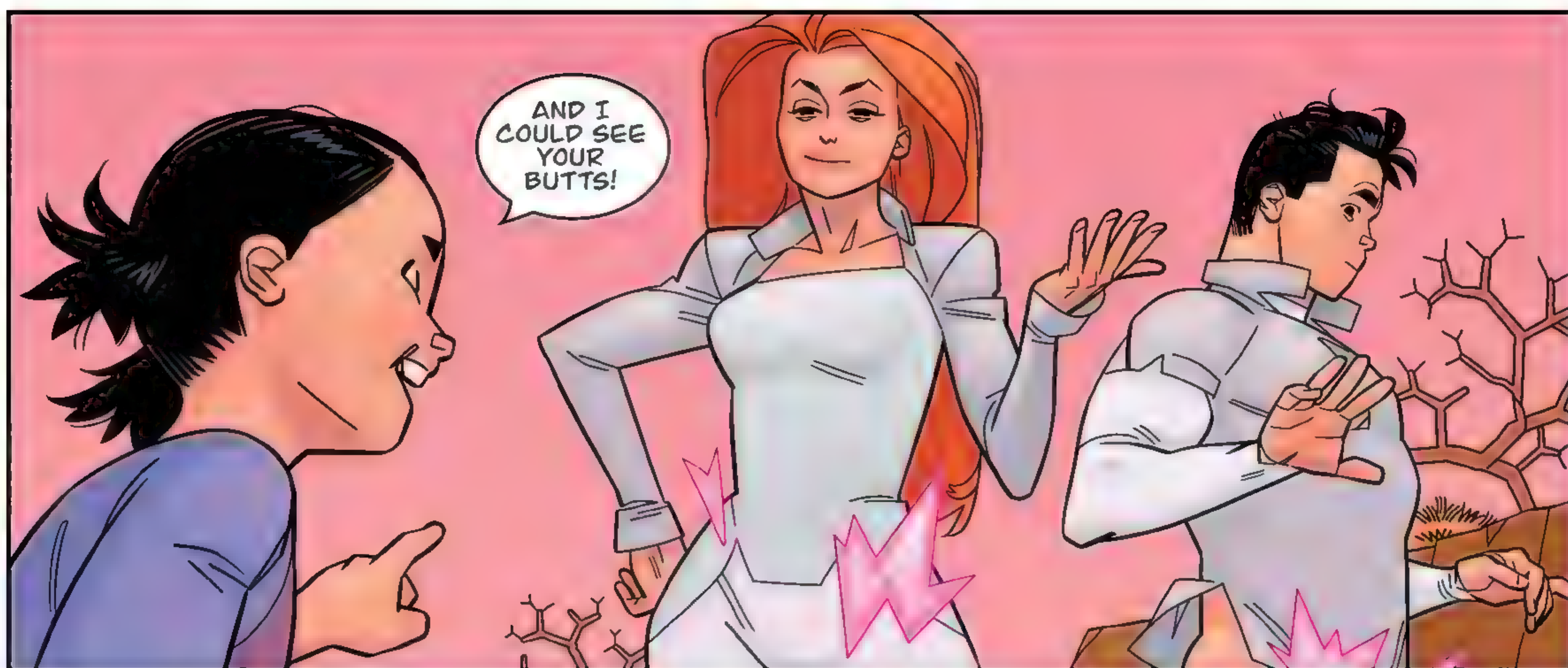


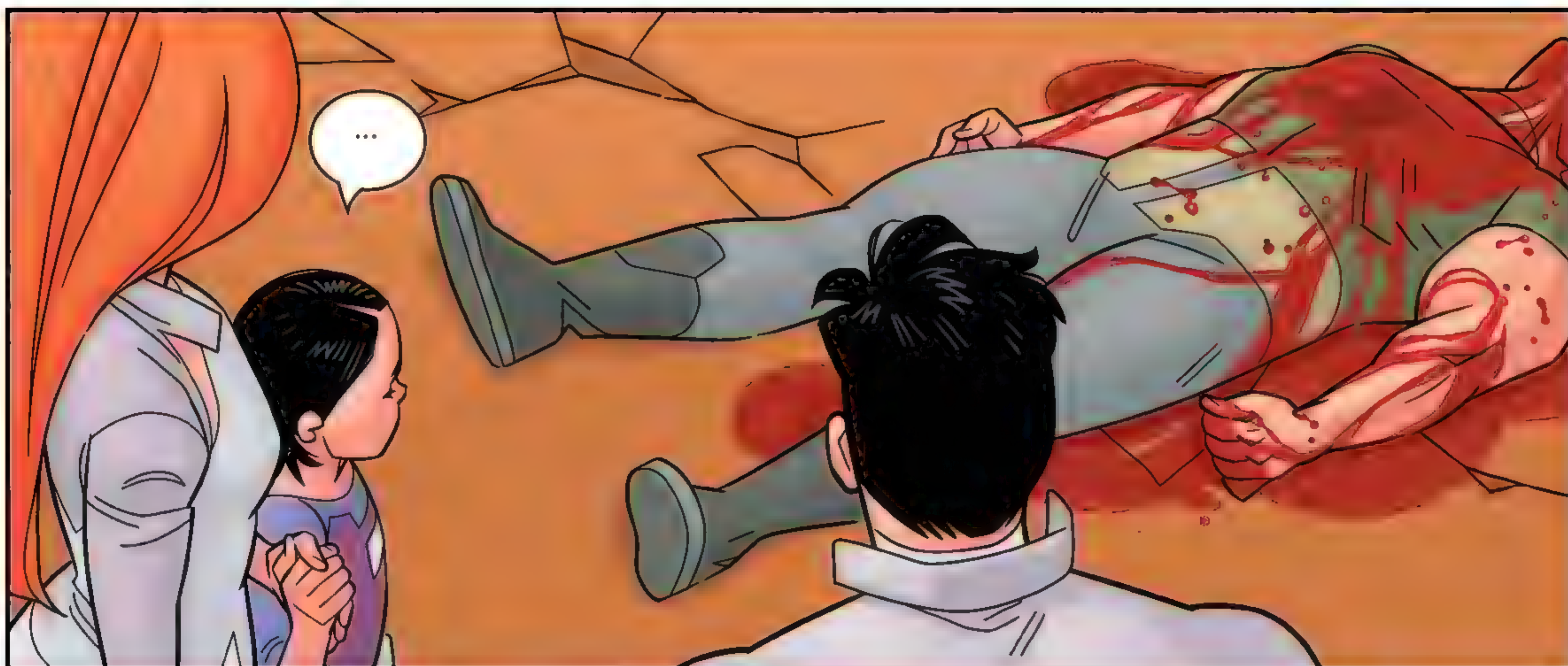




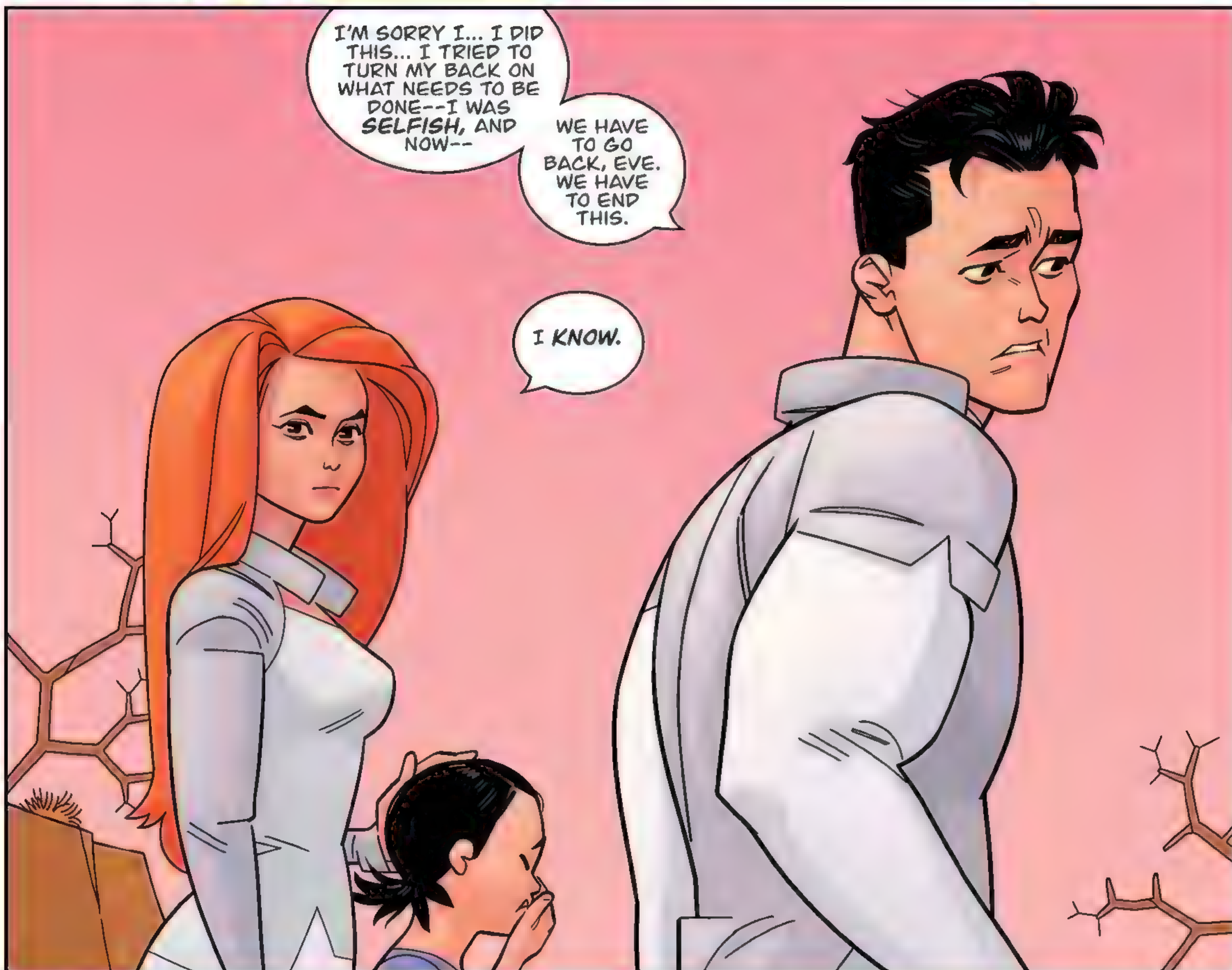








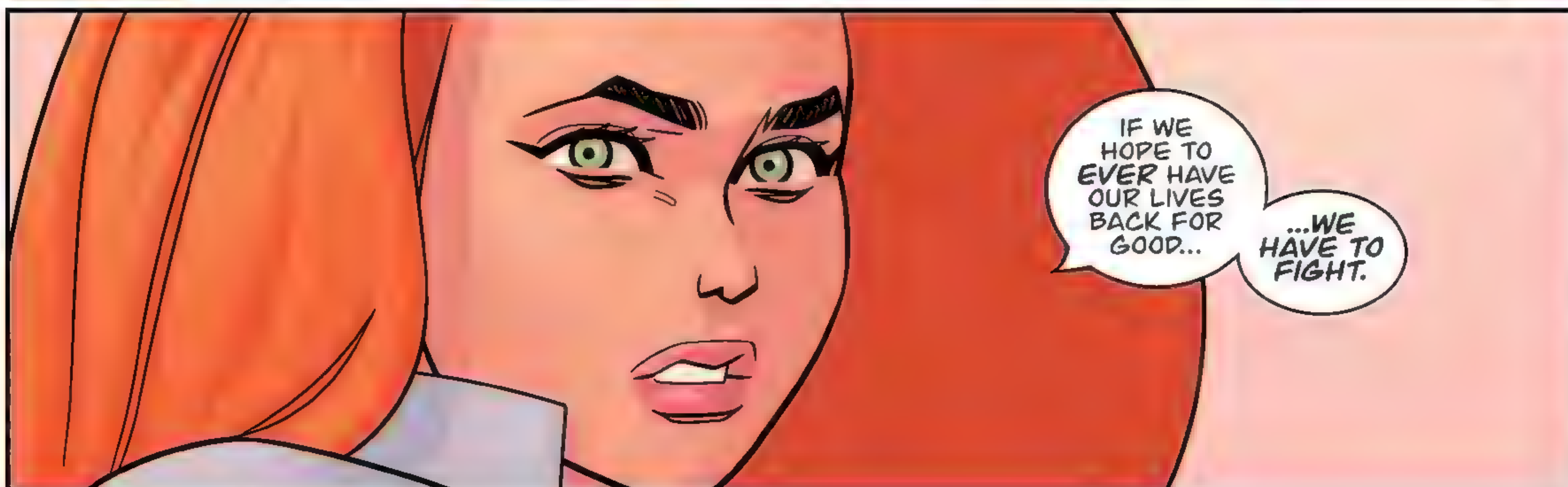
...



I'M SORRY I... I DID THIS... I TRIED TO TURN MY BACK ON WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE--I WAS SELFISH, AND NOW--

WE HAVE TO GO BACK, EVE. WE HAVE TO END THIS.

I KNOW.



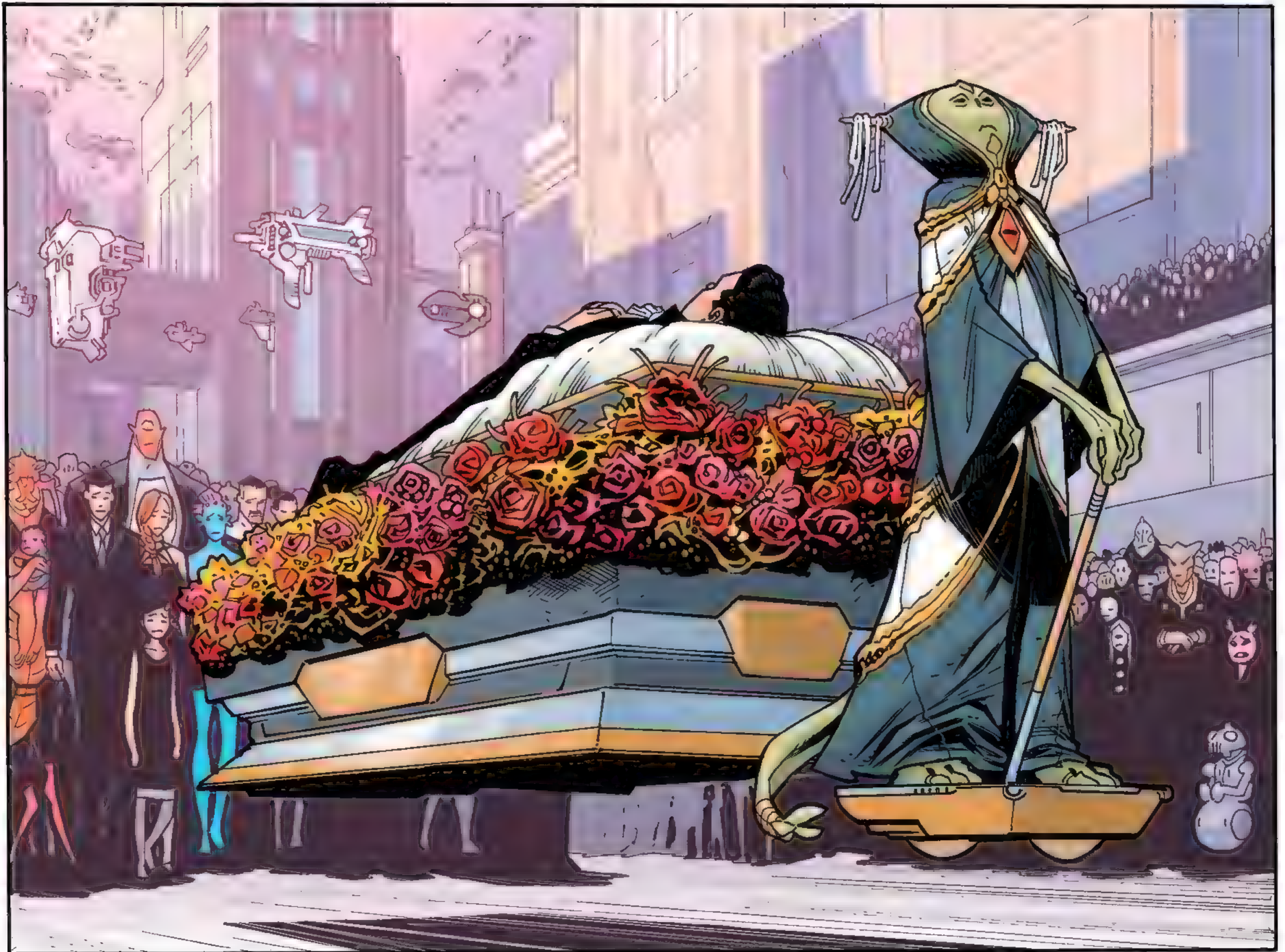
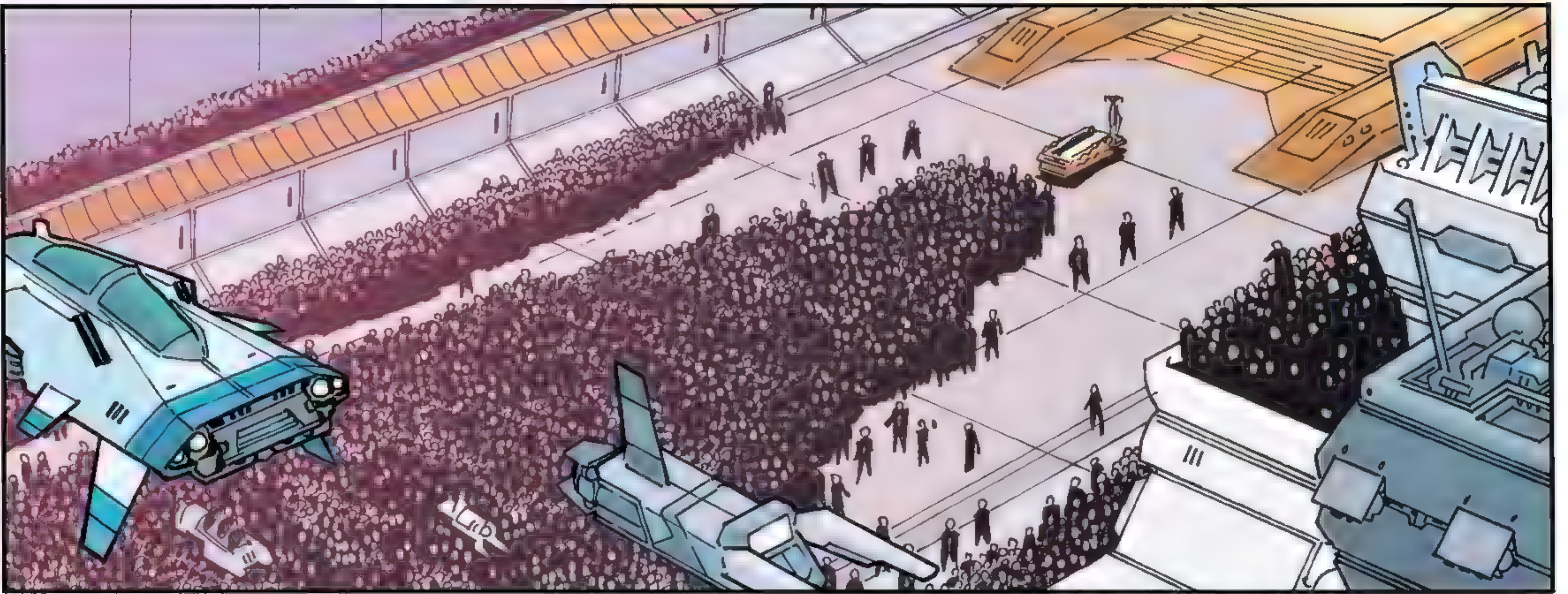
IF WE HOPE TO EVER HAVE OUR LIVES BACK FOR GOOD...

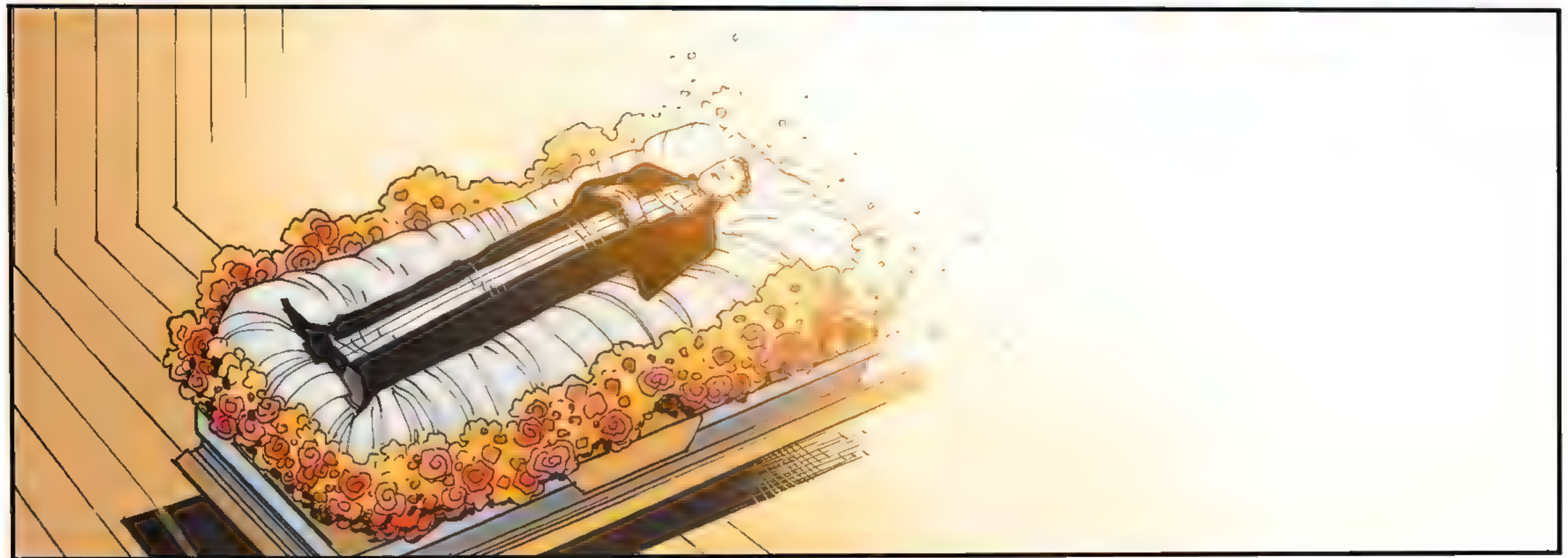
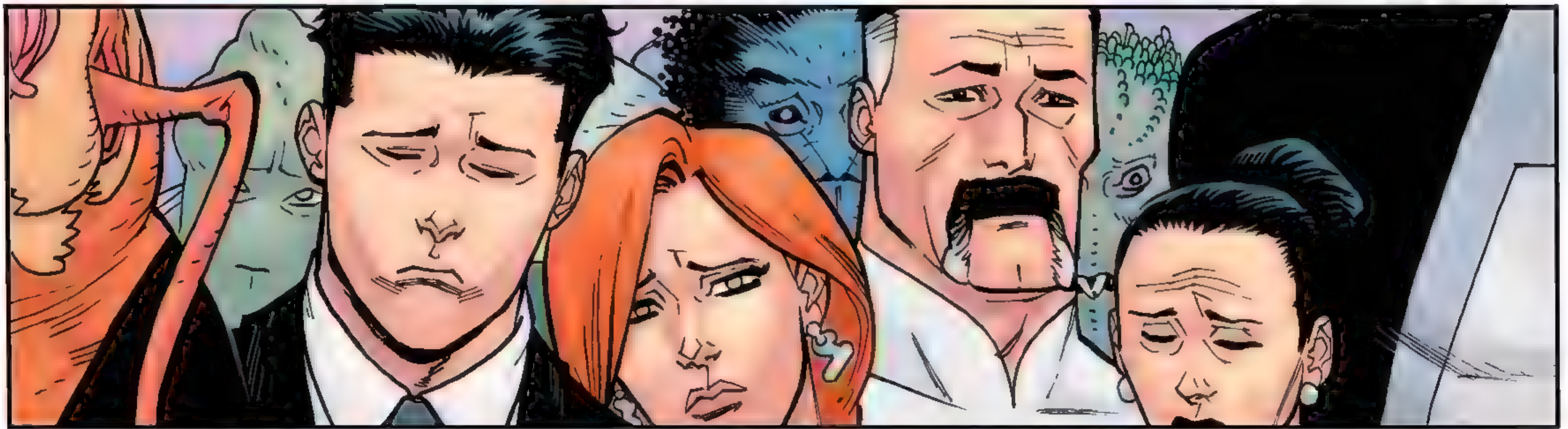
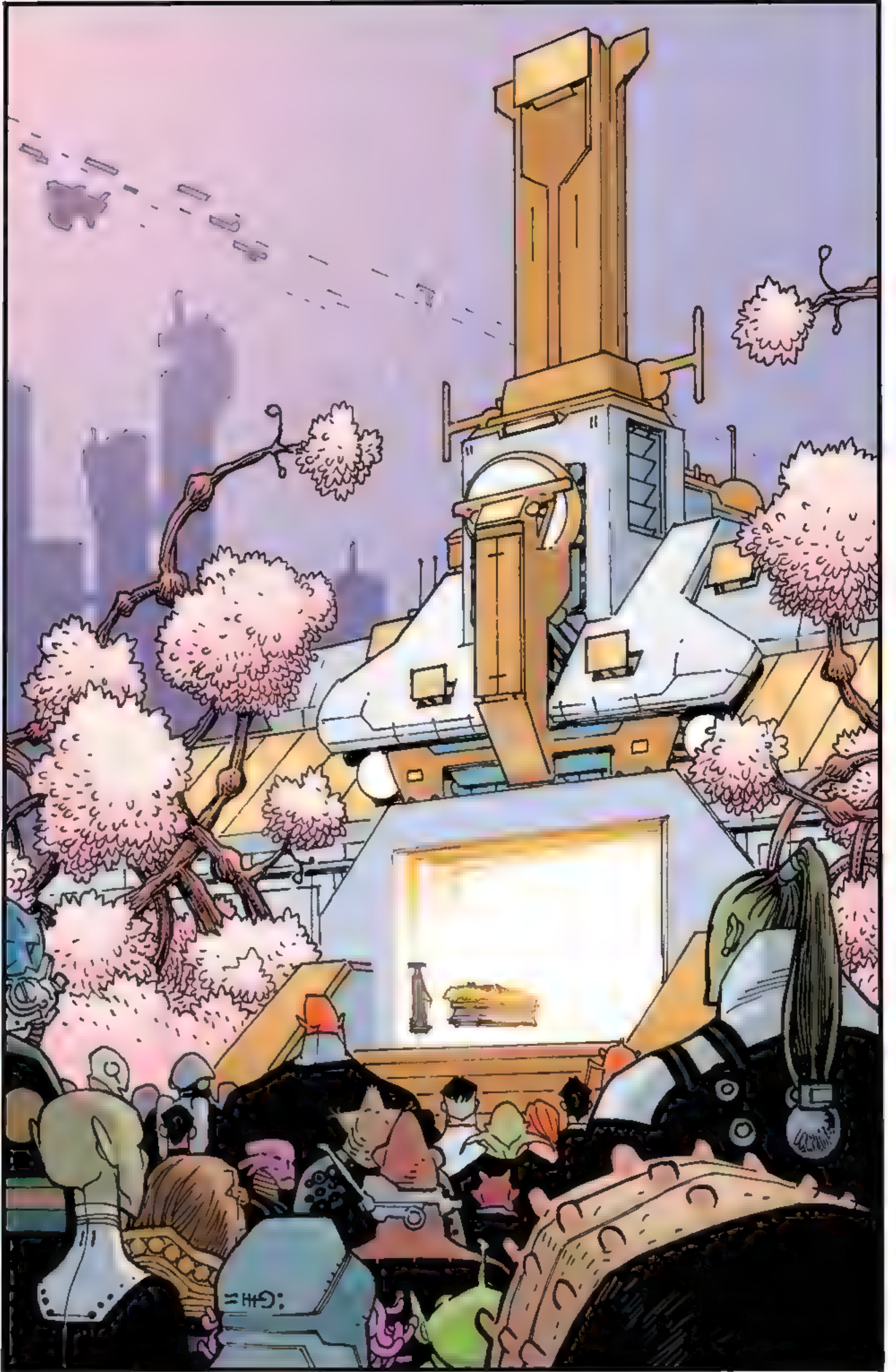
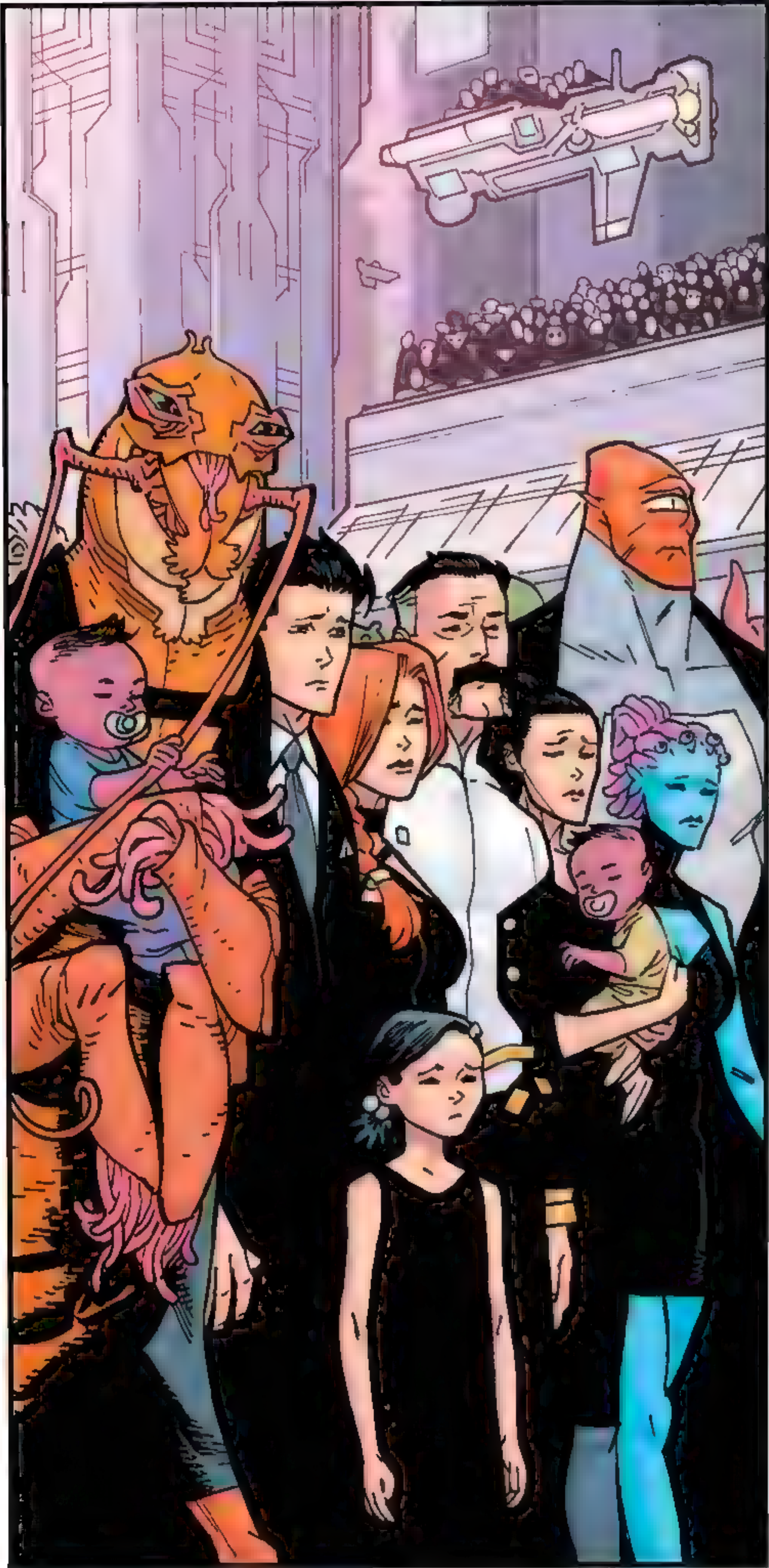
...WE HAVE TO FIGHT.

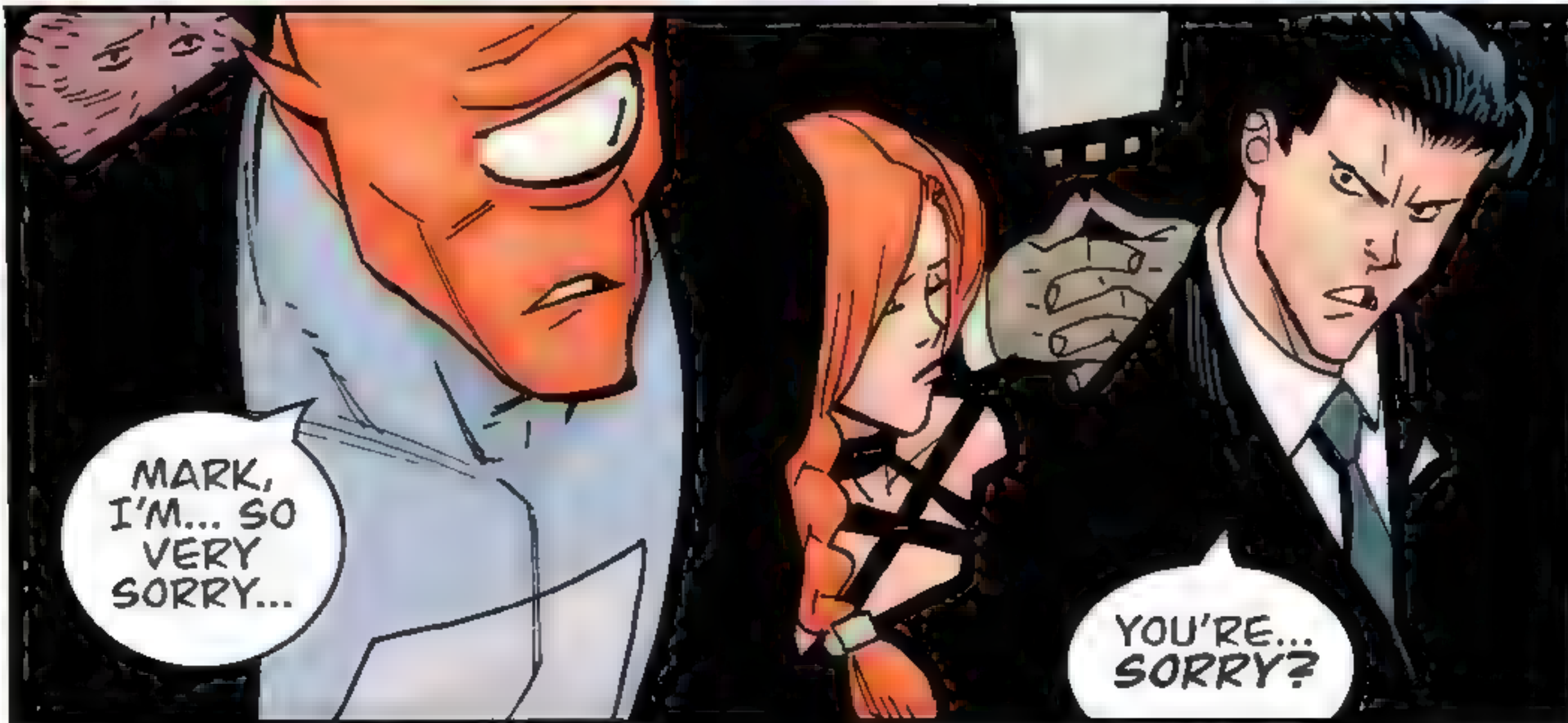
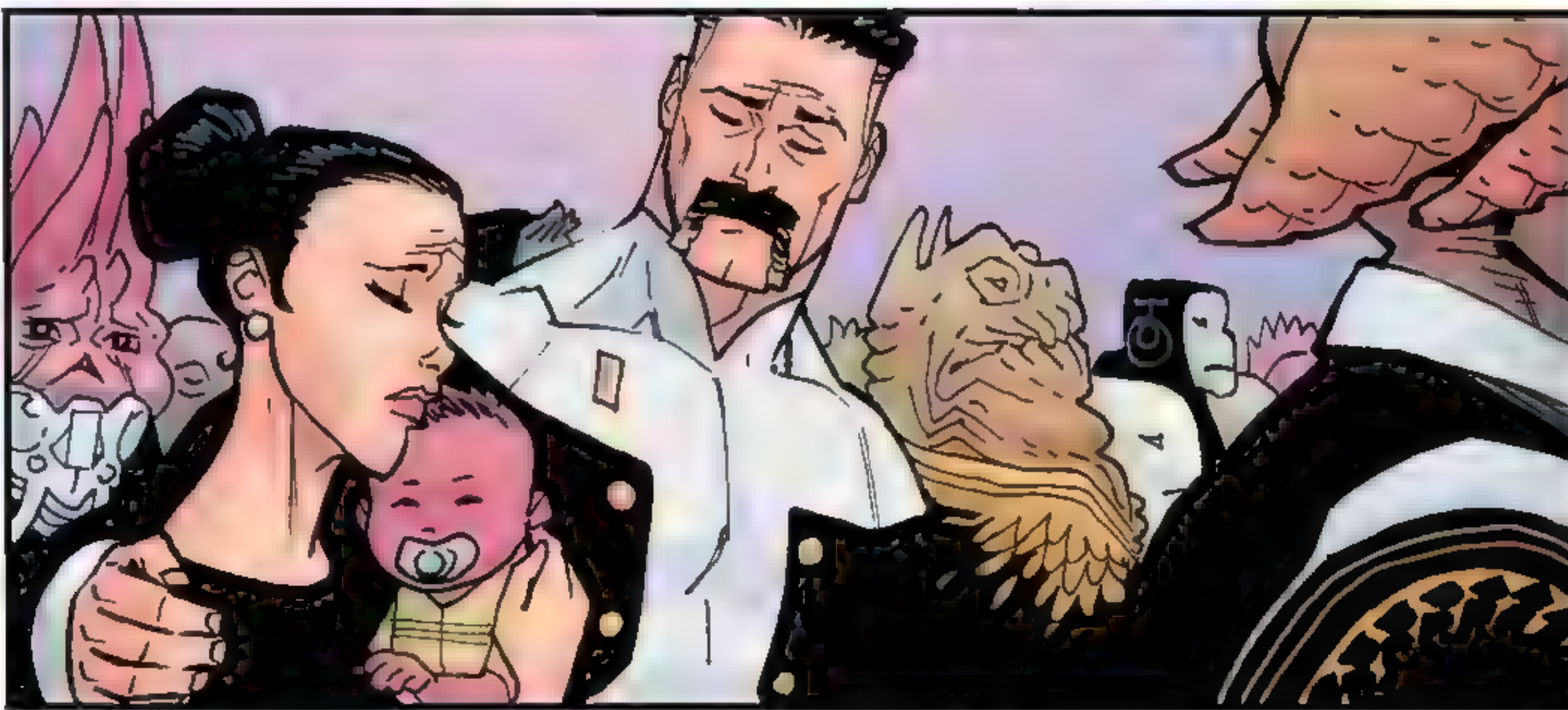
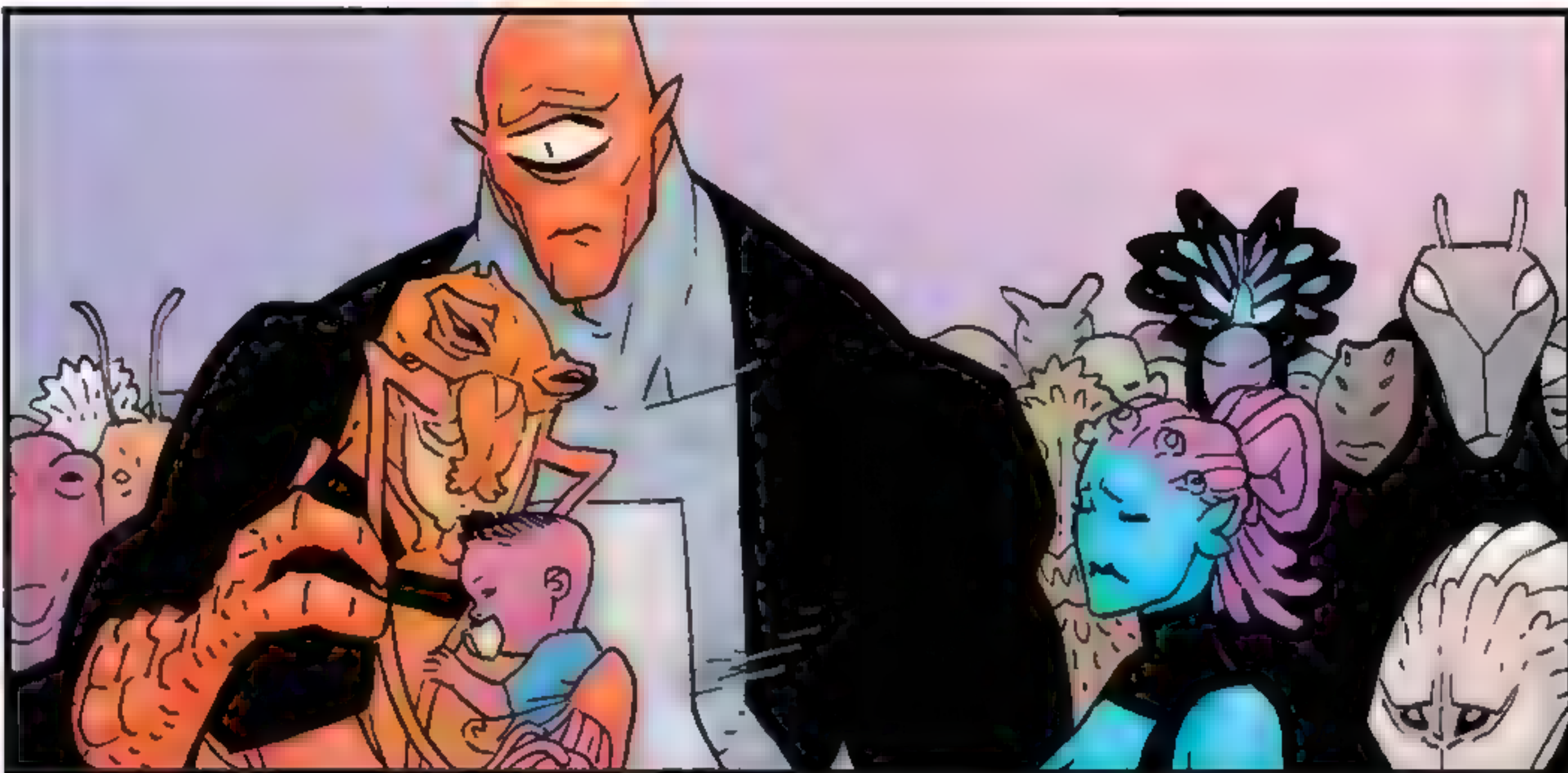
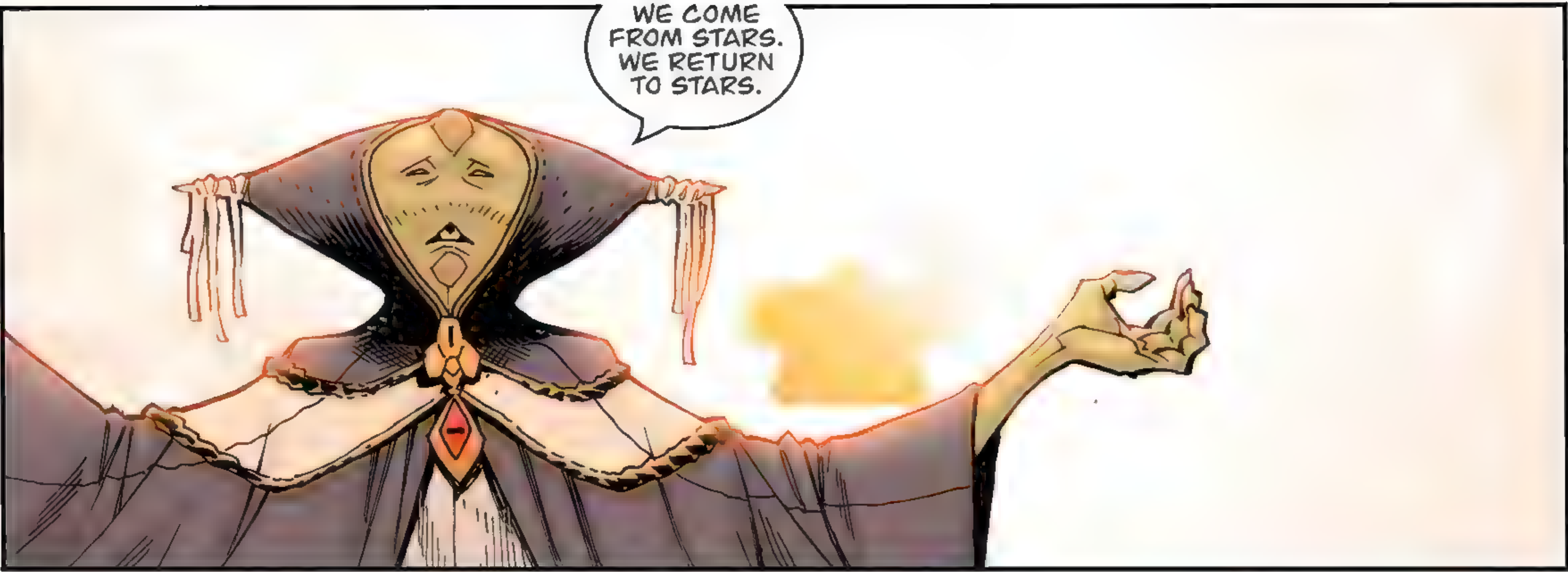


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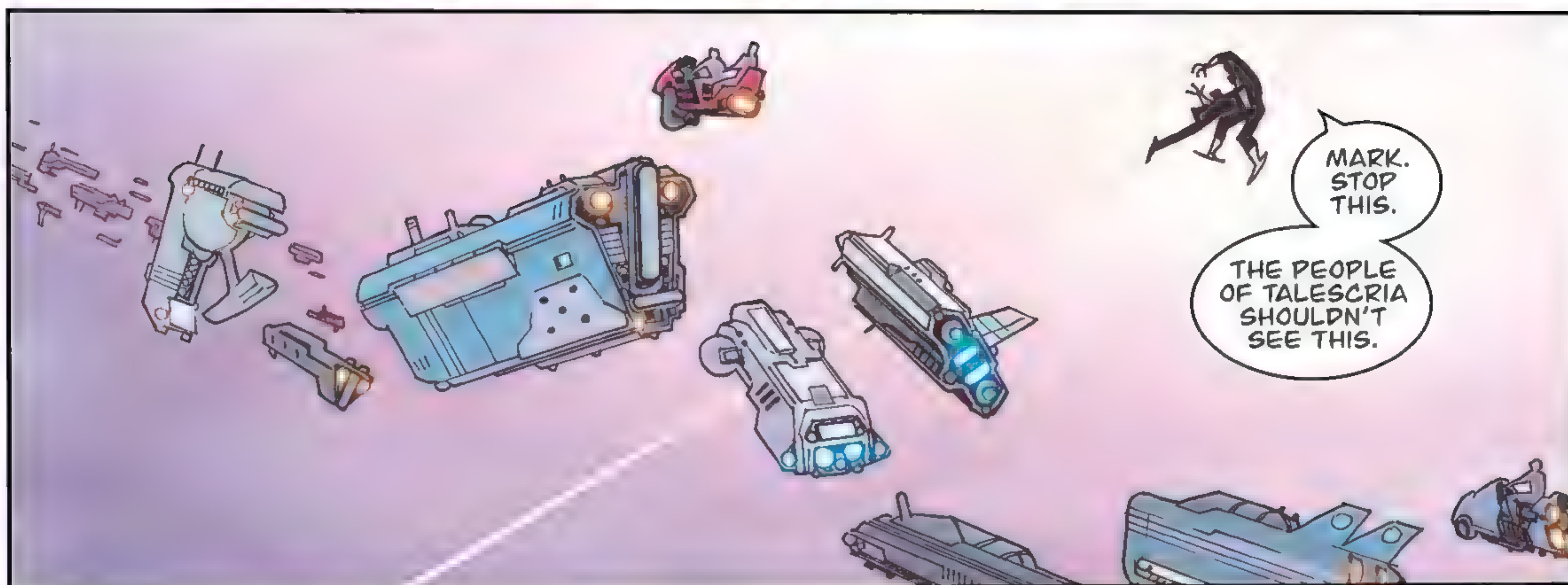


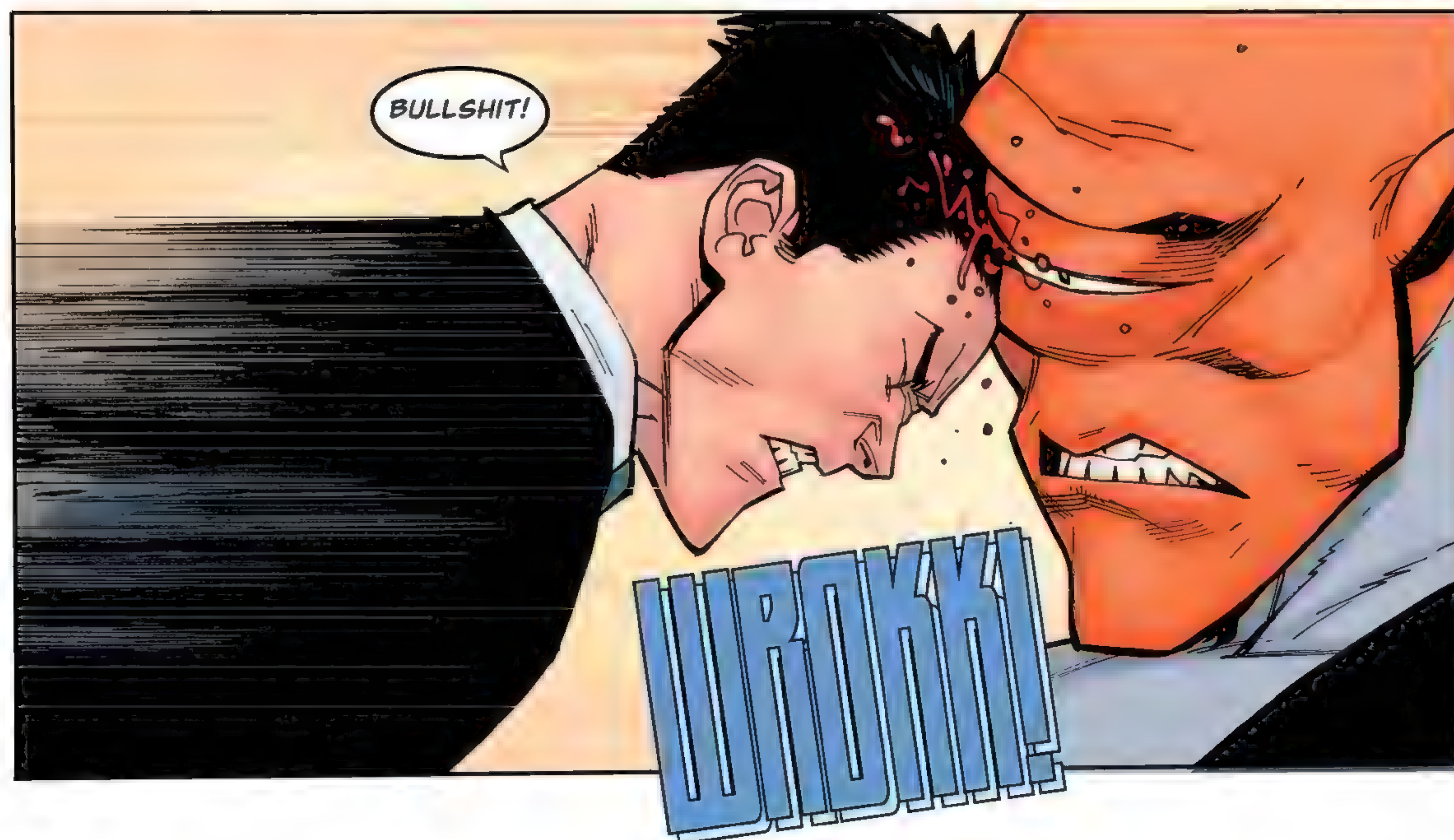
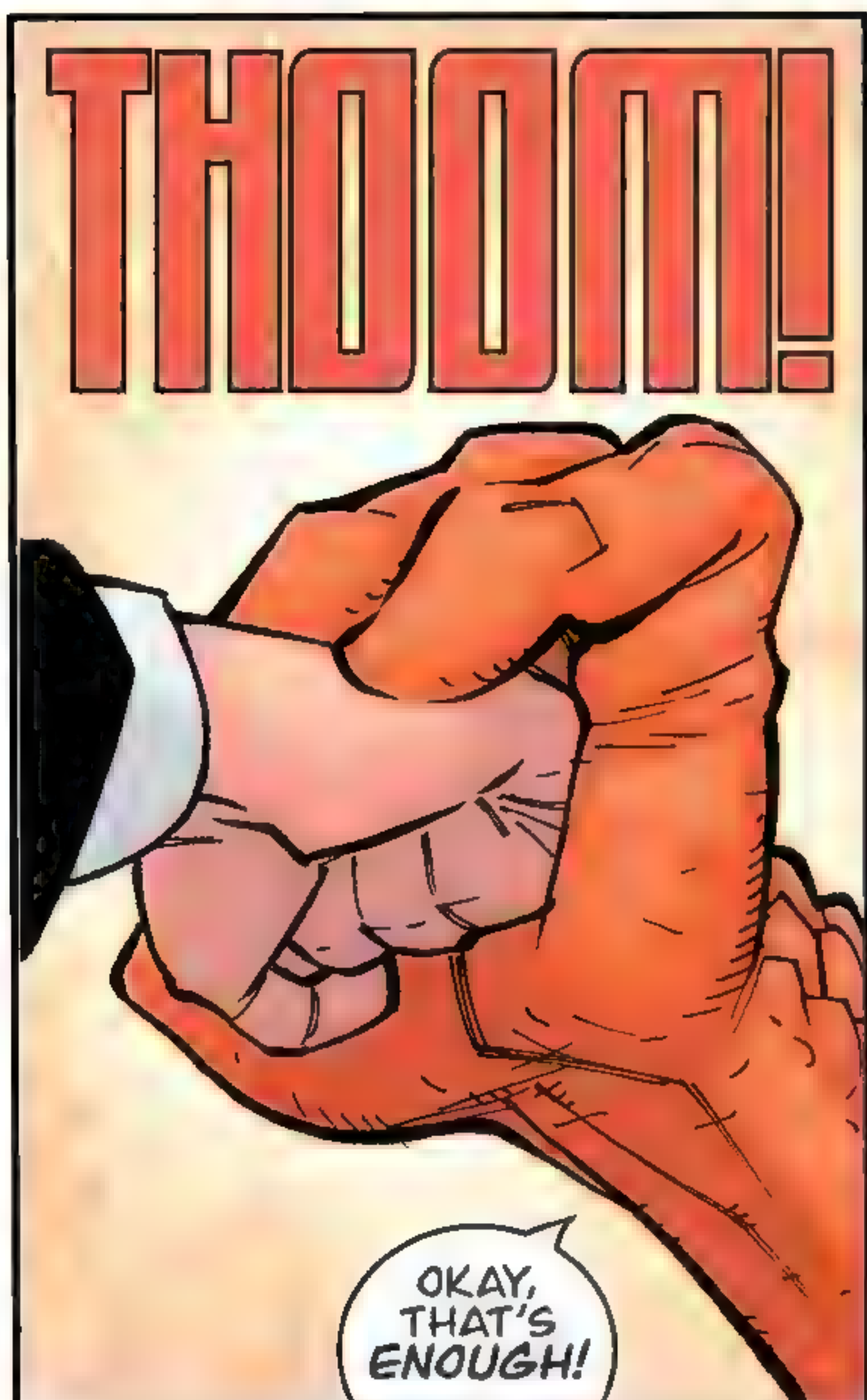








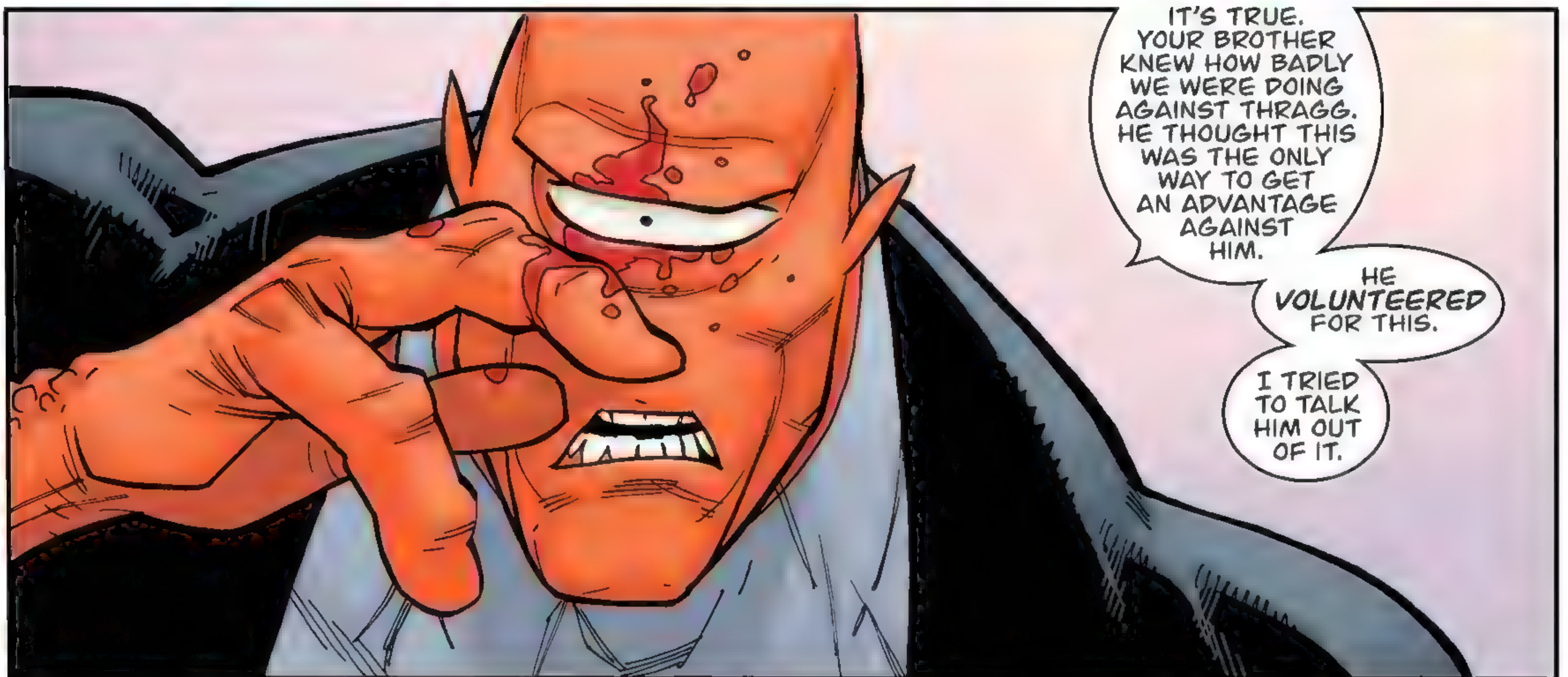






OKAY,
NOW I'M
GOING--

NO. I'LL
HANDLE
THIS. WATCH
TERRA.



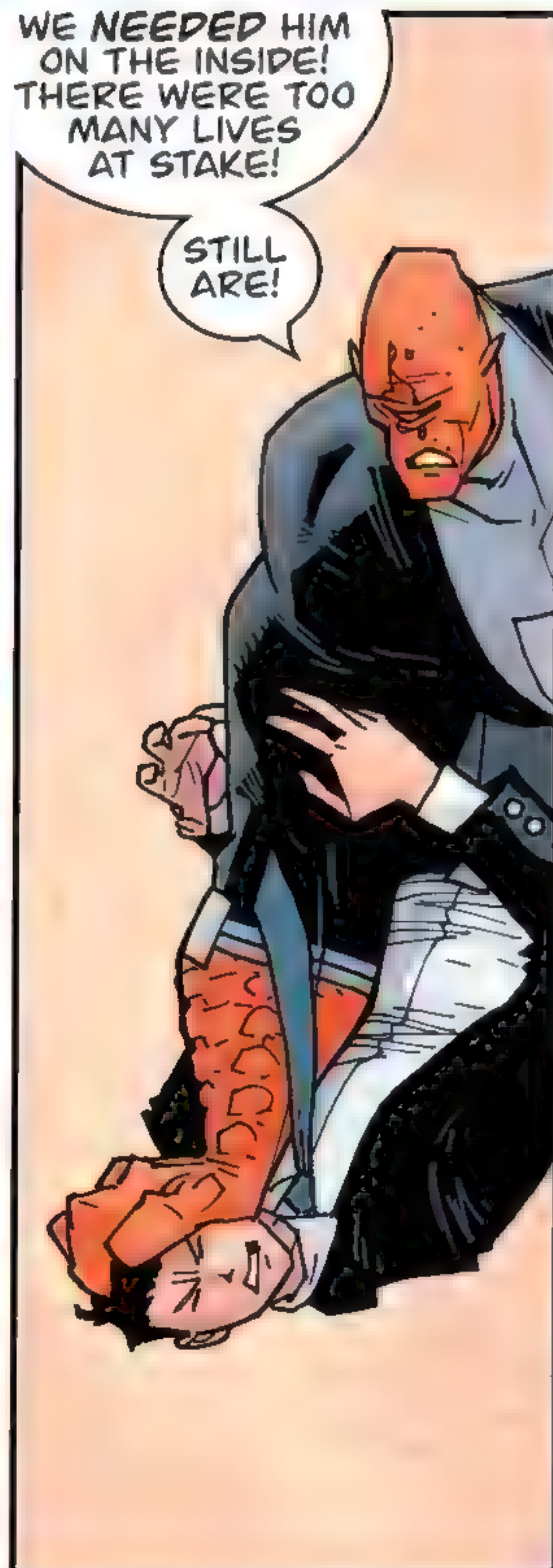
IT'S TRUE.
YOUR BROTHER
KNEW HOW BADLY
WE WERE DOING
AGAINST THRAGG.
HE THOUGHT THIS
WAS THE ONLY
WAY TO GET
AN ADVANTAGE
AGAINST
HIM.

HE
VOLUNTEERED
FOR THIS.

I TRIED
TO TALK
HIM OUT
OF IT.



YOU
SHOULD
HAVE TRIED
HARDER!



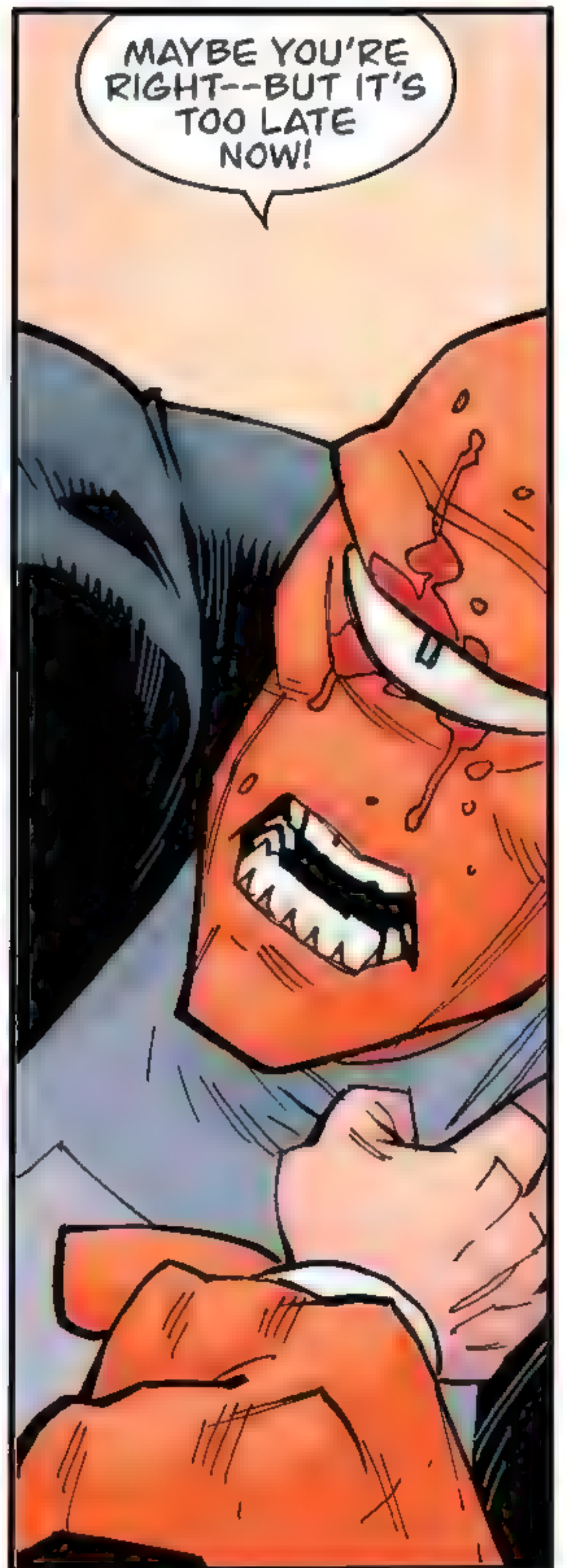
WE NEEDED HIM
ON THE INSIDE!
THERE WERE TOO
MANY LIVES
AT STAKE!

STILL
ARE!

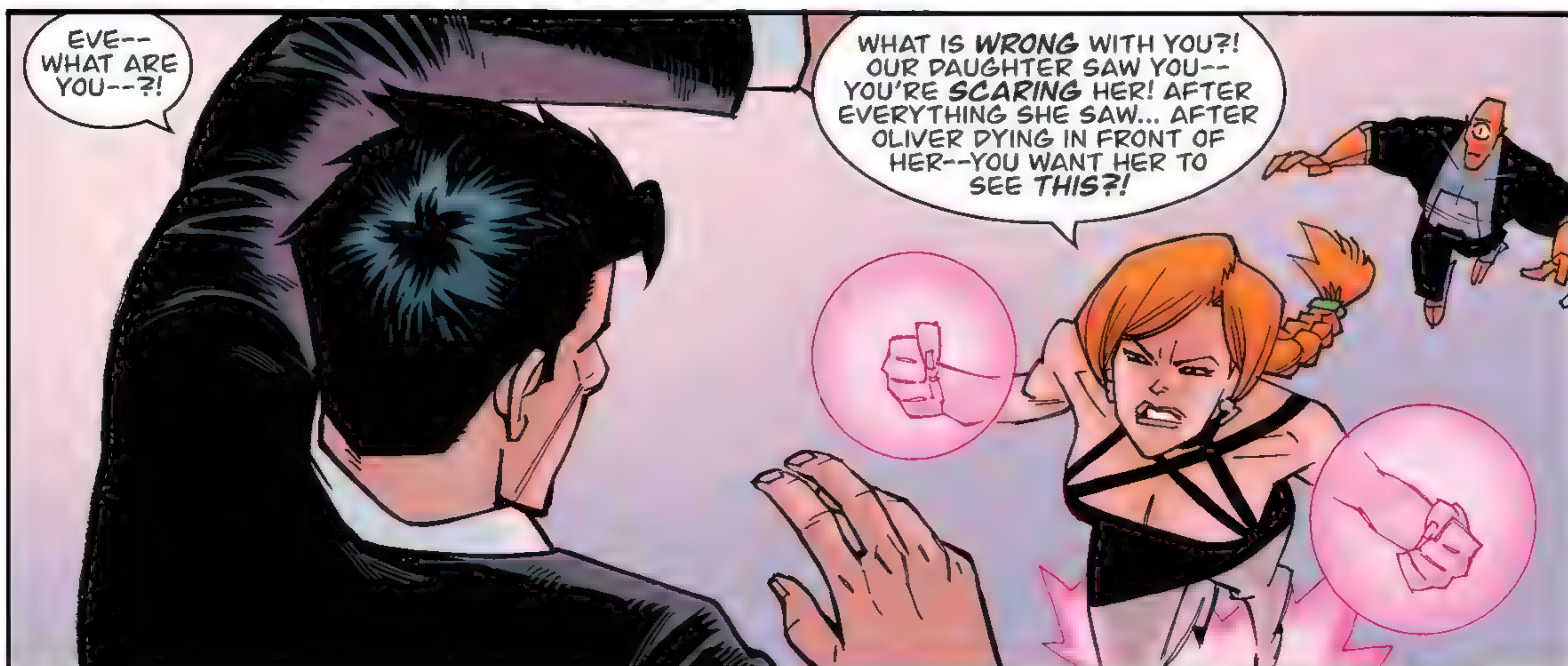


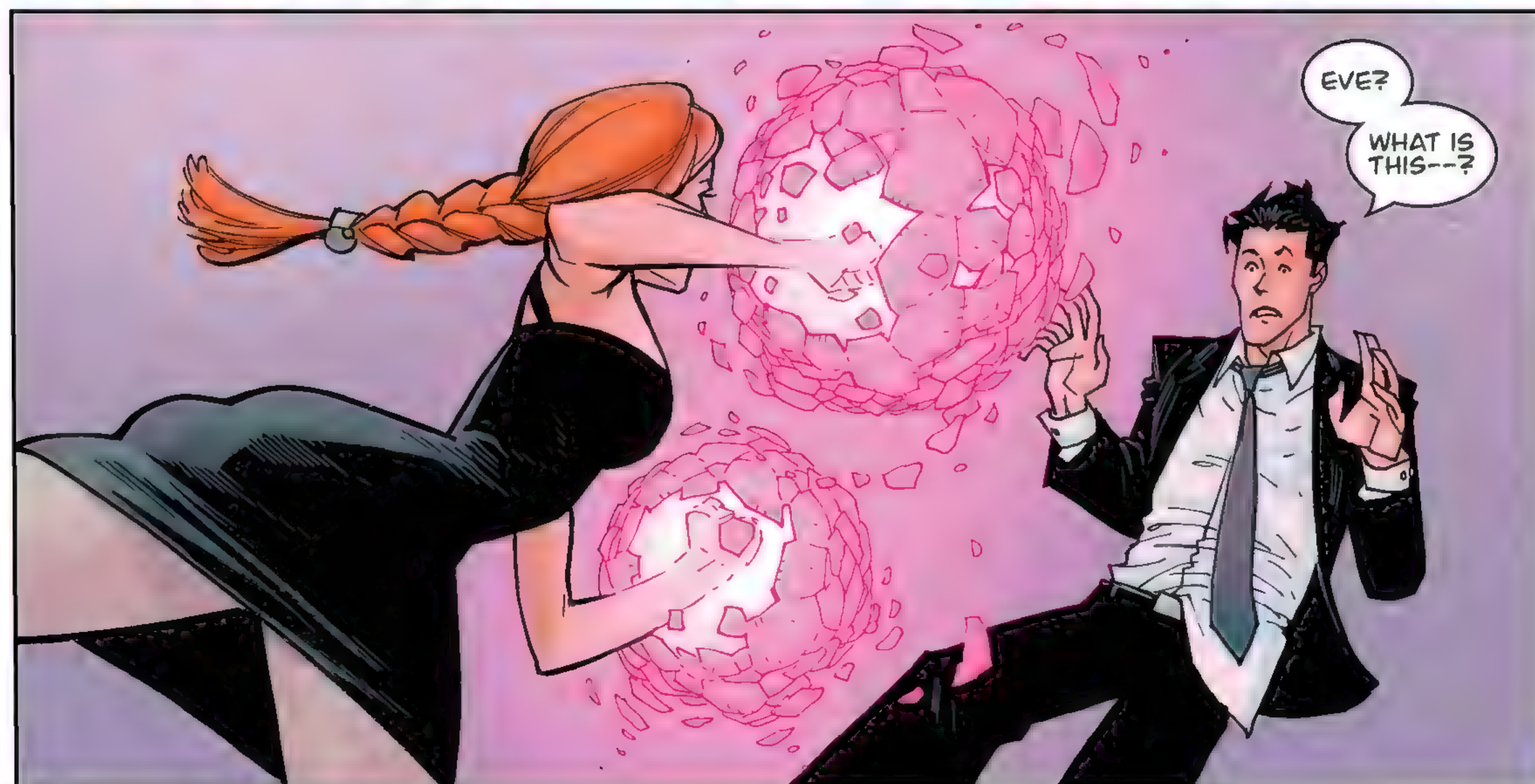
WHICH IS IT?! YOU
NEEDED HIM OR HE
VOLUNTEERED?!

YOU KNOW YOU
COULD HAVE DONE
SOMETHING ELSE!
YOU SENT HIM ON A
SUICIDE MISSION,
AND YOU KNOW
IT!

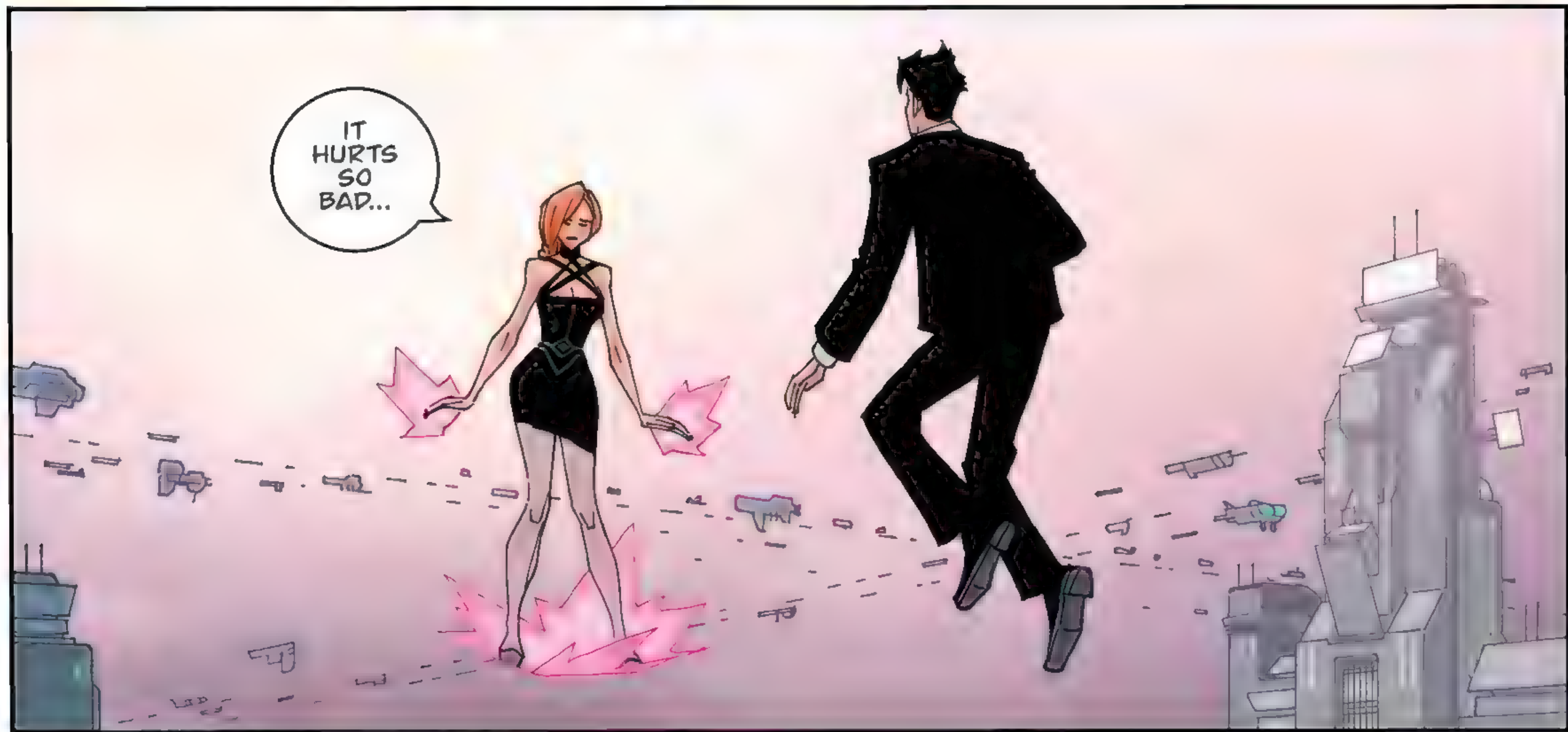
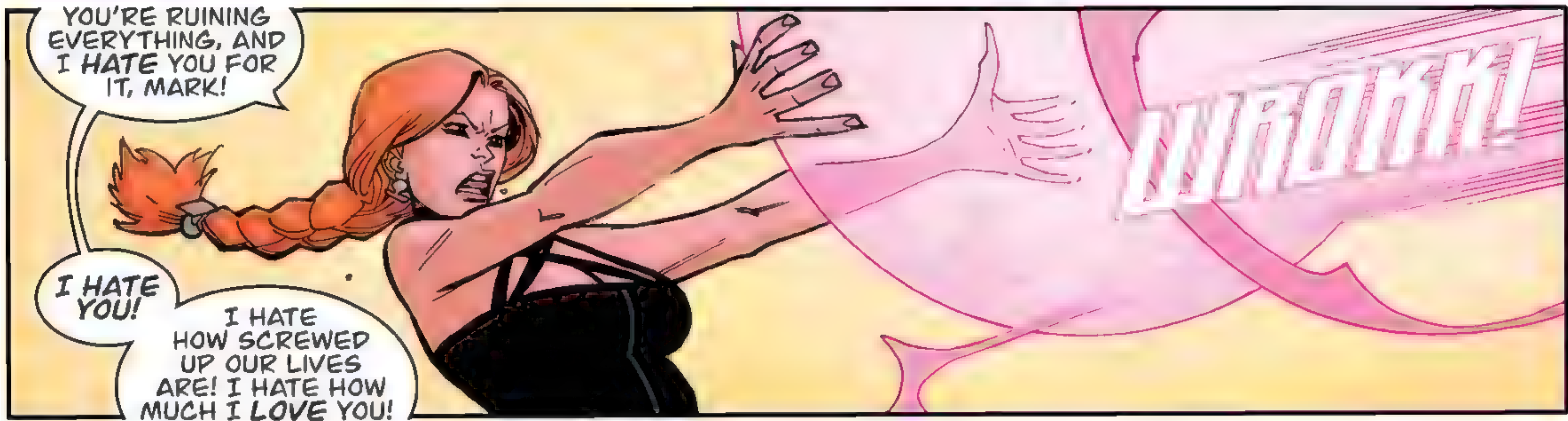
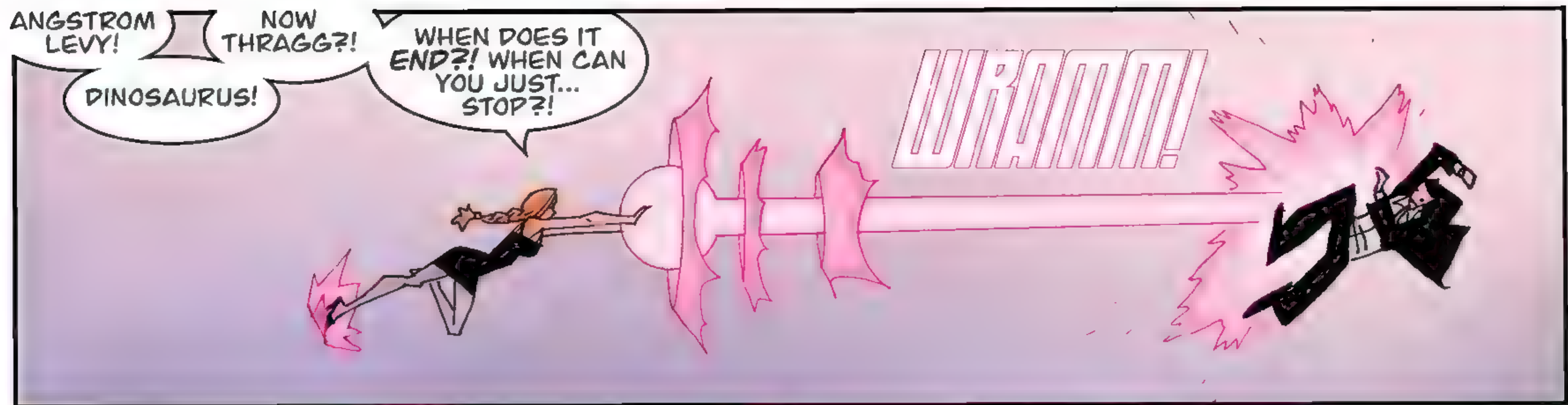


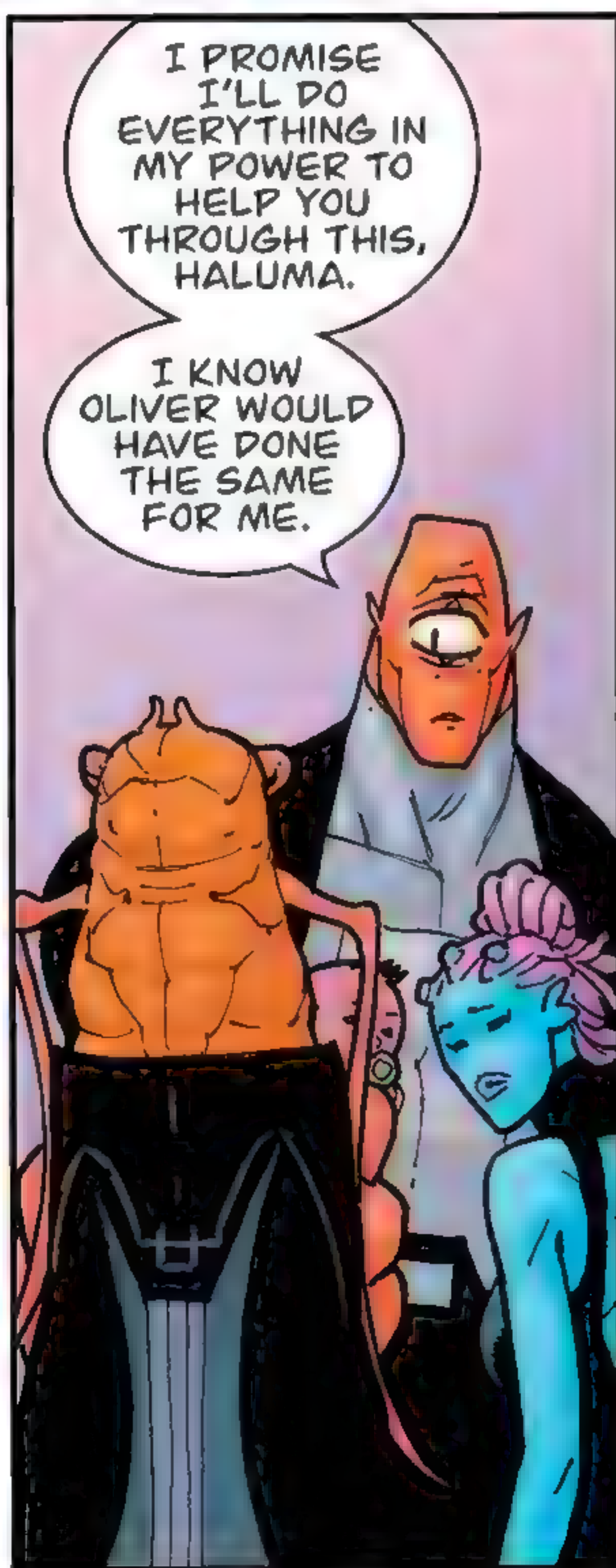
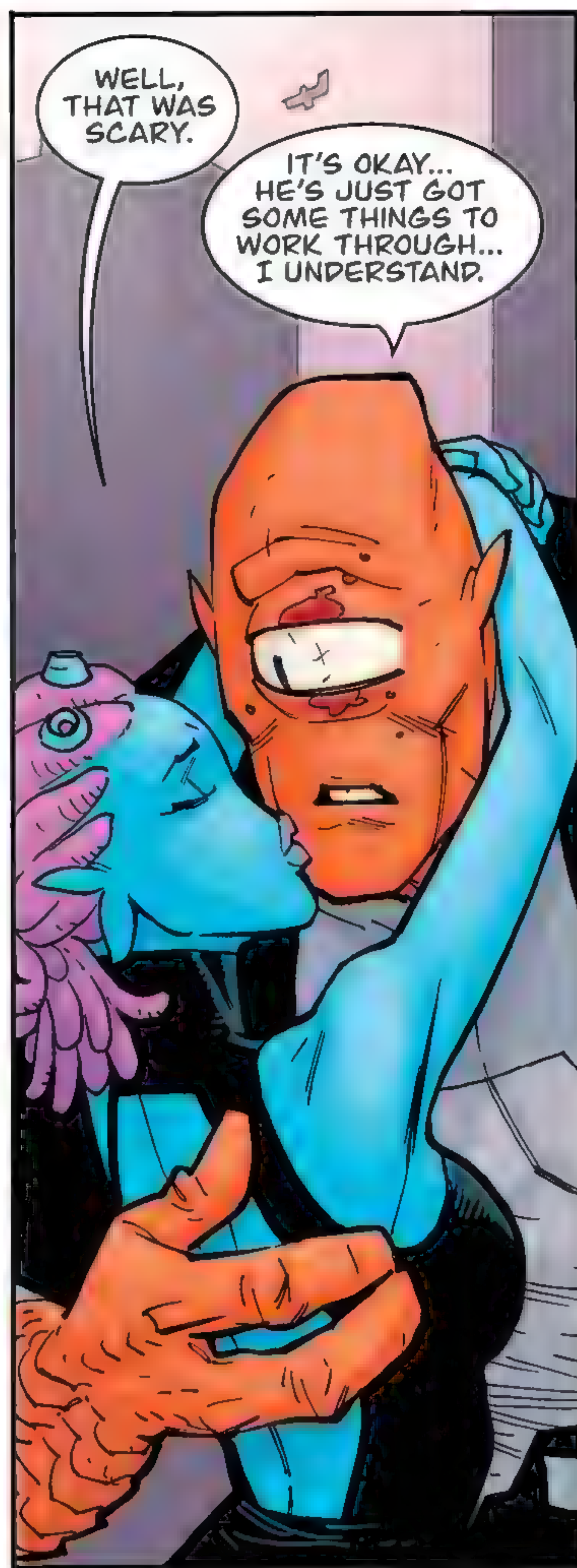
MAYBE YOU'RE
RIGHT--BUT IT'S
TOO LATE
NOW!

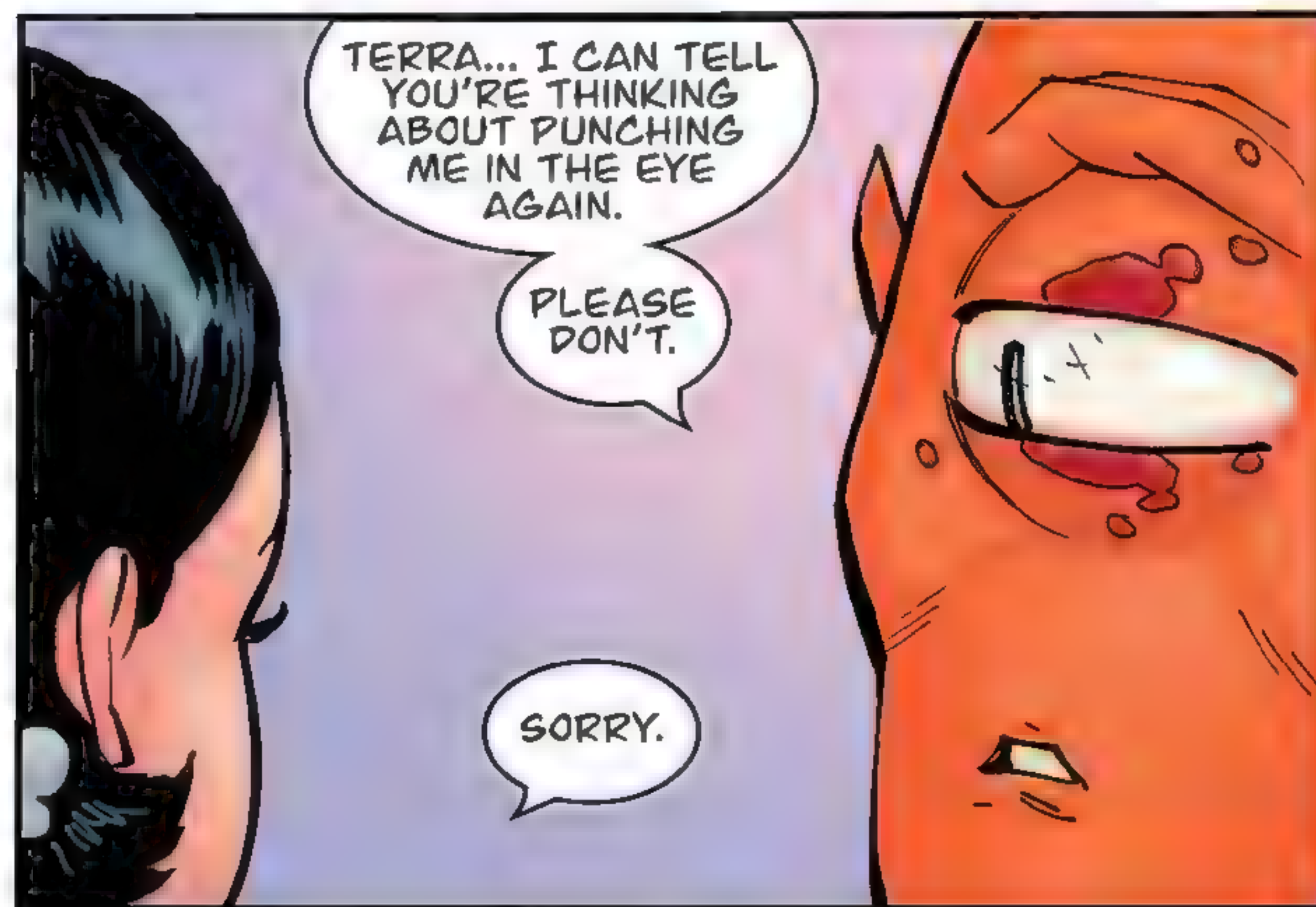
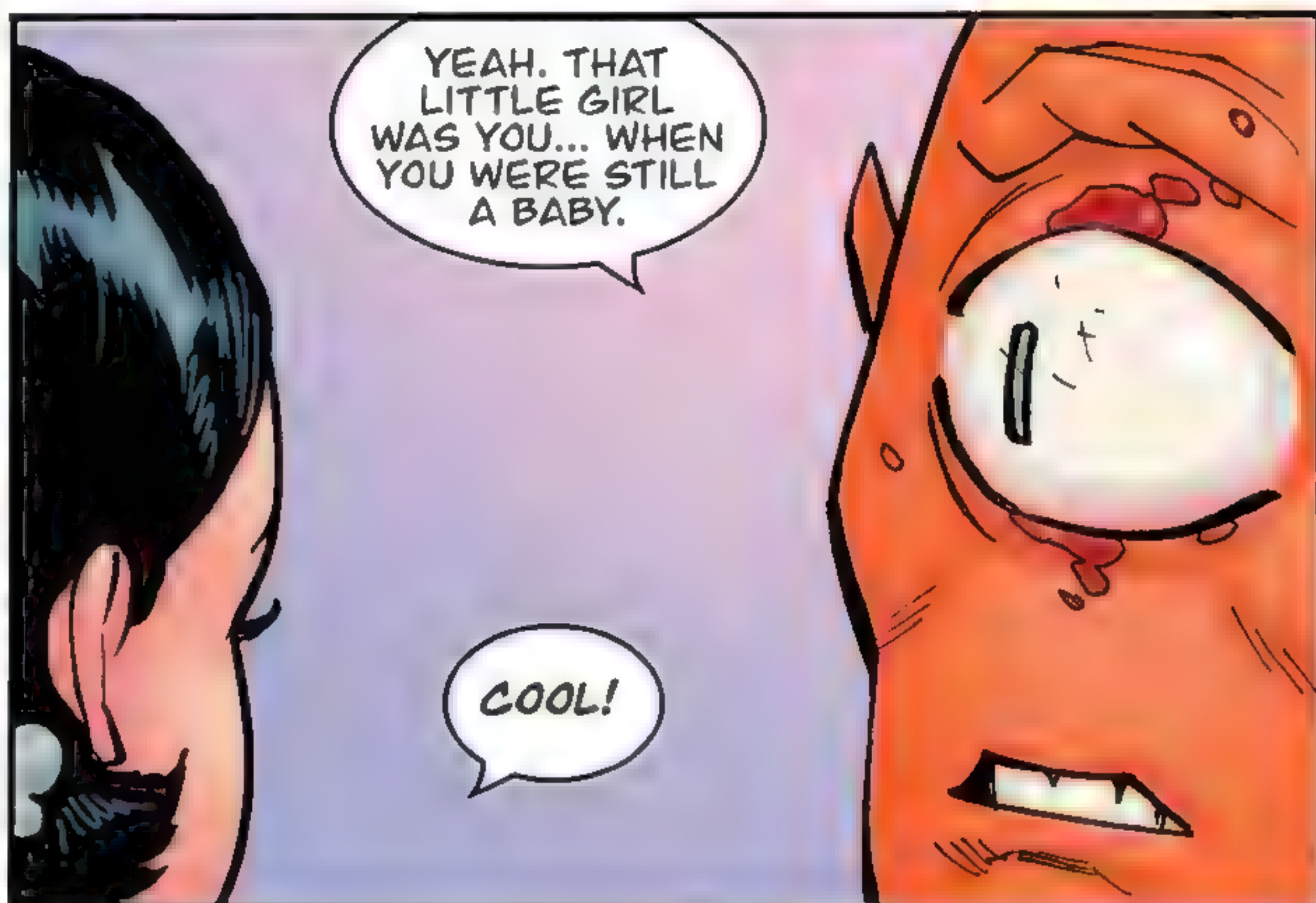
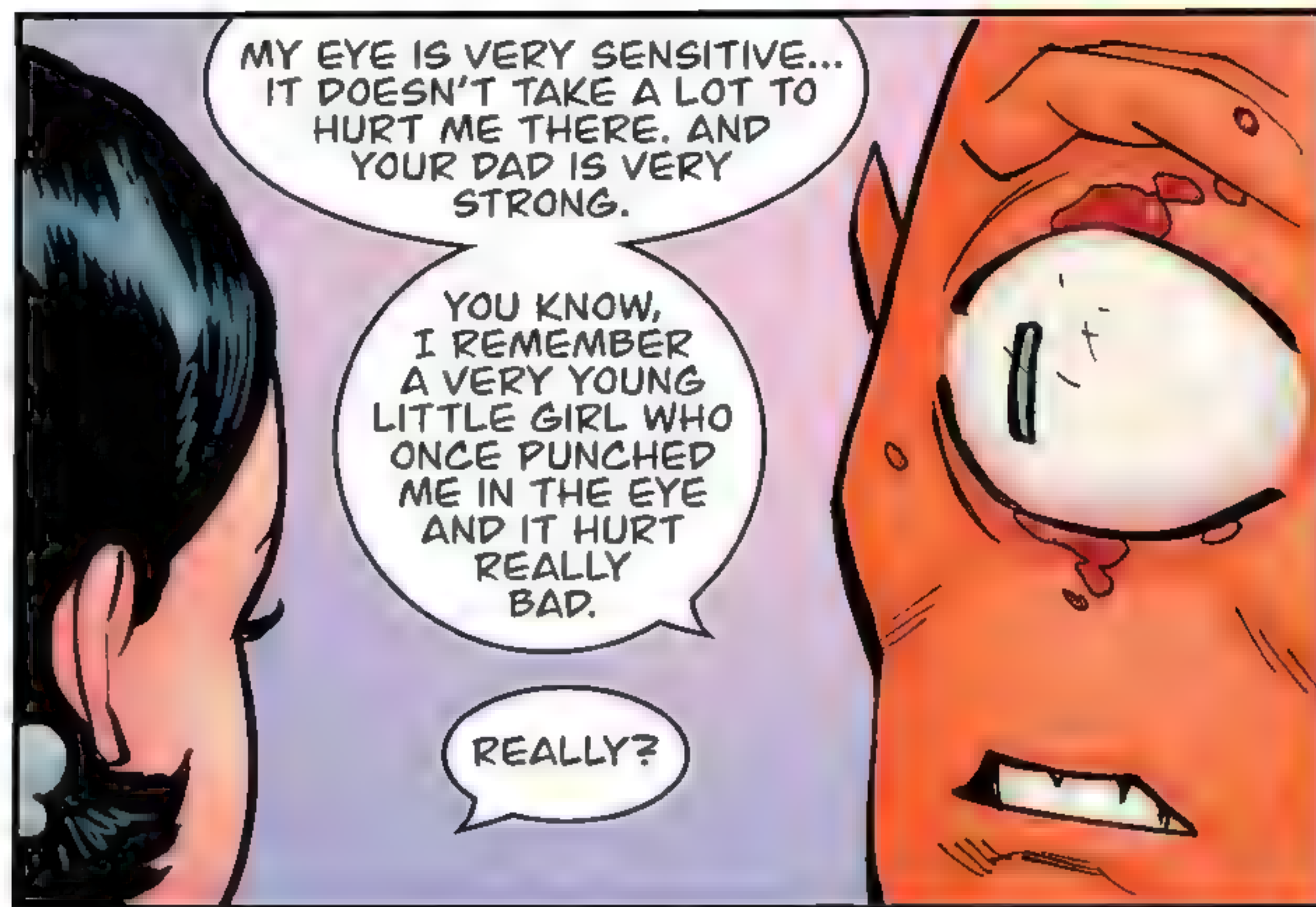
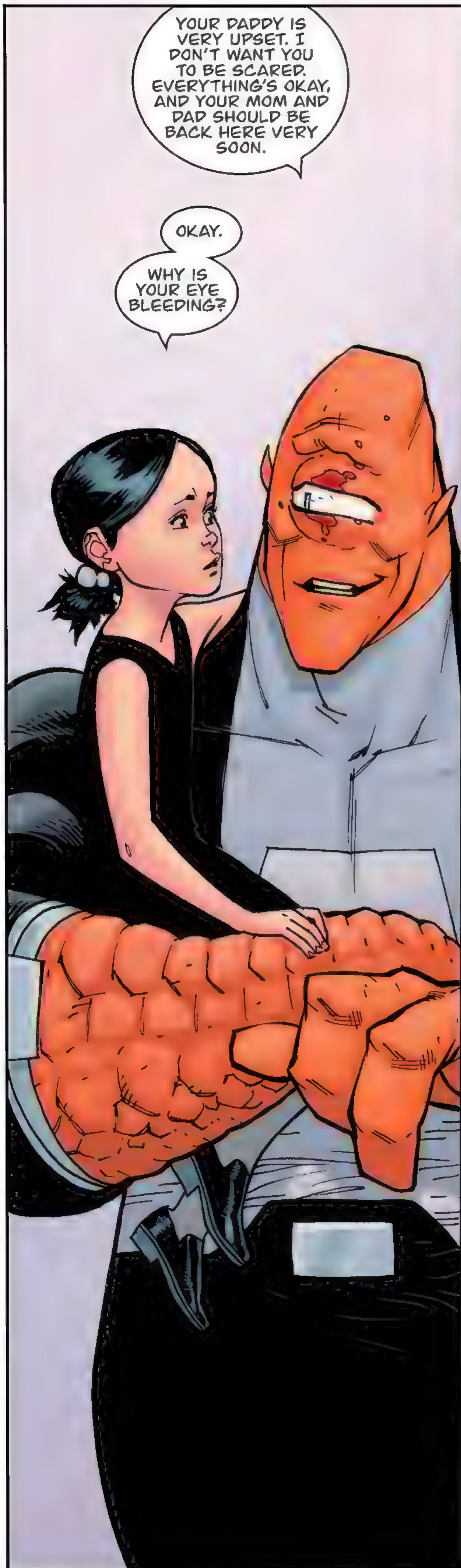












I CAN'T BELIEVE HE'S GONE. IT'S JUST SO UNFAIR.

I KNOW.



YOU KNOW WHAT I HAVE TO DO NOW, DON'T YOU?

THAT MONSTER TRIED TO KILL OUR DAUGHTER... BOTH OF US. OF COURSE I DO.

TO BE CLEAR... I'M NOT A HERO ANYMORE. I KNOW MYSELF. I'M NOT TRYING TO BE A HERO. I'M NOT GOING TO BE HUNG UP ON SAVING HIM, TRYING TO DO THE RIGHT THING... ANY OF THAT.

I'M GOING TO KILL HIM.



I UNDERSTAND THAT.

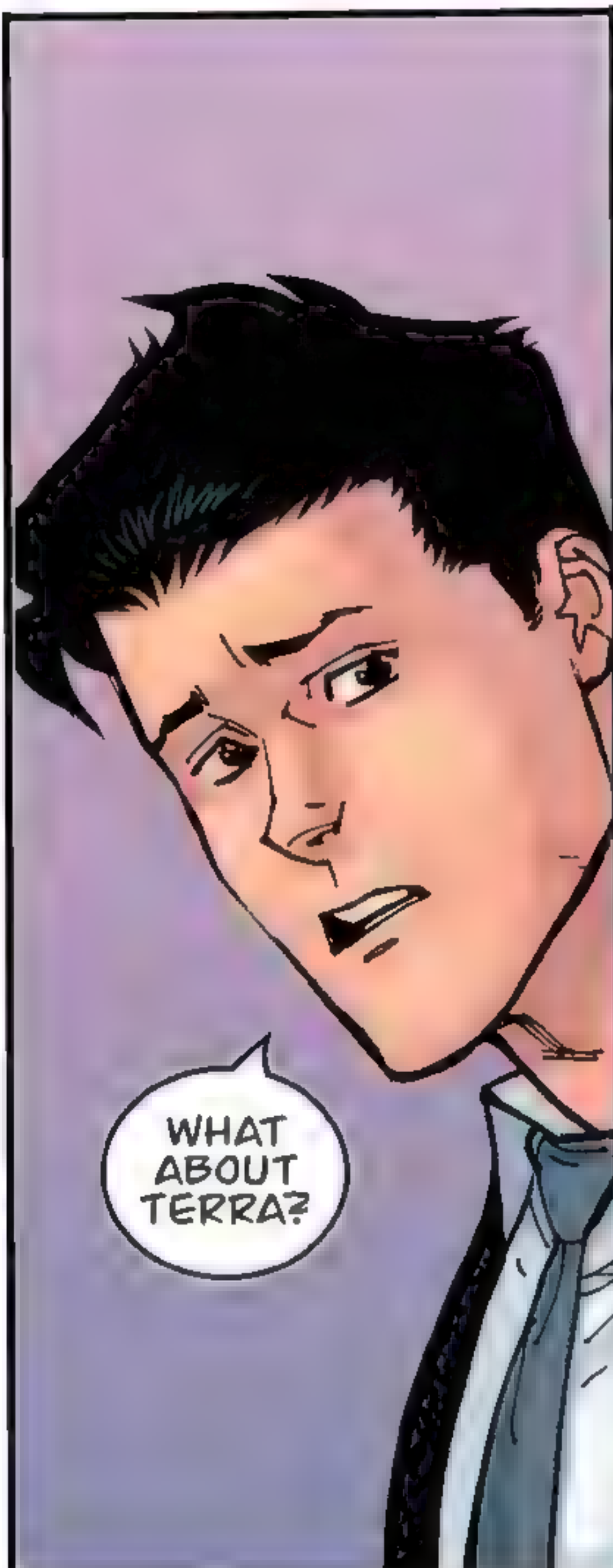
WE'RE GOING TO KILL HIM.





WE?

YES. WE.
I'M NOT
LETTING YOU OUT
OF MY SIGHT.
WE'RE GOING TO DO
THIS... AND WE'RE
GOING TO DO THIS
TOGETHER.



WHAT
ABOUT
TERRA?

WE'LL
FIGURE
IT OUT.

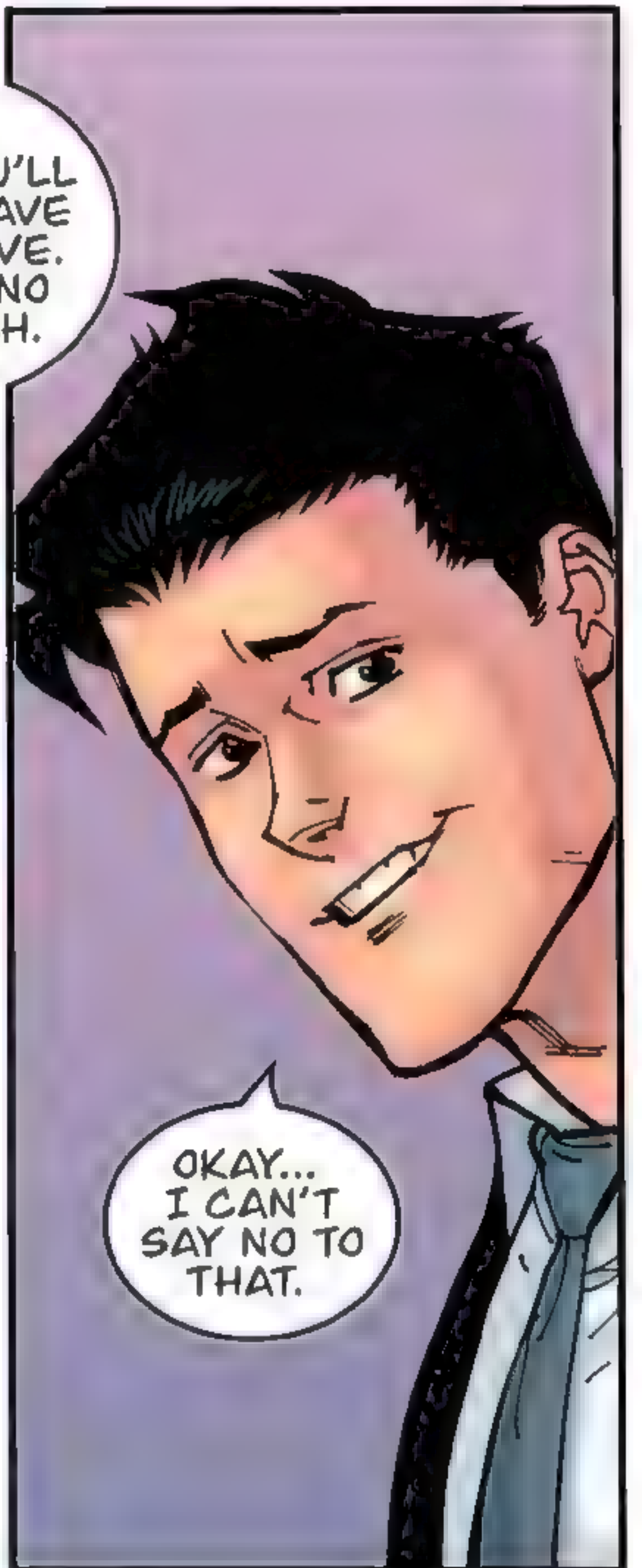
I'M NOT GOING TO
LET YOU DO THIS
ALONE... I DON'T
THINK YOU
CAN.



I'LL HAVE ALLEN,
MY DAD, SPACE
RACER... THE
COALITION...



AND
NOW YOU'LL
ALSO HAVE
ATOM EVE.
SHE'S NO
SLOUCH.

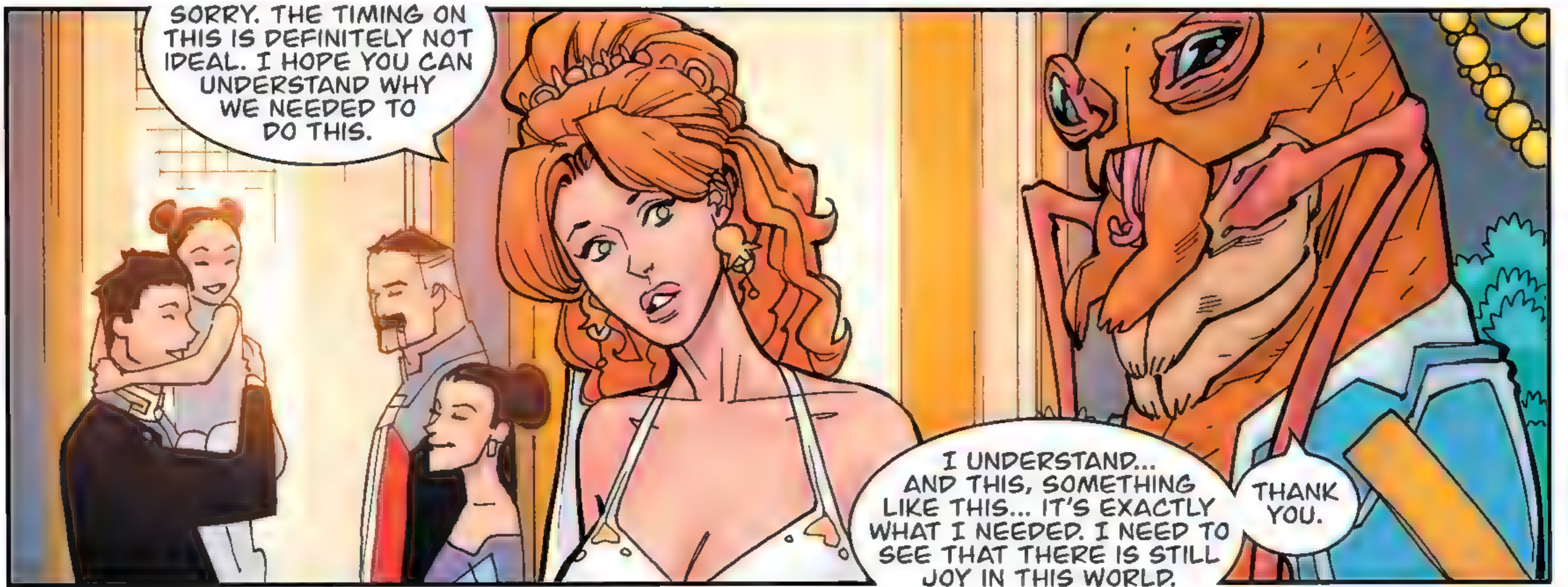


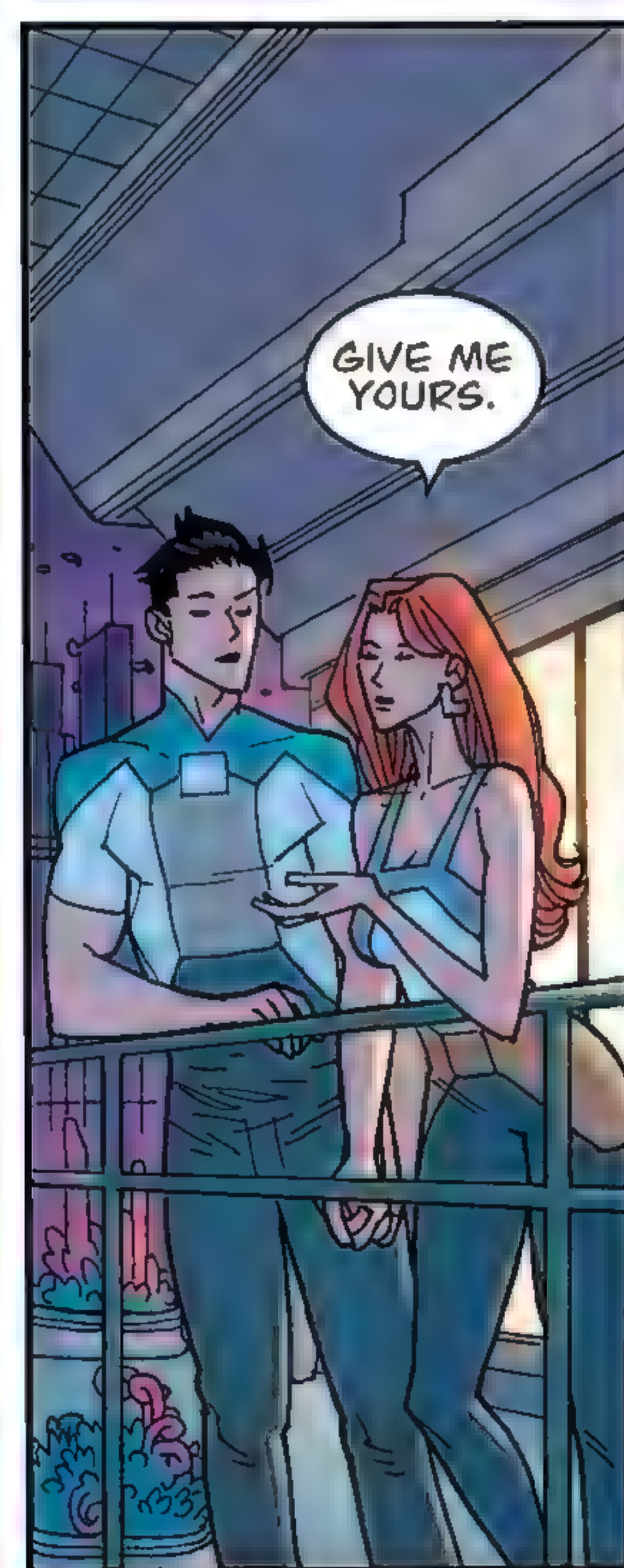
OKAY...
I CAN'T
SAY NO TO
THAT.

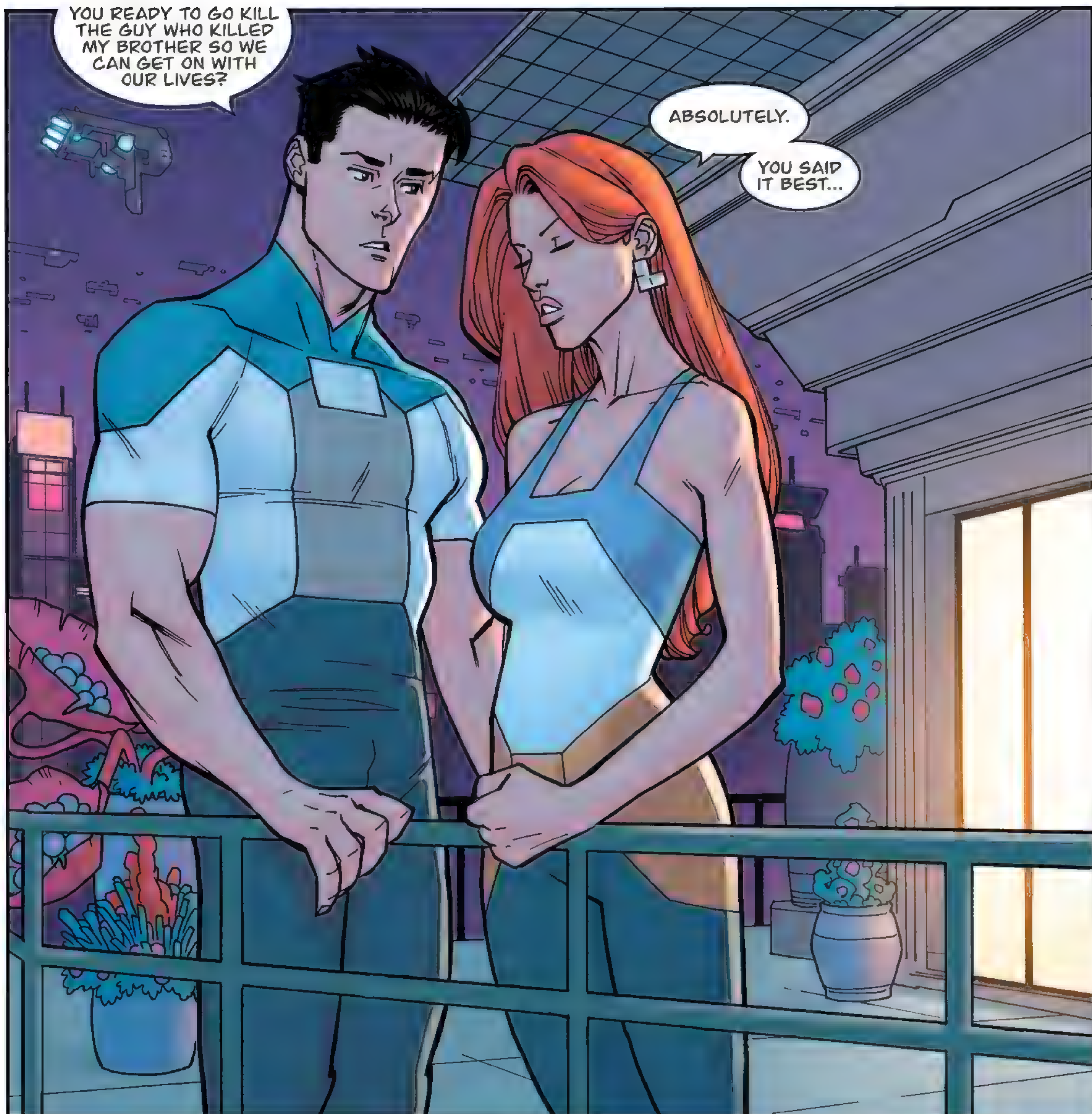
GOOD. THERE'S SOMETHING
ELSE WE HAVE TO DO BEFORE
WE LEAVE... SOMETHING I
REGRETTED WE'D NEVER
DONE WHEN YOU WERE
MISSING...

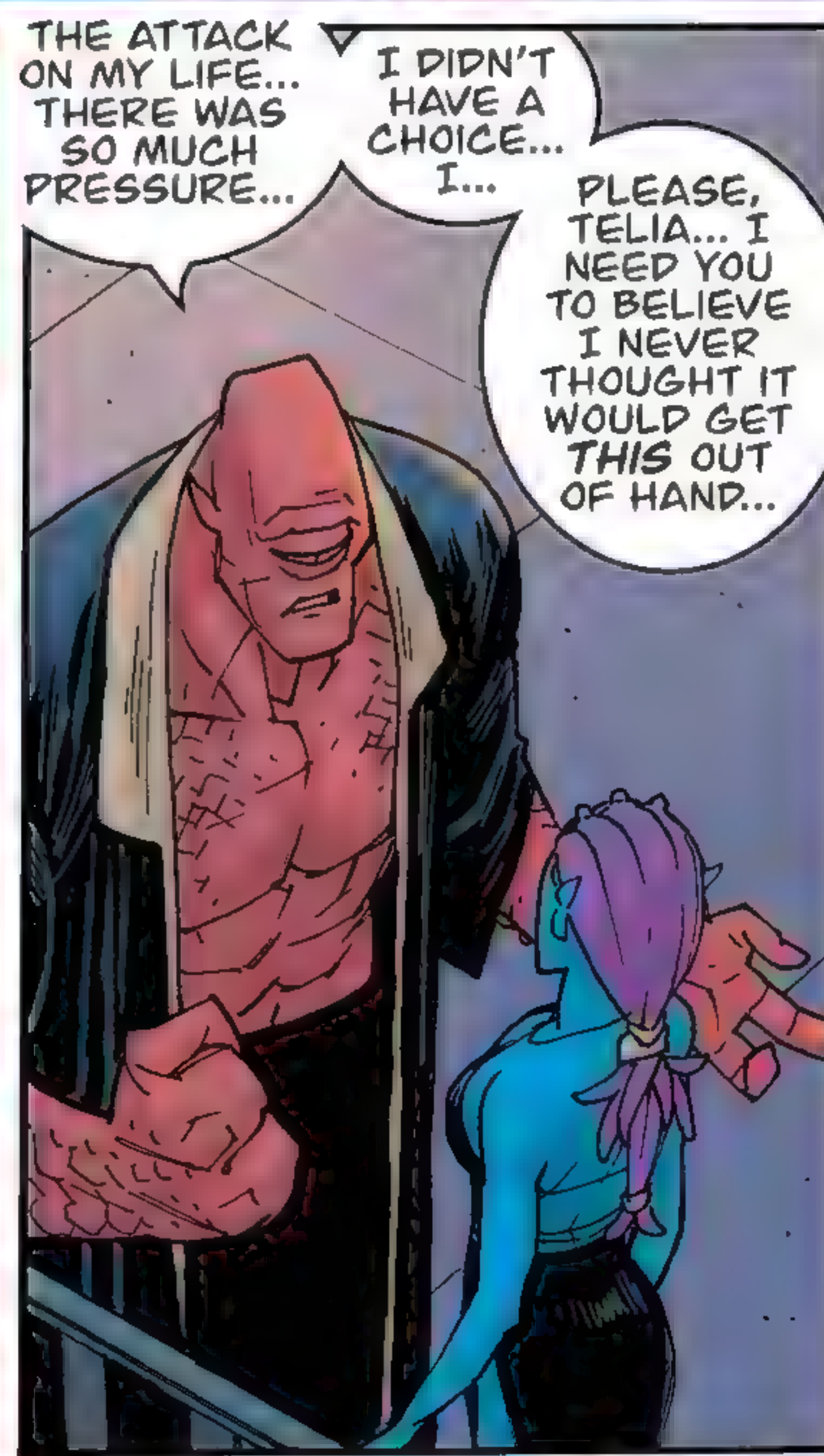
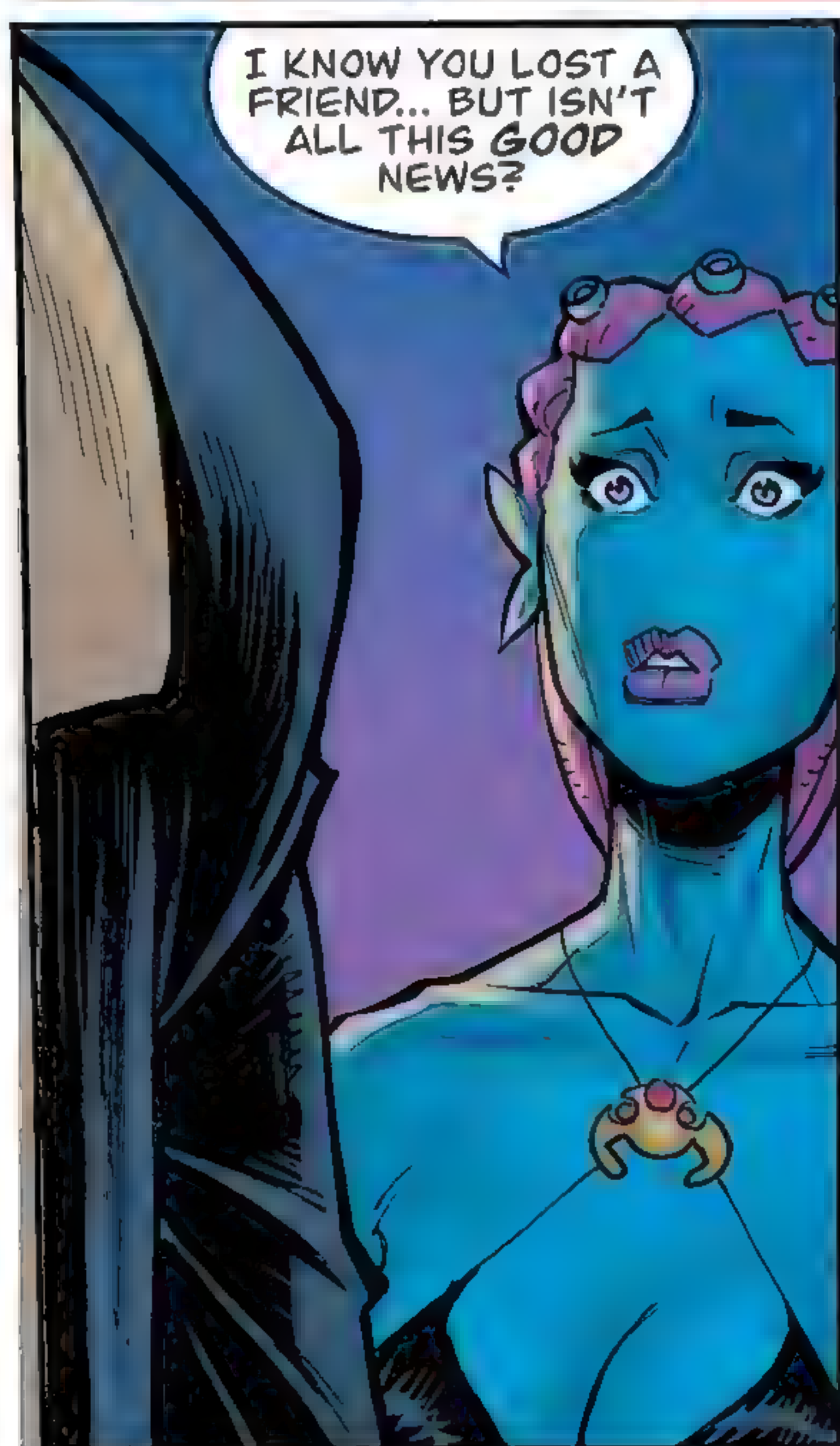
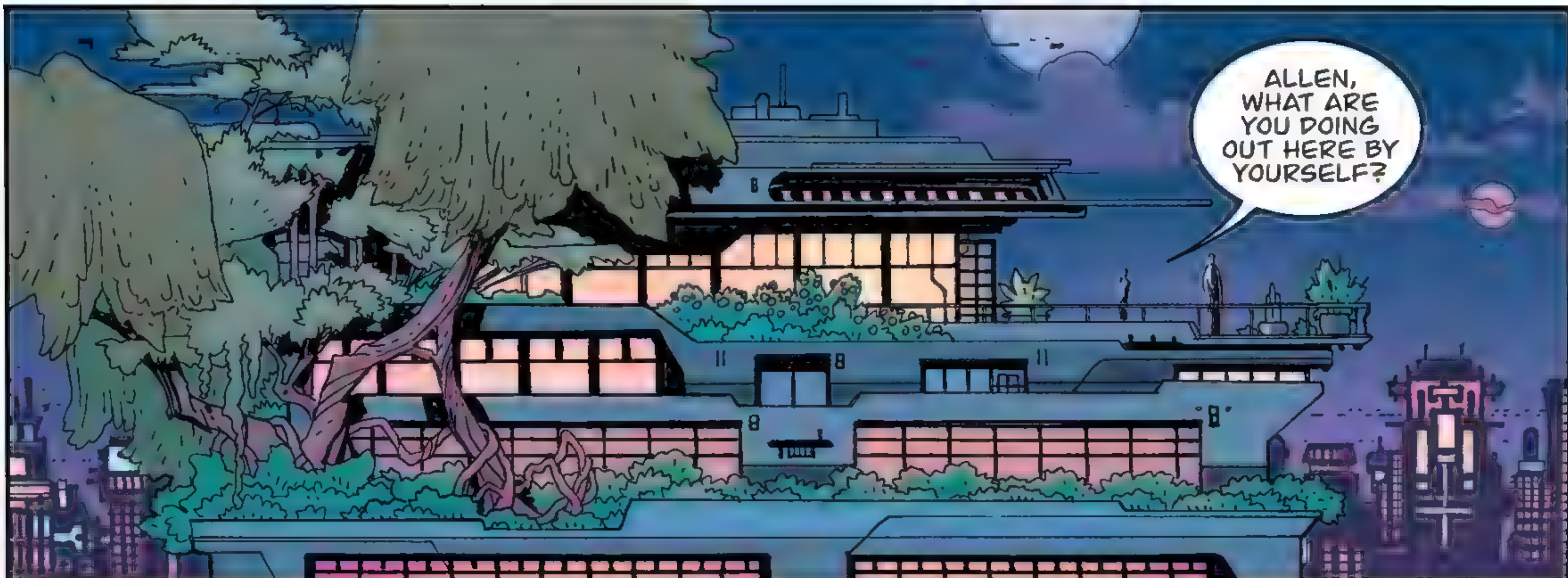


OH?











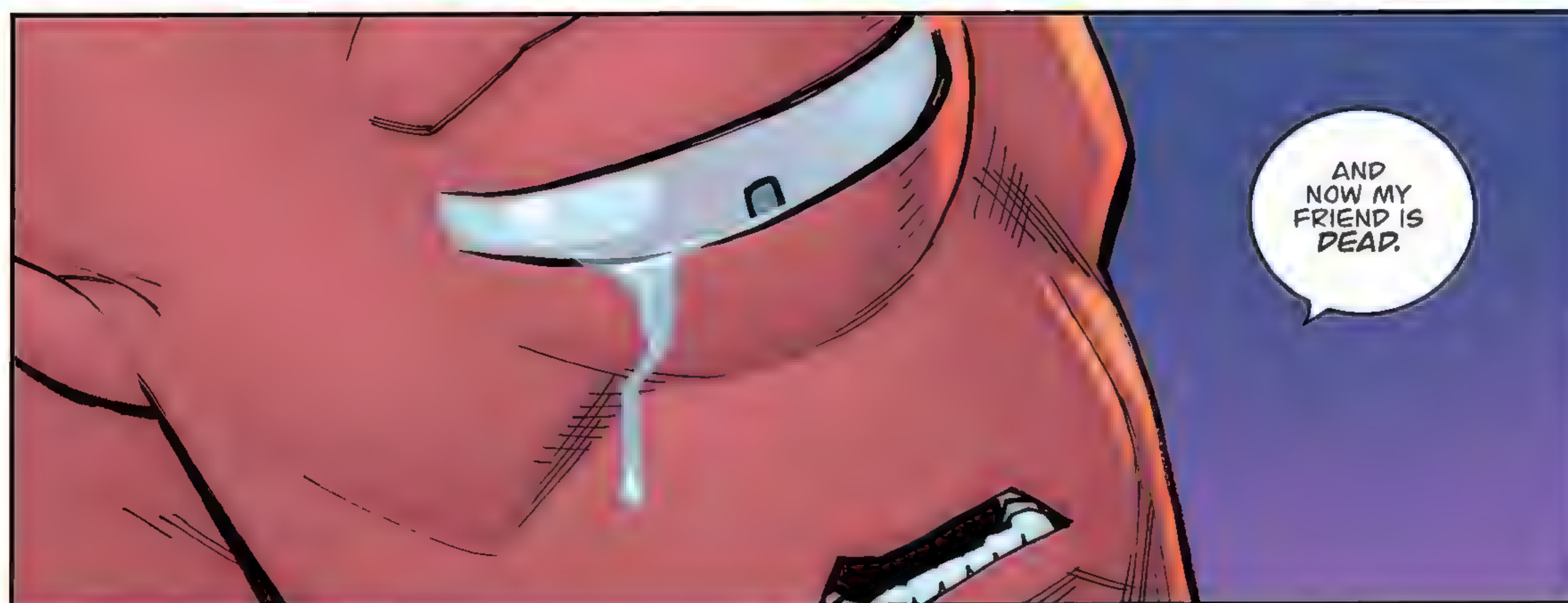
ALLEN?
YOU'RE NOT
SAYING... YOU
COULDN'T
HAVE--



I KNEW PRESSING
OLIVER TO MEET WITH
THRAGG WOULD CAUSE
HIM TO TEST HIM... I... I
MADE SURE THRAGG
KNEW WHERE MARK
AND EVE WERE.

I PUT THEM
IN DANGER. I
KNEW THRAGG
WOULD USE THEM
AS A TEST. I
KNEW ALL
THIS...

I WAS
DESPERATE...
I SAW NO
OTHER
WAY...



AND
NOW MY
FRIEND IS
DEAD.



CHAPTER 134







THIS WAS HIS PLACE...
HE'D COME HERE TO BE
ALONE AMONG HIS...
VICTIMS. HE WAS
A MONSTER...

BUT ONAAN
WAS STILL MY
BROTHER.



I'M
SORRY
THAT HE
DIED...



LIES!

YOU KNEW
HE WAS IN
DANGER AND
YOU DID
NOTHING!

YOU
DON'T CARE
ABOUT ANY
OF US!



WE'RE
JUST
SOLDIERS
TO YOU--
FODDER
FOR YOUR
GLORY!

BOLD
WORDS,
CHILD.

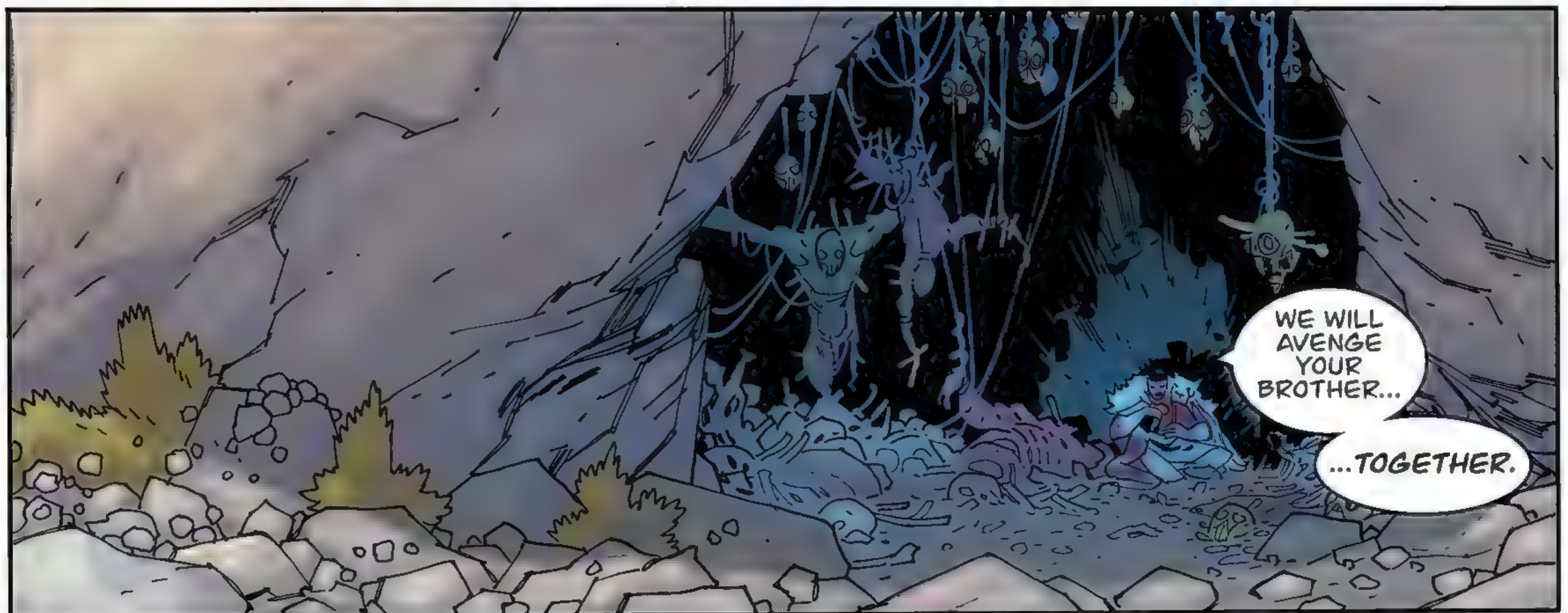
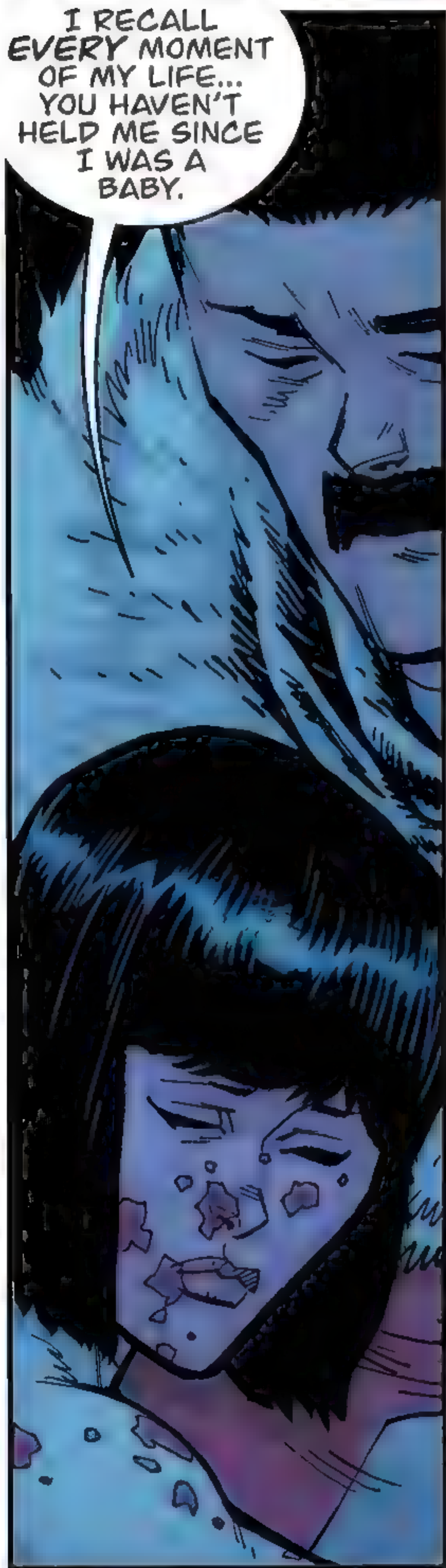
BUT YOU
COULDN'T
BE MORE
WRONG.

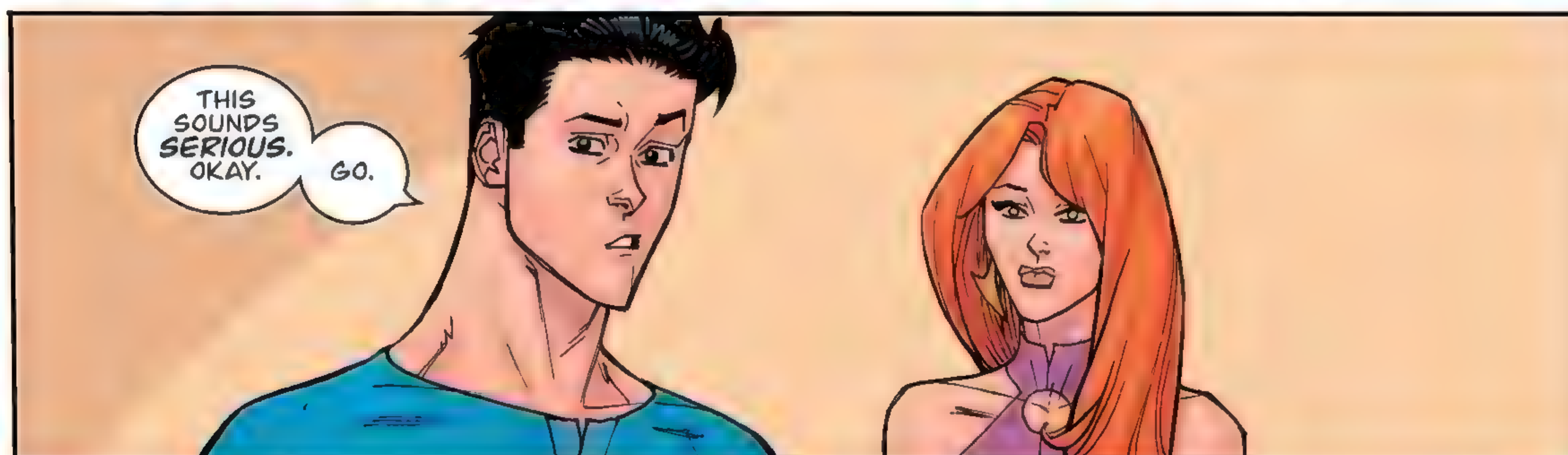
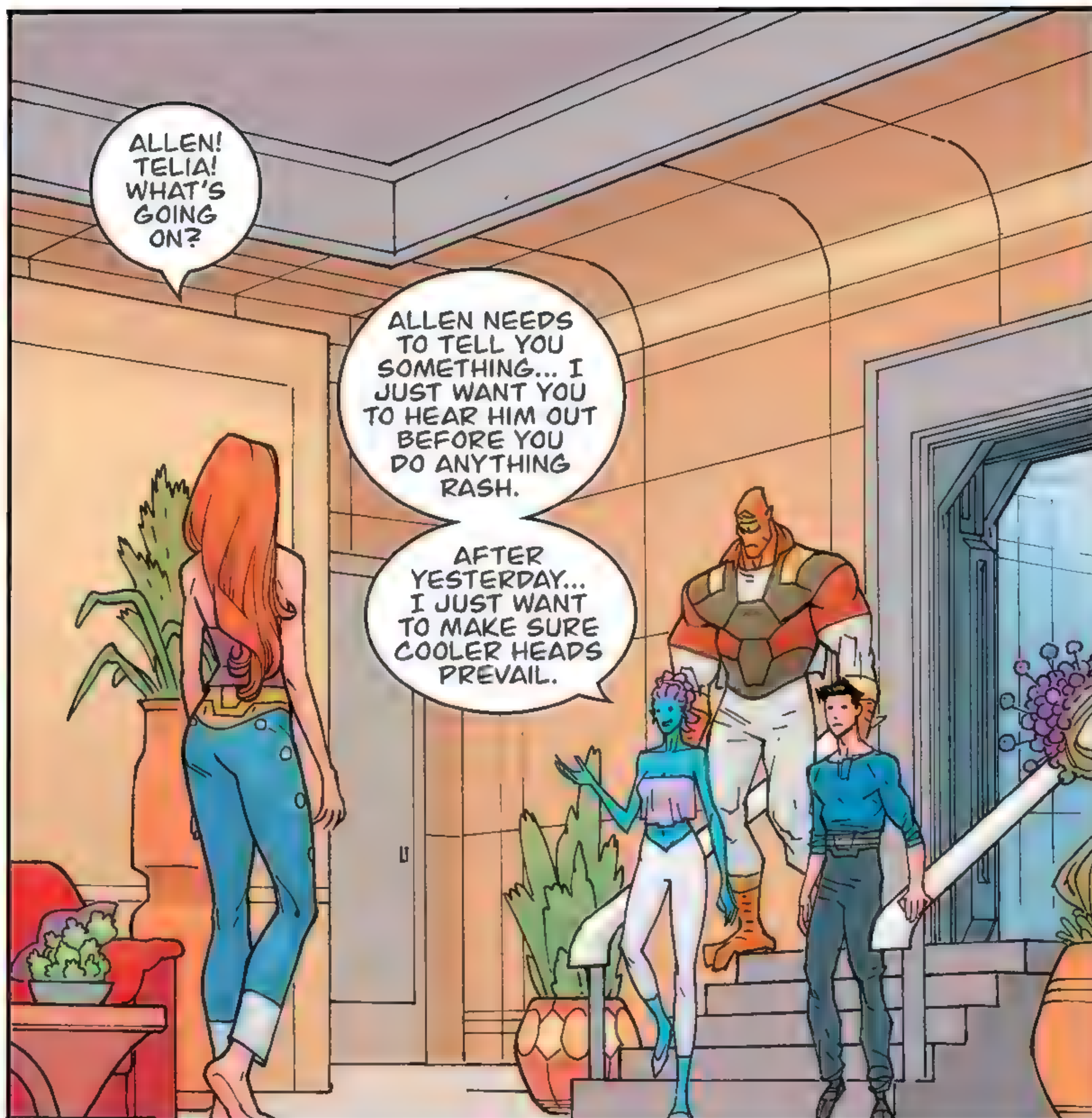


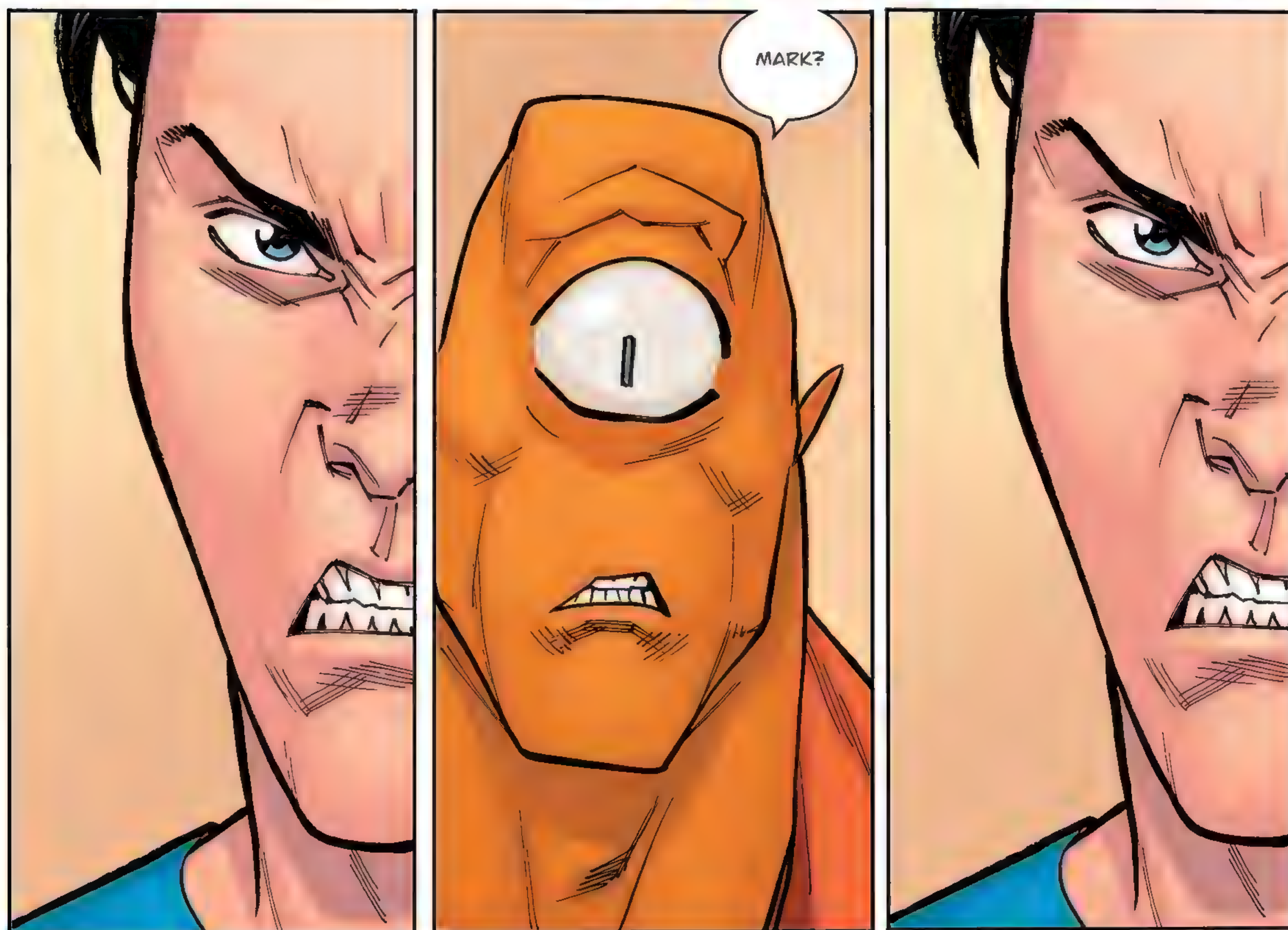
THERE
HASN'T BEEN
A DOCUMENTED
CASE OF TWINS
IN THE VILTRUMITE
RACE SINCE THE
SCOURGE VIRUS
DECIMATED OUR
POPULATION.

YOU
AND YOUR
BROTHER
WERE VERY
SPECIAL
TO ME.

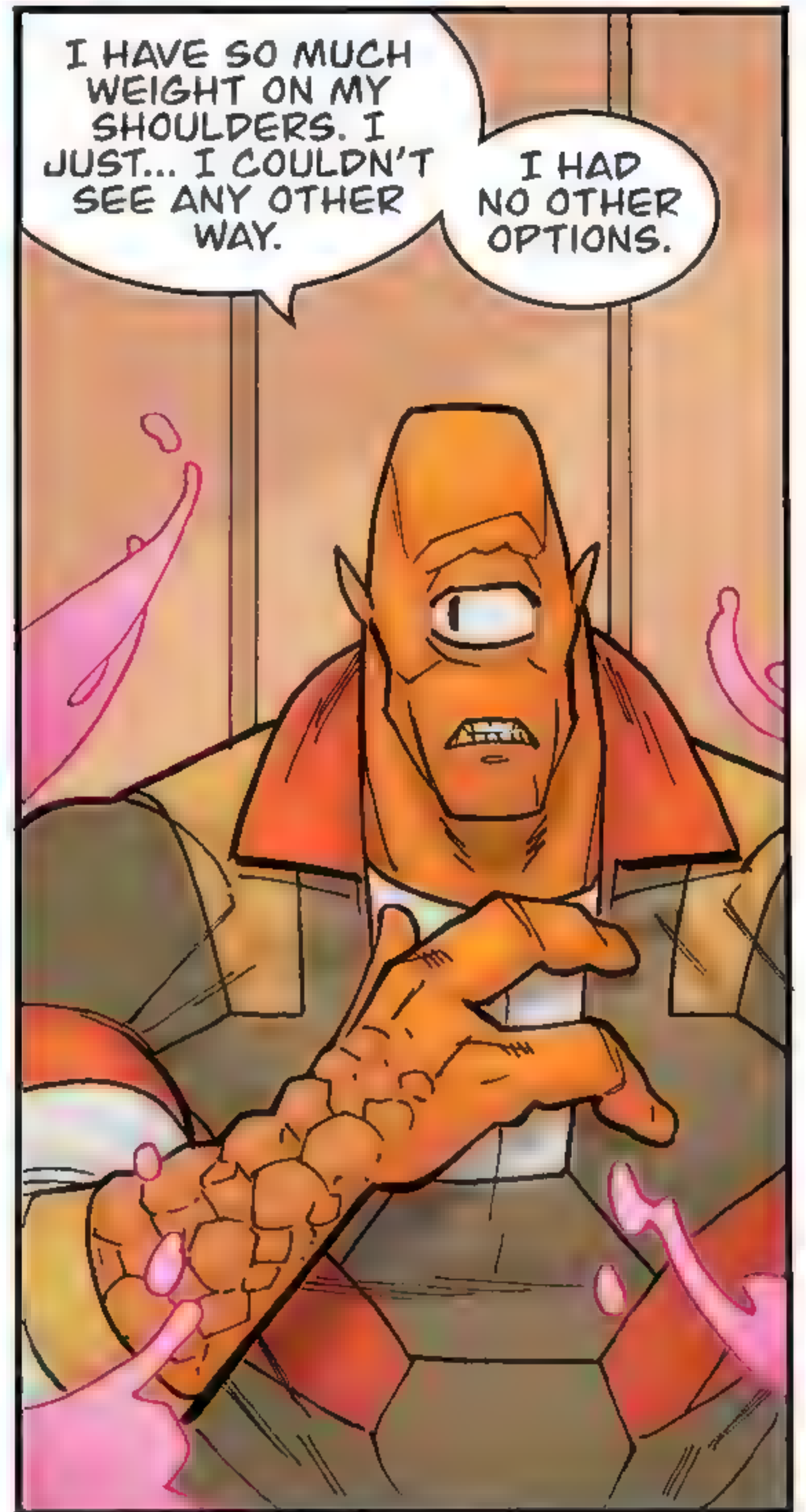
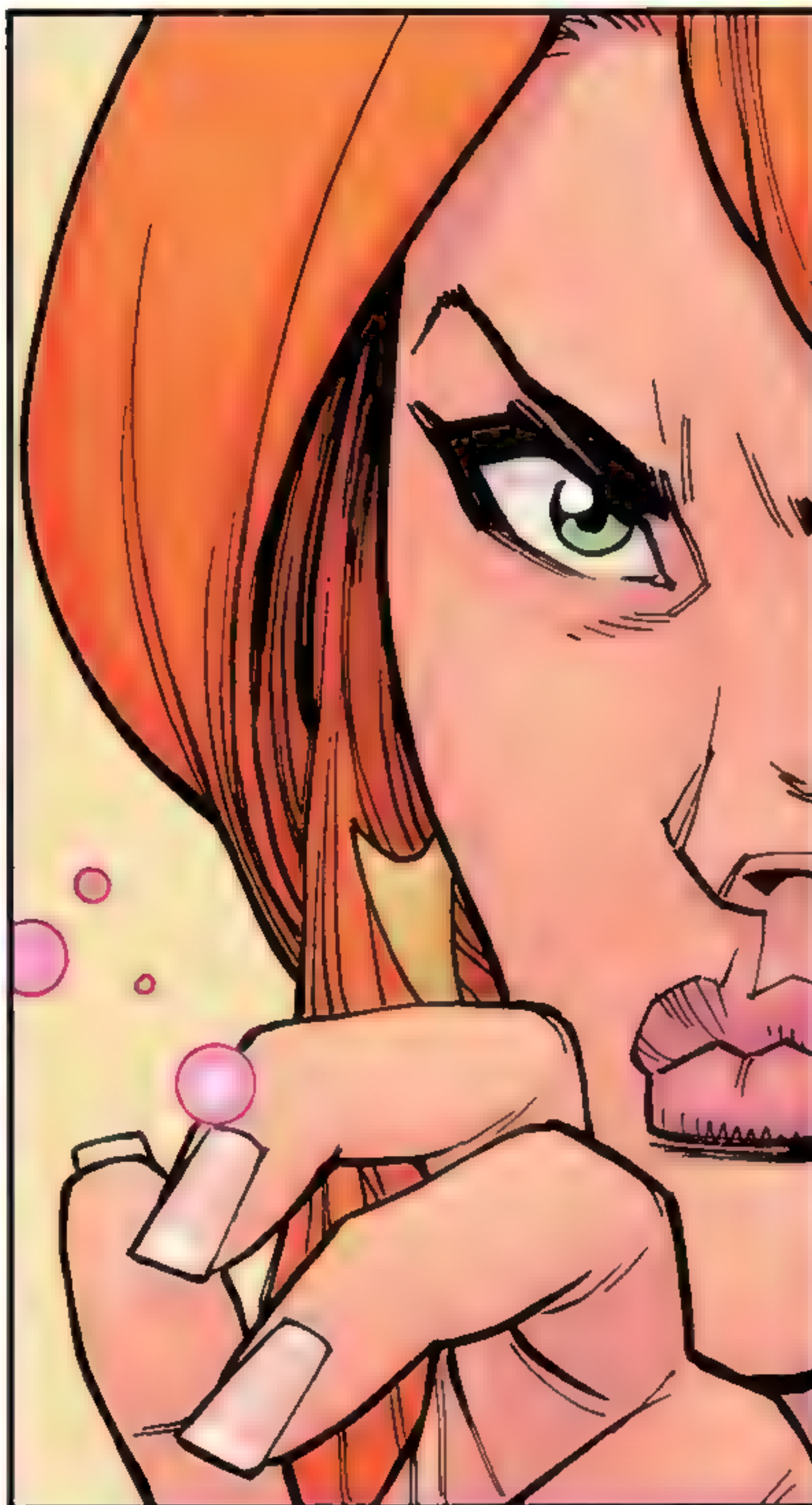
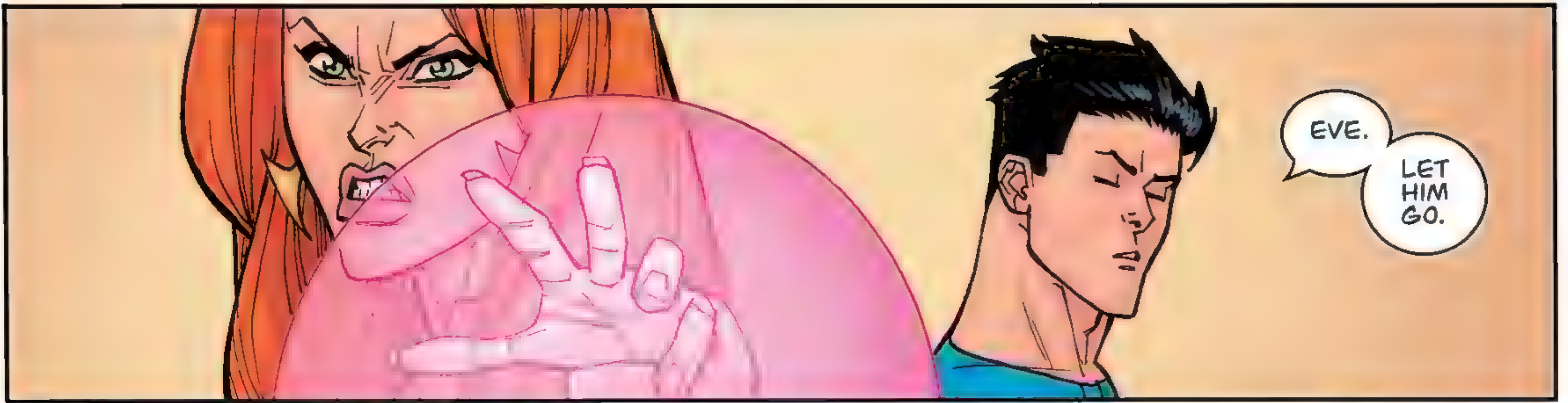
R--
REALLY?

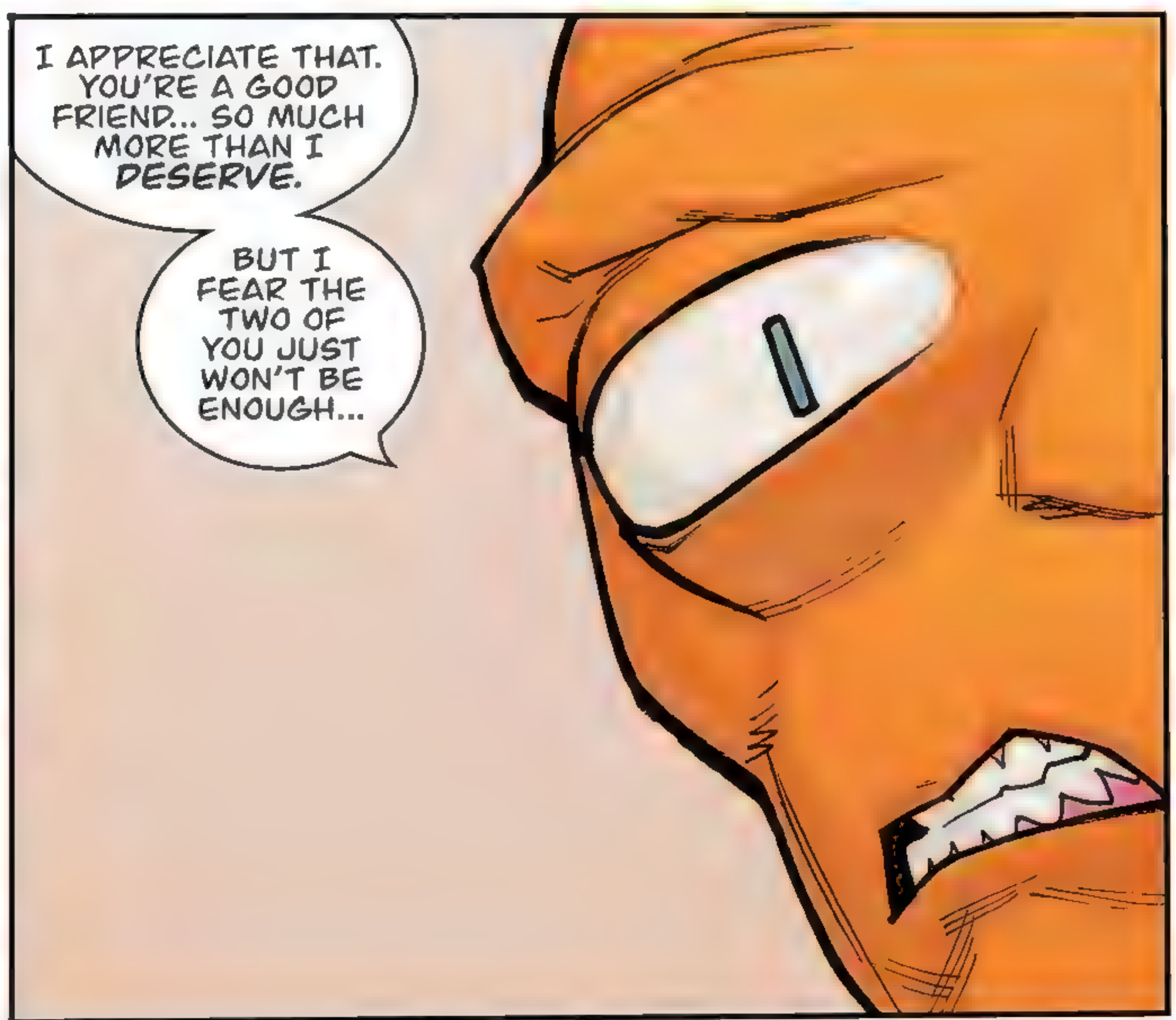
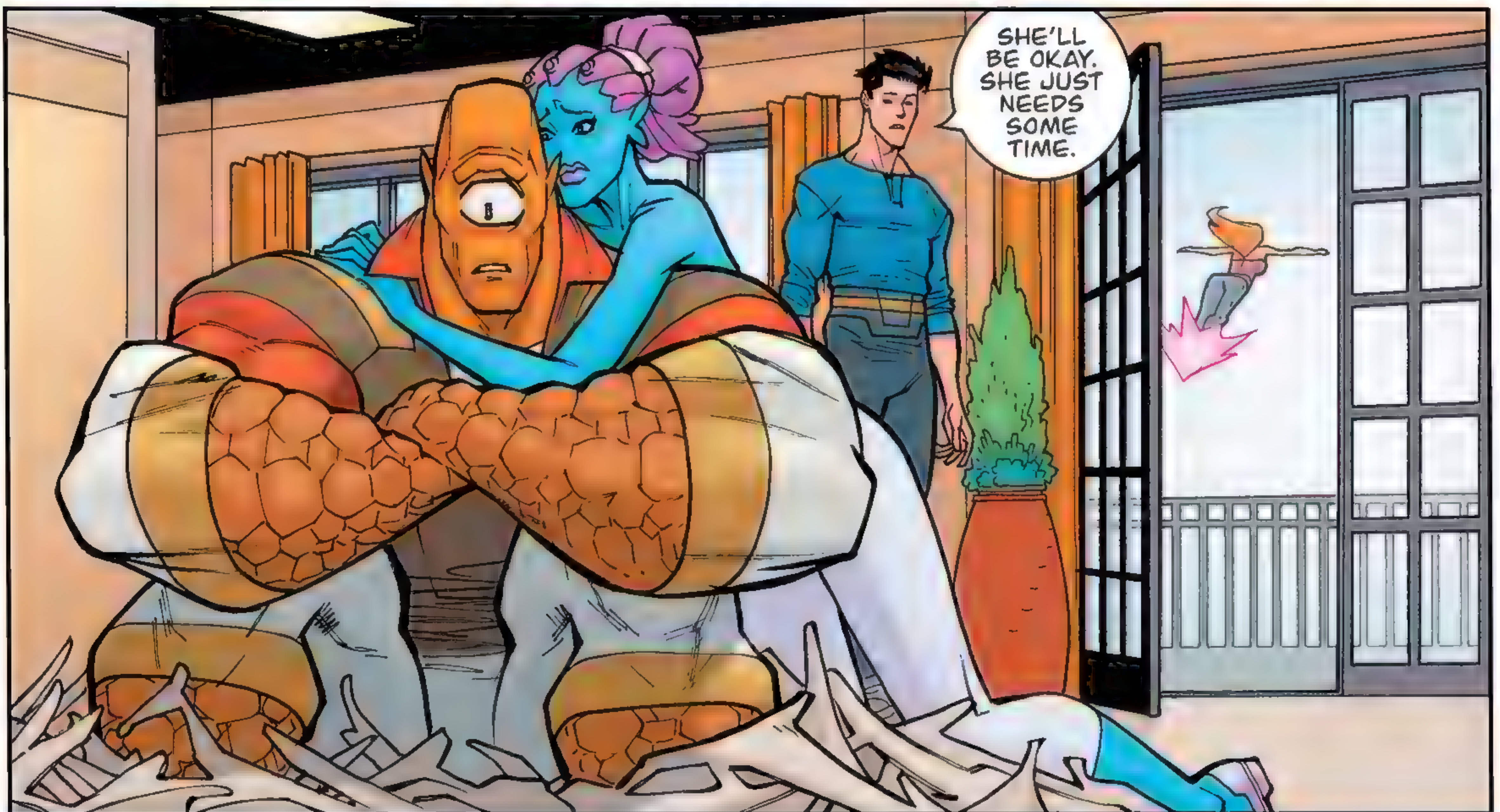
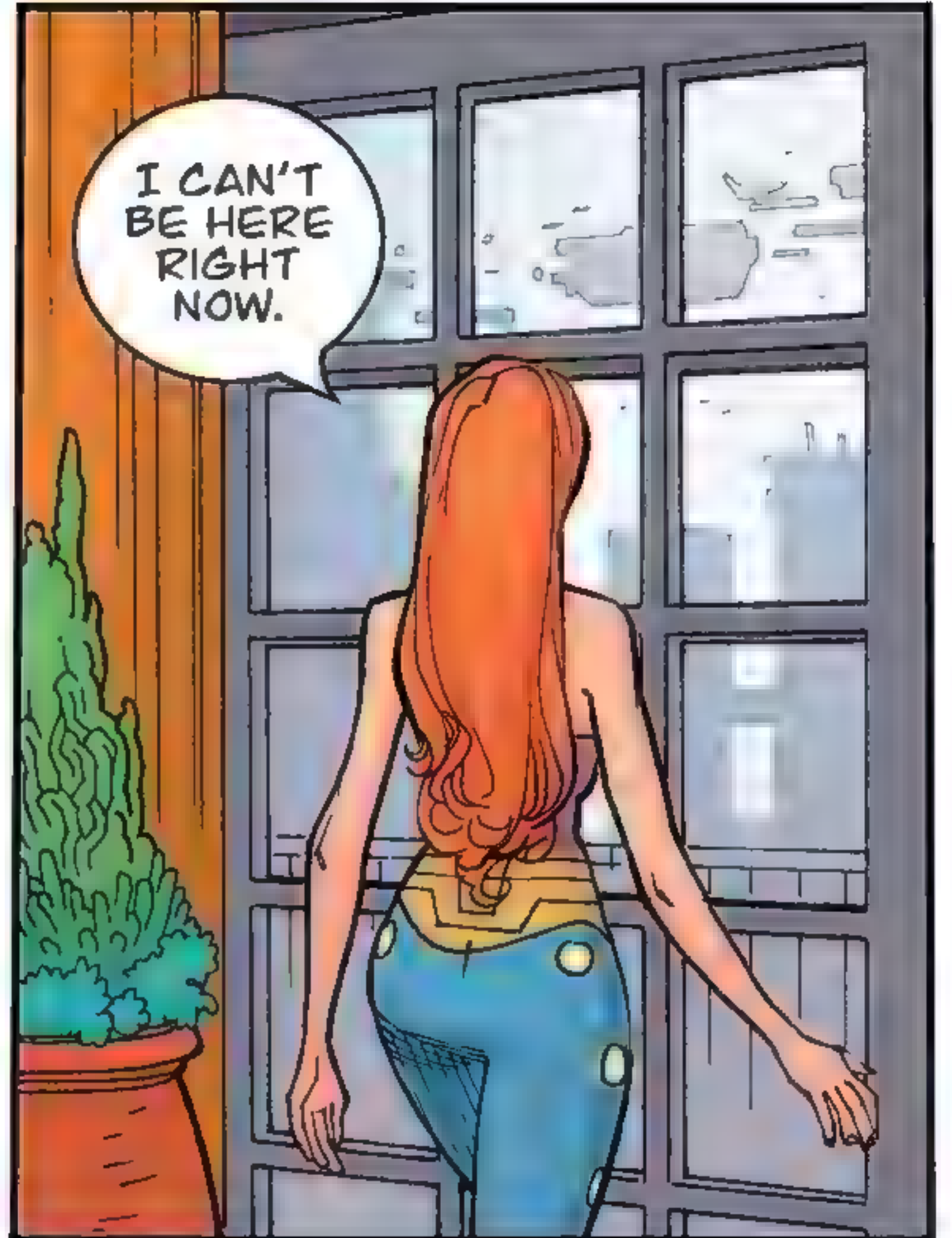
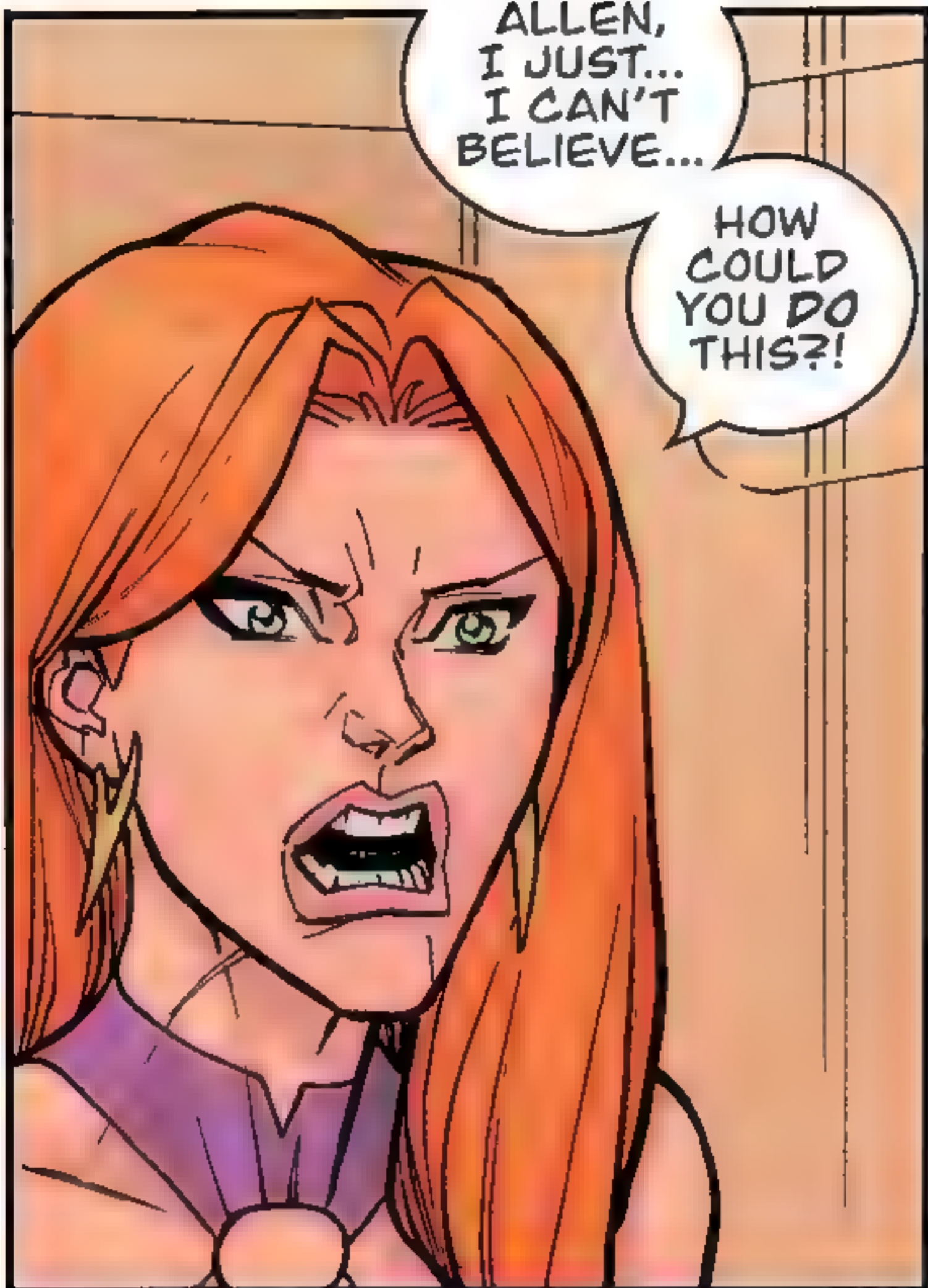


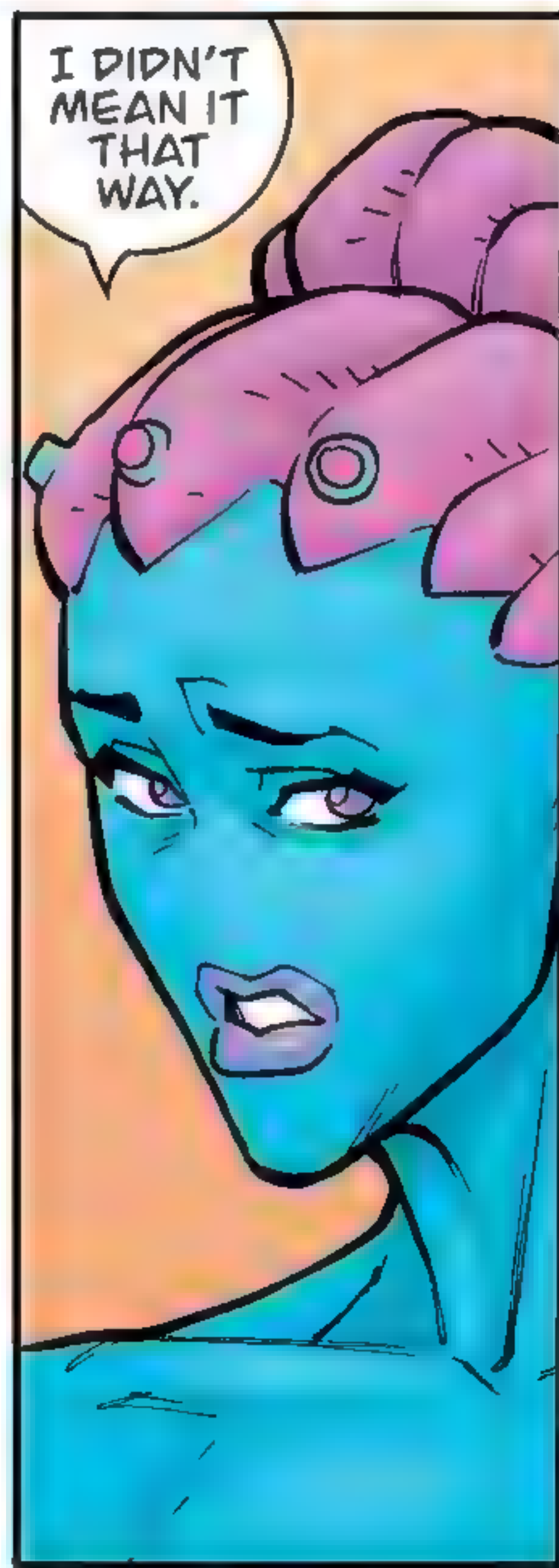
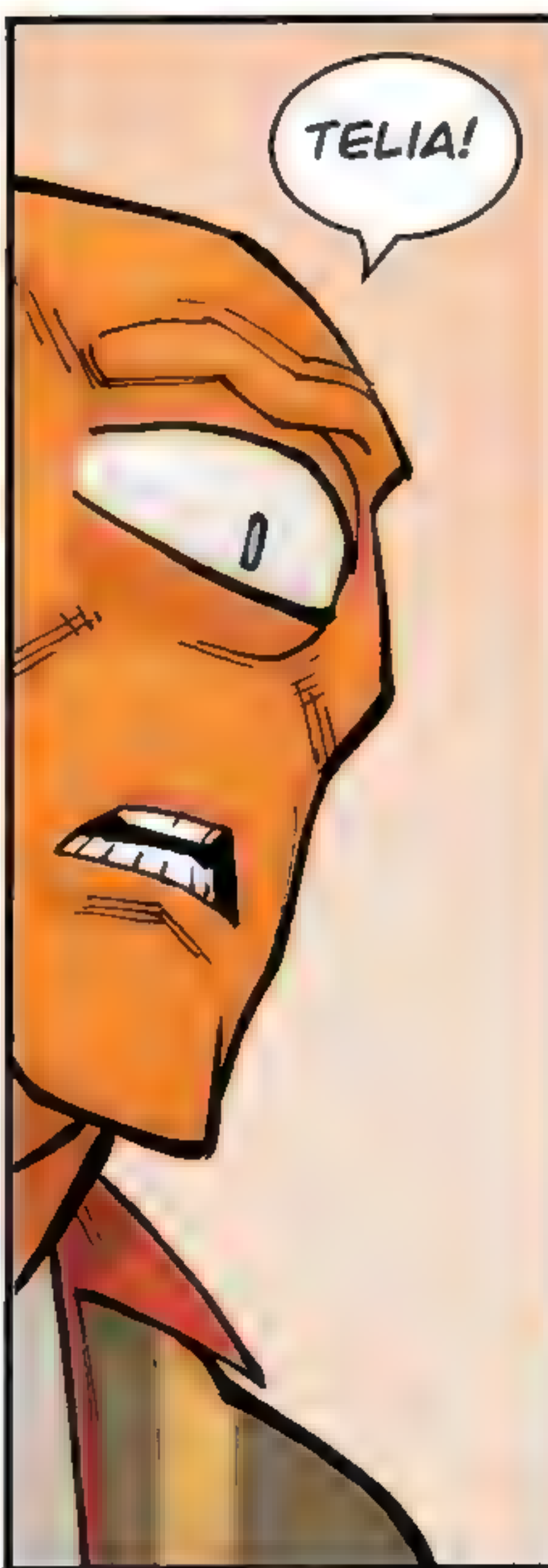
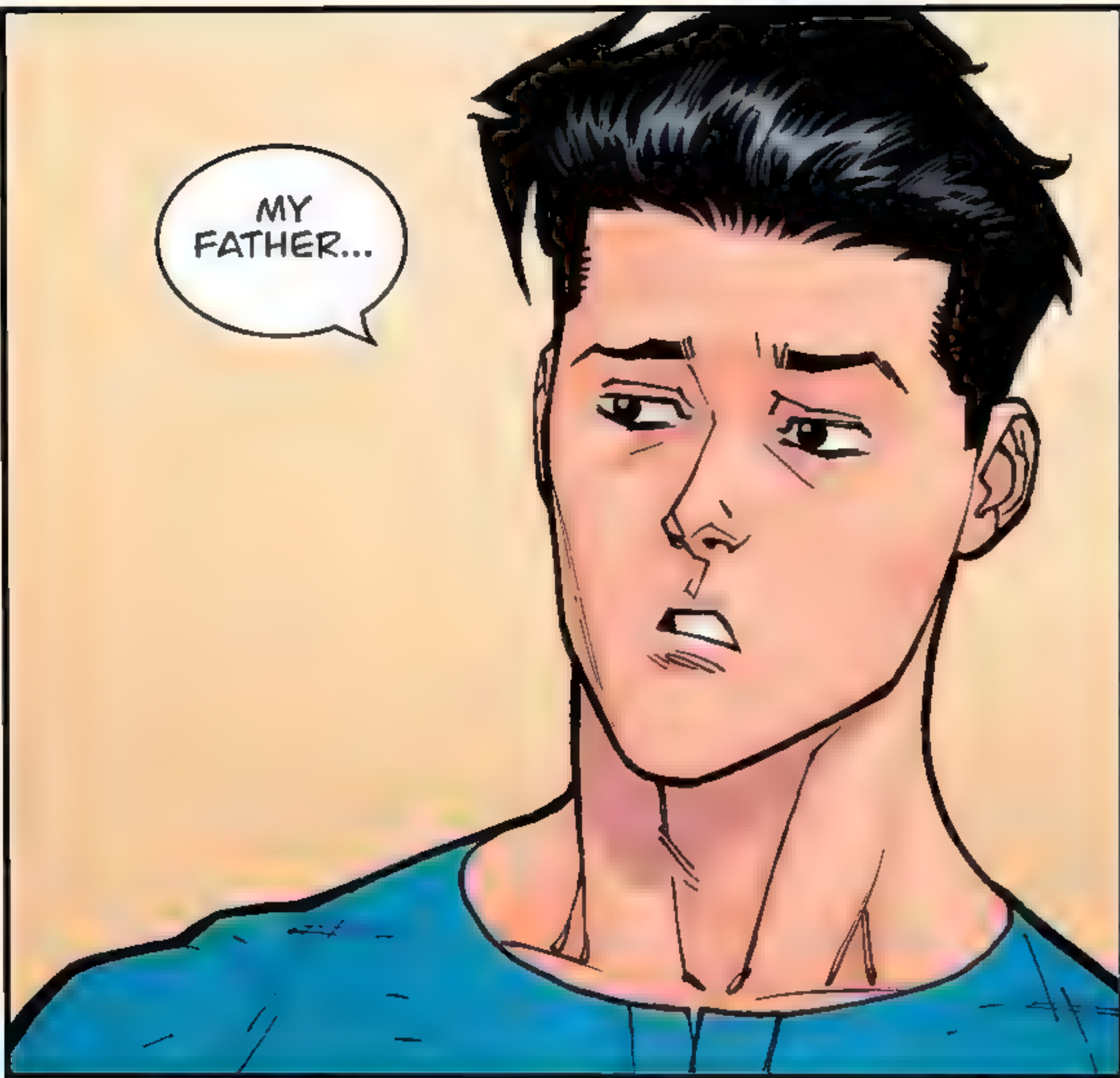
















THERE IS TOO MUCH AT STAKE NOT TO ACT! OLIVER IS DEAD! YOU THINK THRAGG STOPS THERE?! YOU THINK HE'S NOT COMING AFTER YOU ONCE HIS FORCES ARE STRONG ENOUGH TO DEFEAT YOU?!

THIS COULD BE OUR LAST CHANCE TO PUT A STOP TO THRAGG'S PLANS.

OUR LAST CHANCE TO AVENGE OLIVER'S DEATH.



I CAN'T PUT THE FUTURE OF OUR PEOPLE AT RISK...



WHAT ABOUT THRAGG'S ARMY?! ARE THOSE NOT OUR PEOPLE?! ARE THEY NOT VILTRUMITES?!

THEY'RE BEING CONTROLLED BY A TYRANT!

LIBERATE THEM! THEY WILL BRING US BACK FROM THE BRINK OF EXTINCTION IMMEDIATELY.



YOU KNOW IT'S NOT THAT EASY.

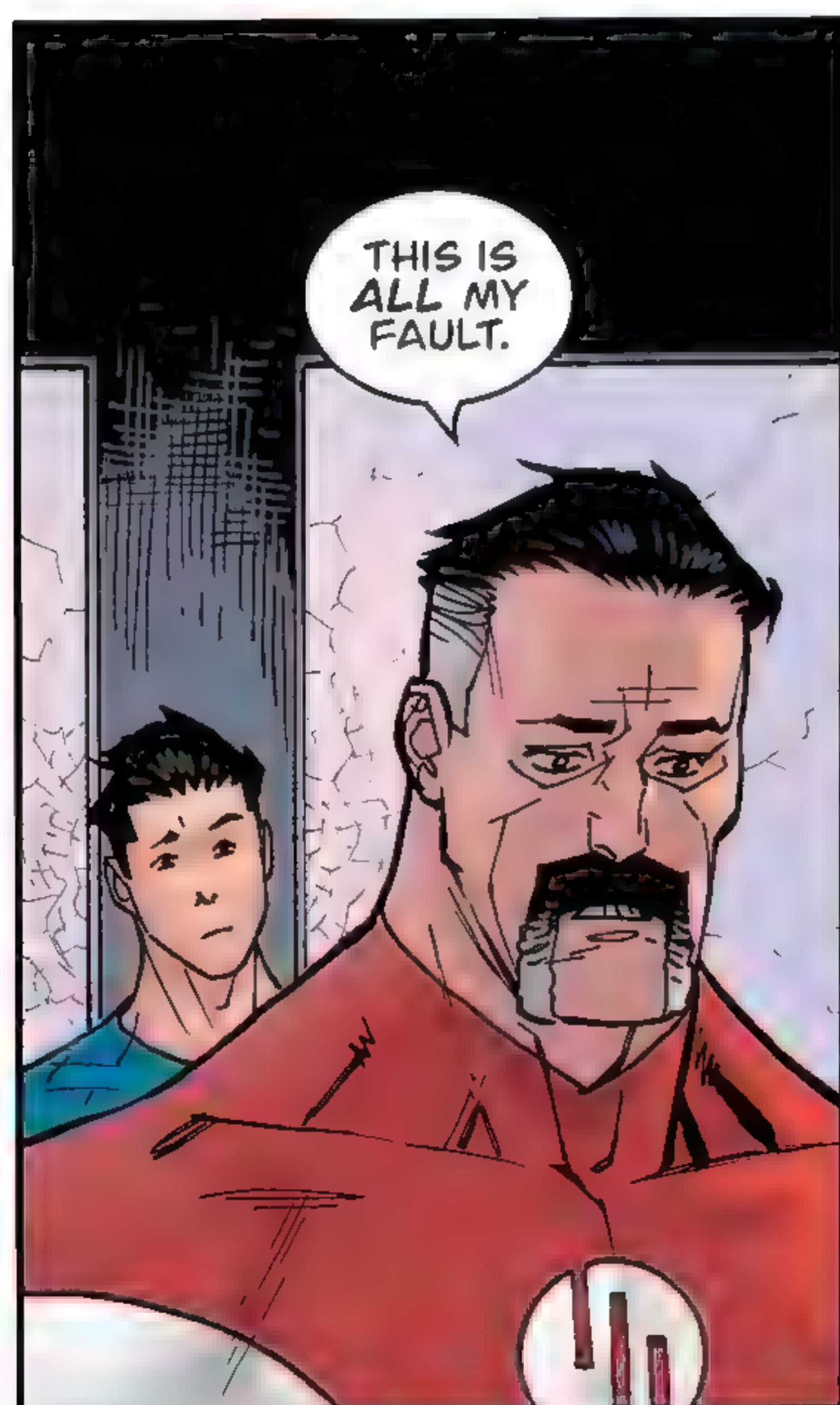


IT'S NOT! AND IT'S GETTING HARDER EVERY MINUTE WE WASTE ARGUING ABOUT THIS. IT'S DO OR DIE TIME!

IT'S NOT A MATTER OF KEEPING OUR PEOPLE SAFE BY SITTING THIS OUT--IT'S A MATTER OF BRINGING EVERYONE TOGETHER... WHILE WE'RE STILL STRONG ENOUGH TO FACE THIS!

YOU HAVE A RESPONSIBILITY HERE!

OR HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN THAT YOU LET THRAGG GO IN THE FIRST PLACE?!



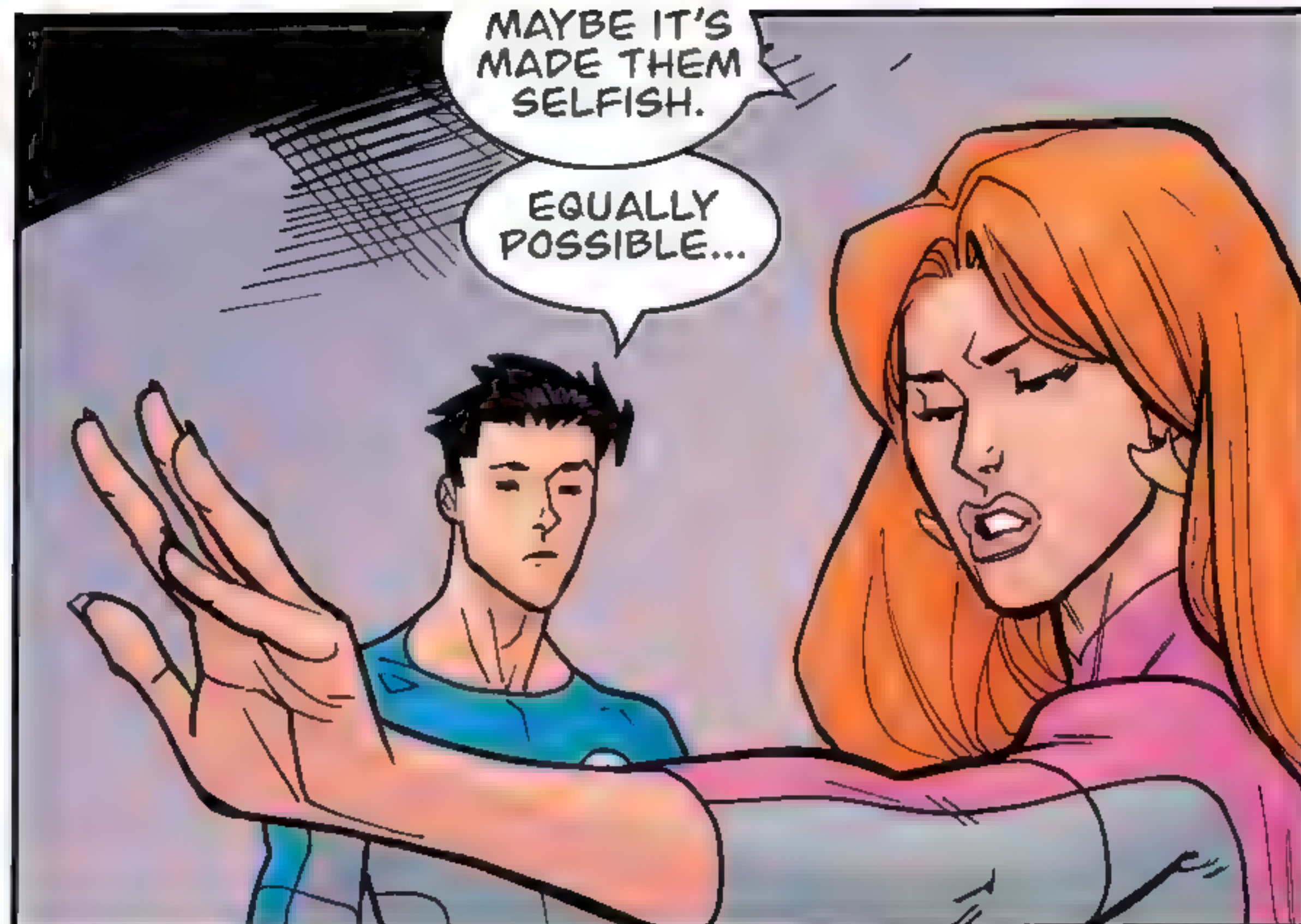


IT'S A
STEP IN
THE RIGHT
DIRECTION
AT LEAST.

BUT
HOW MANY
VILTRUMITES
DO YOU THINK
WILL ACTUALLY
VOLUNTEER?

I DON'T
KNOW. THEY'VE
BUILT LIVES ON
EARTH... THEY'VE
GROWN. IT'S
BEEN ALMOST
SIX YEARS
THEY'VE BEEN
THERE.

MAYBE IT'S
CHANGED
THEM FOR THE
BETTER.



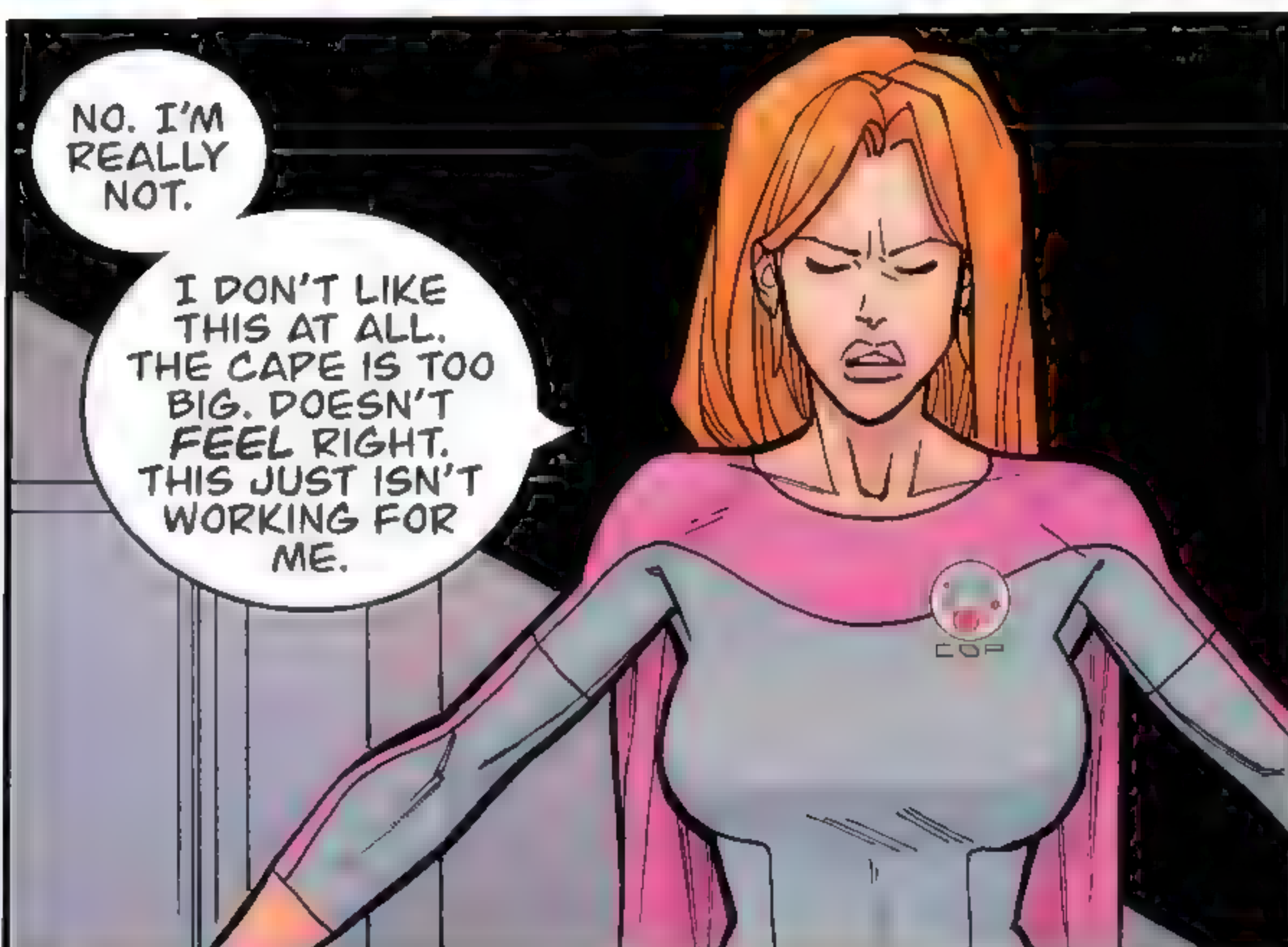
MAYBE IT'S
MADE THEM
SELFISH.

EQUALLY
POSSIBLE...



IT'S THE
BEST I COULD
DO. HE'S
INVOLVED.
HOPEFULLY AS
TIME GOES ON...
HE'LL GET
MORE
INVOLVED.

YOU
READY
TO GO?



NO. I'M
REALLY
NOT.

I DON'T LIKE
THIS AT ALL.
THE CAPE IS TOO
BIG. DOESN'T
FEEL RIGHT.
THIS JUST ISN'T
WORKING FOR
ME.



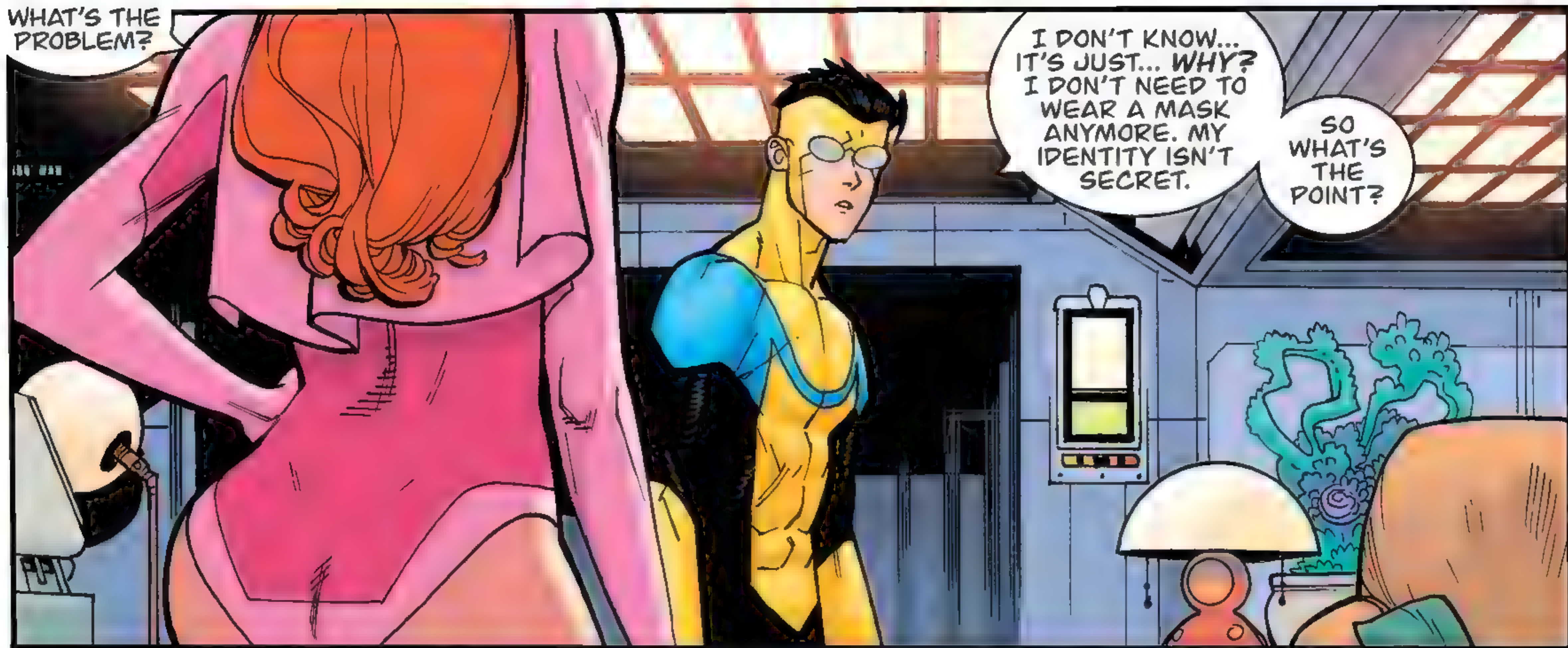
I HAVE
A BETTER
IDEA.

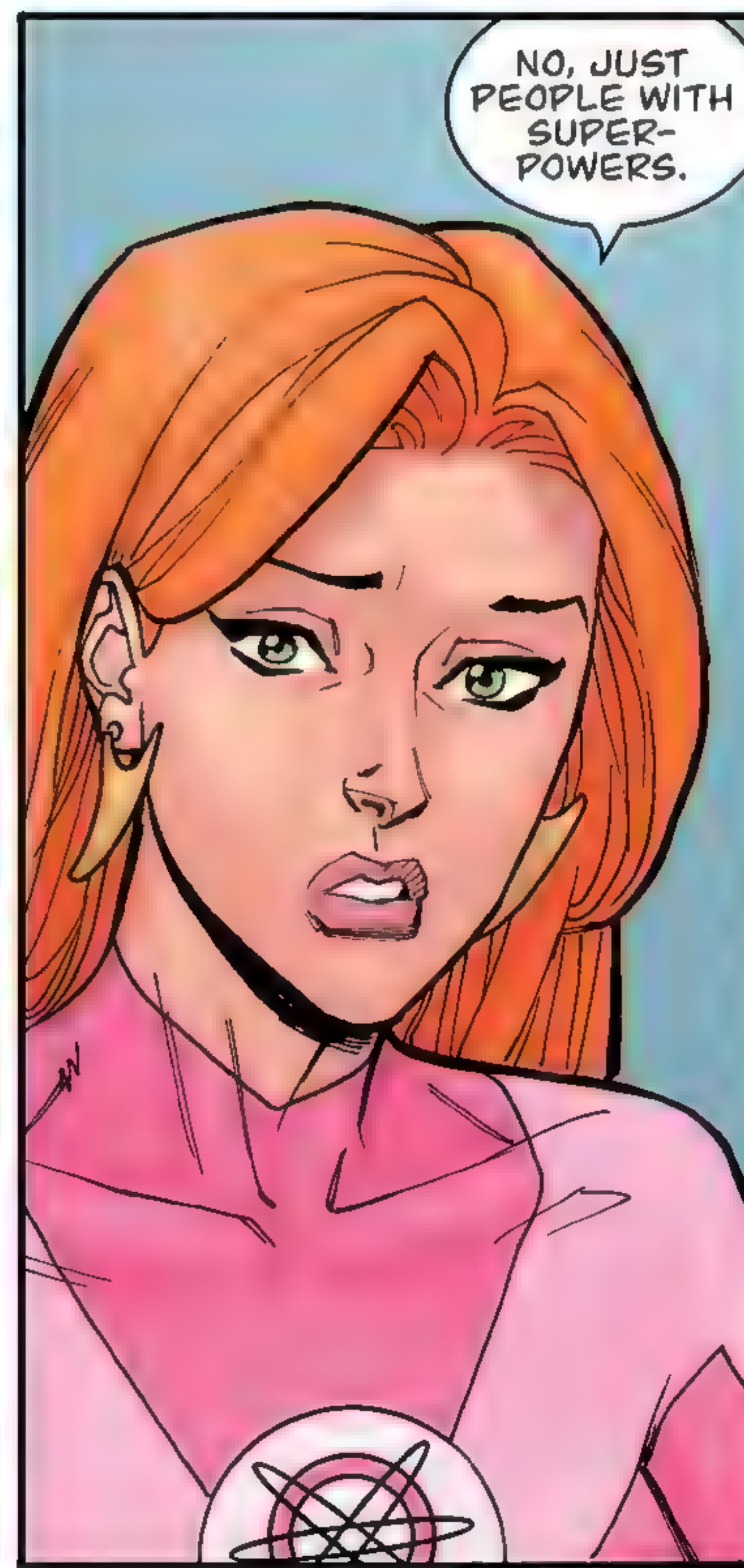
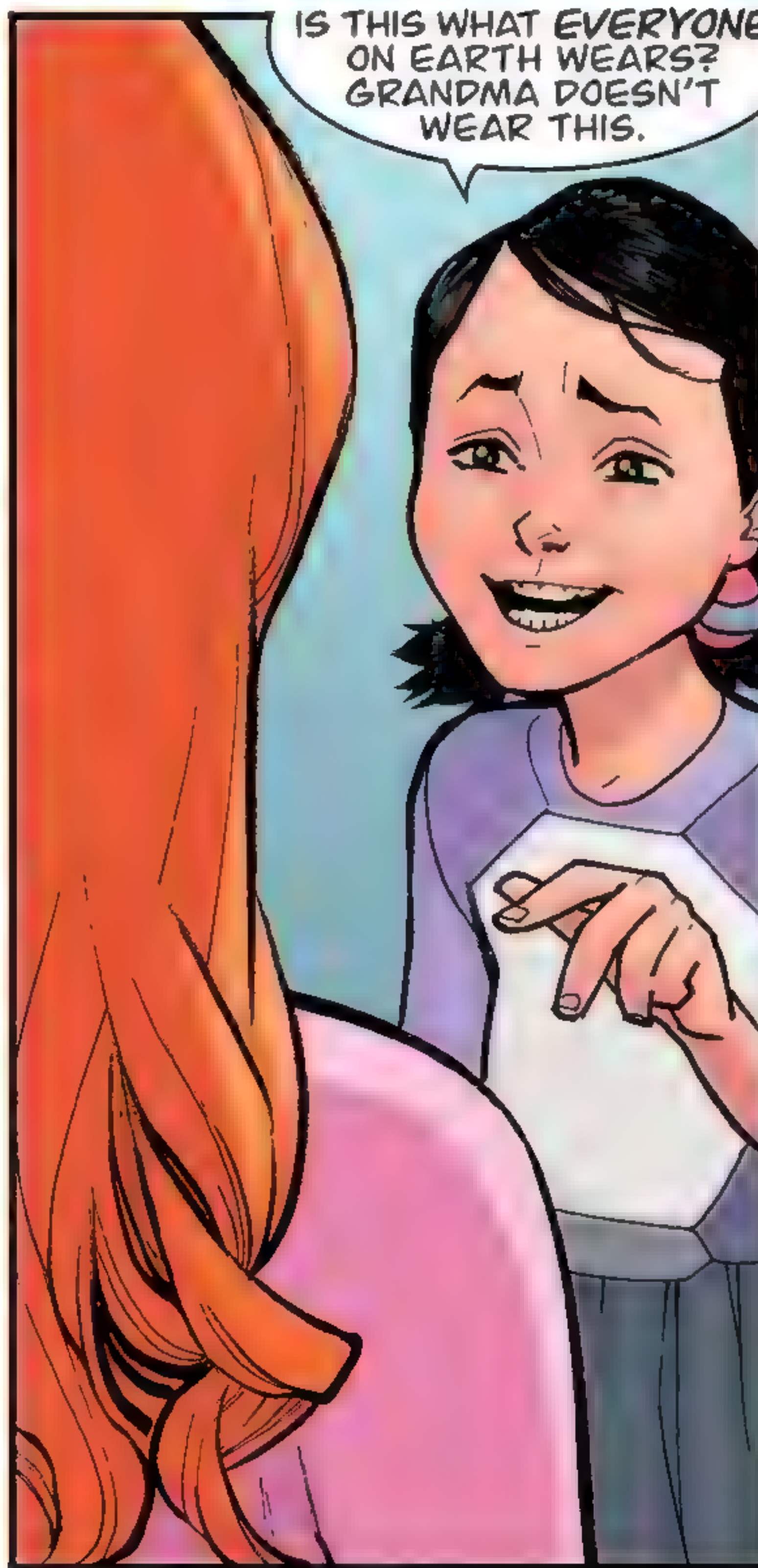
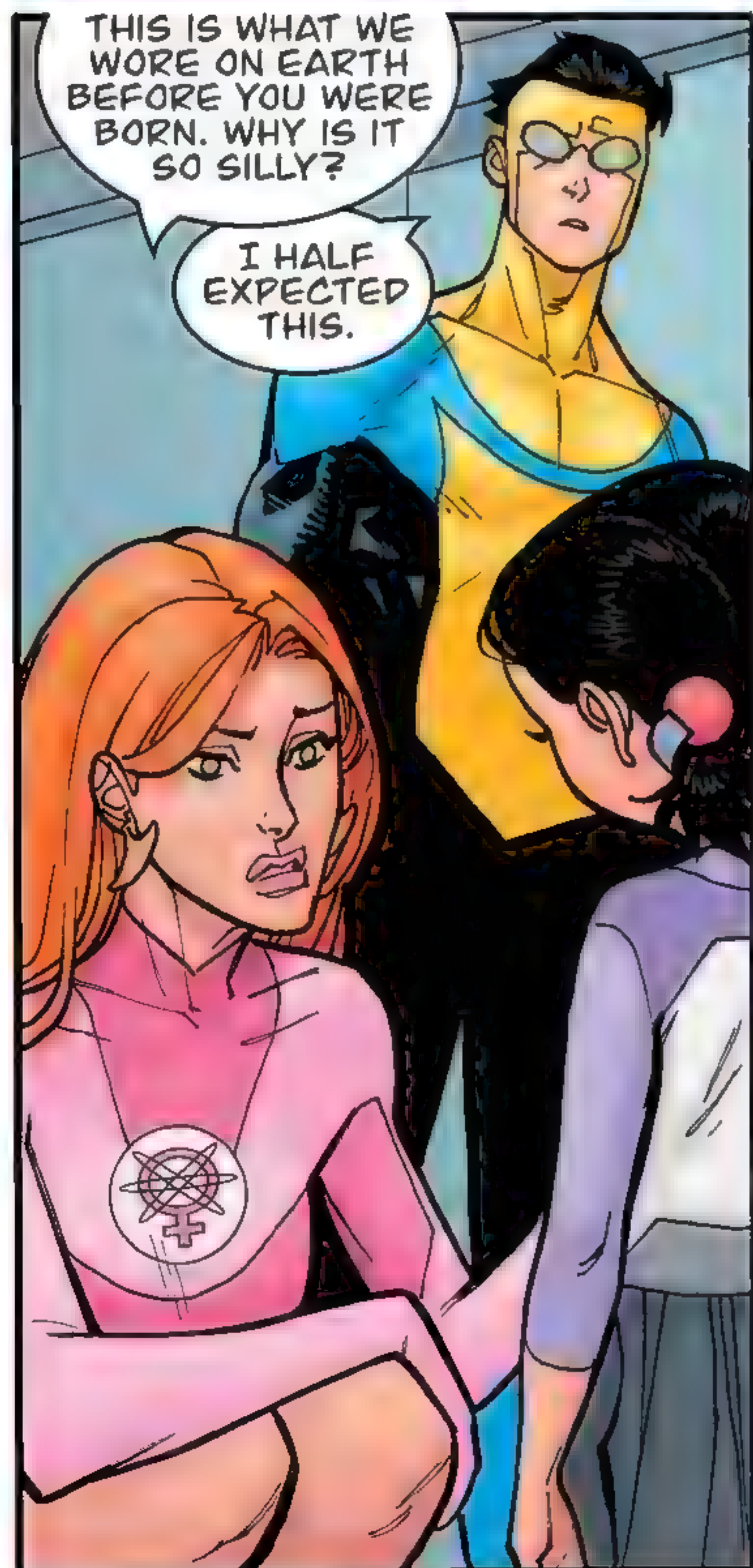
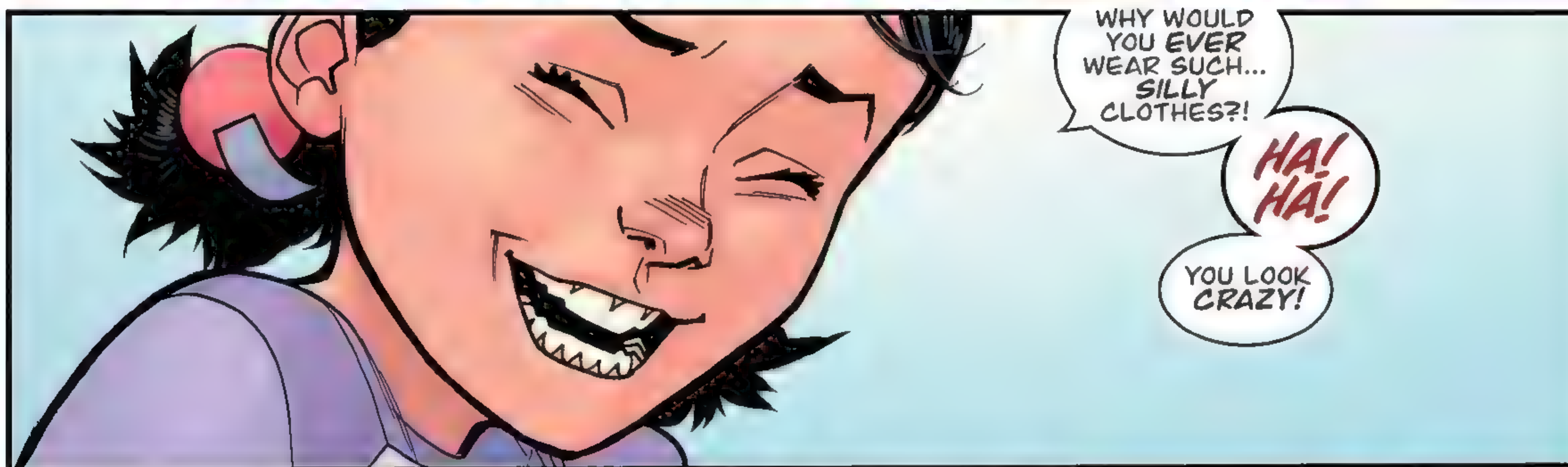
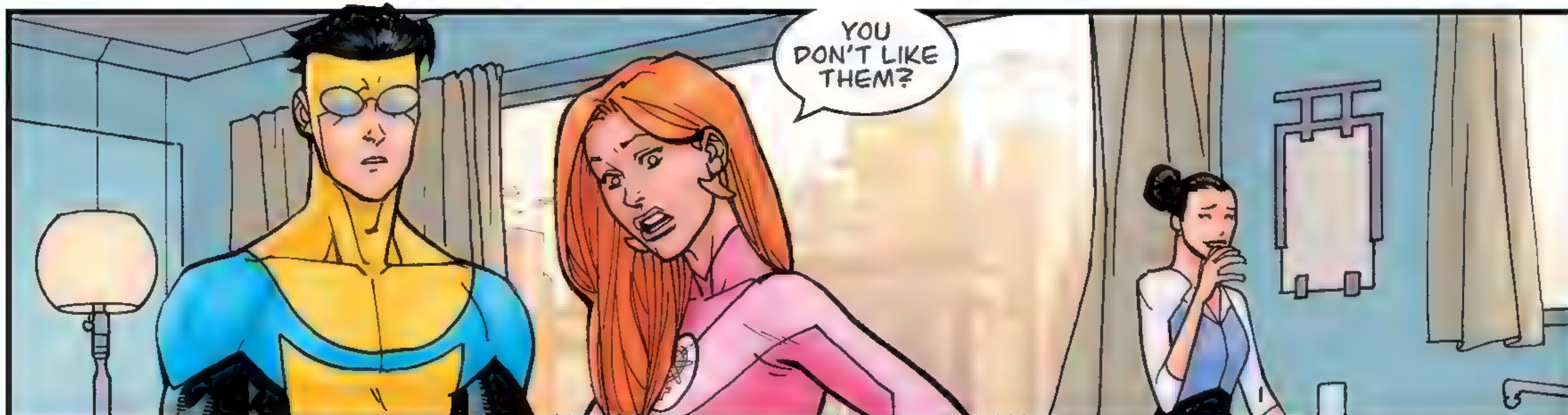
UH-OH.

MUCH
BETTER!

REALLY?



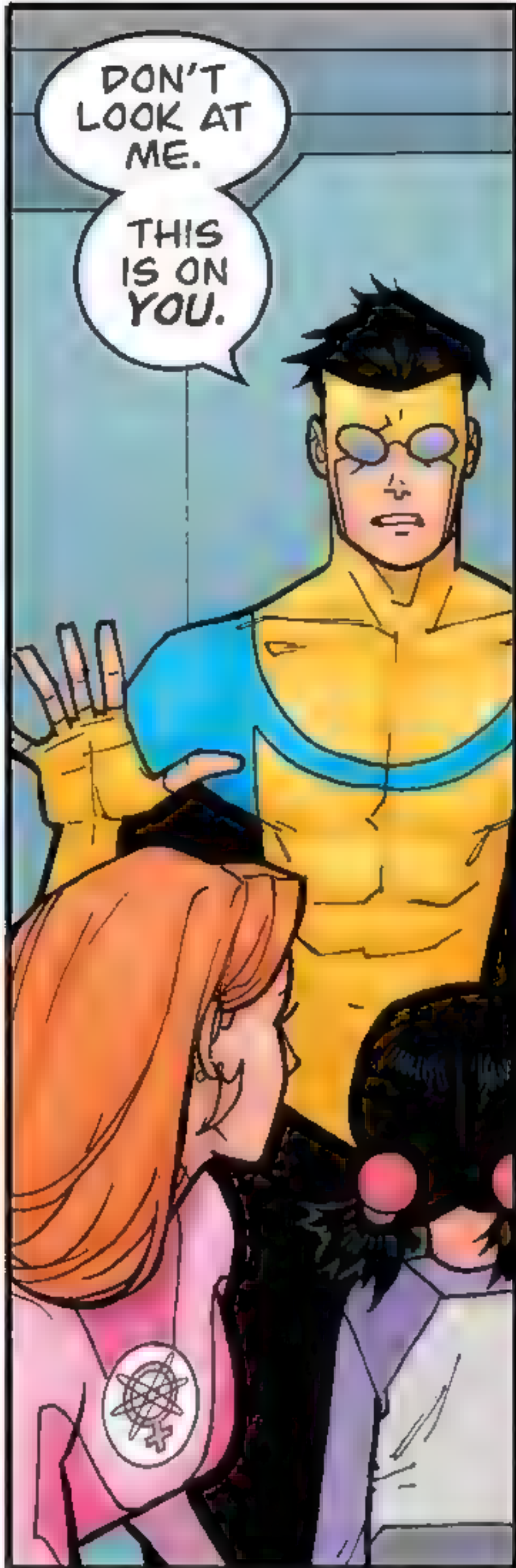






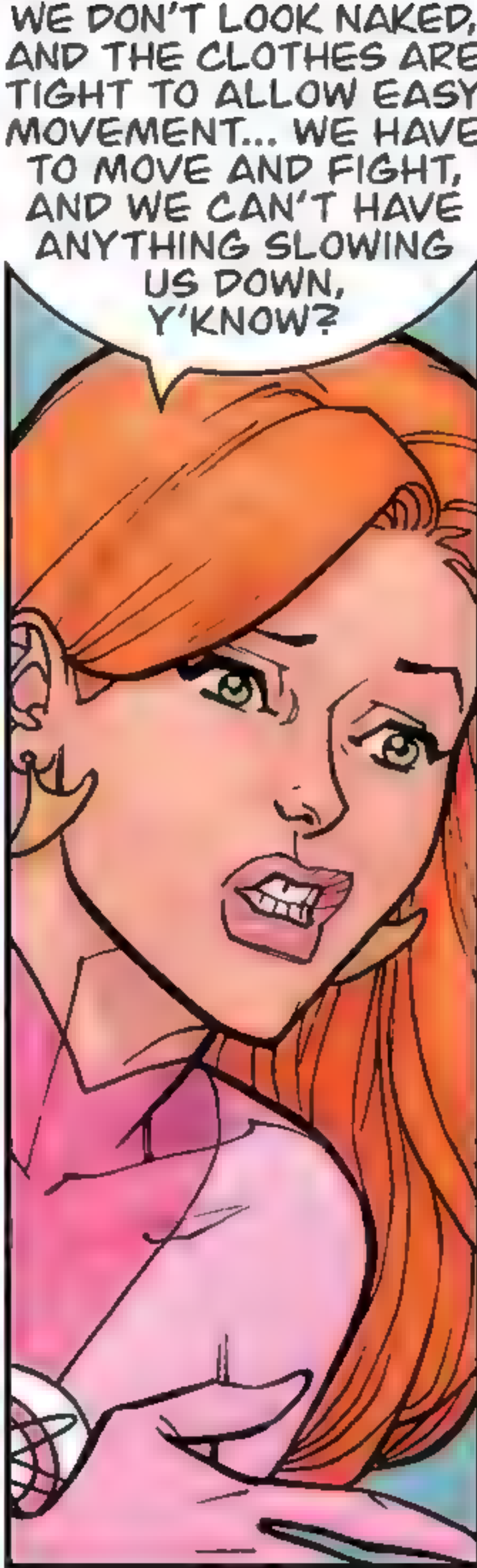
SO, ON EARTH...
PEOPLE WITH
SUPERPOWERS
WEAR NAKED
CLOTHES THAT
MAKE THEM LOOK
NAKED EVEN IF
THEY'RE NOT
NAKED?

WHY?

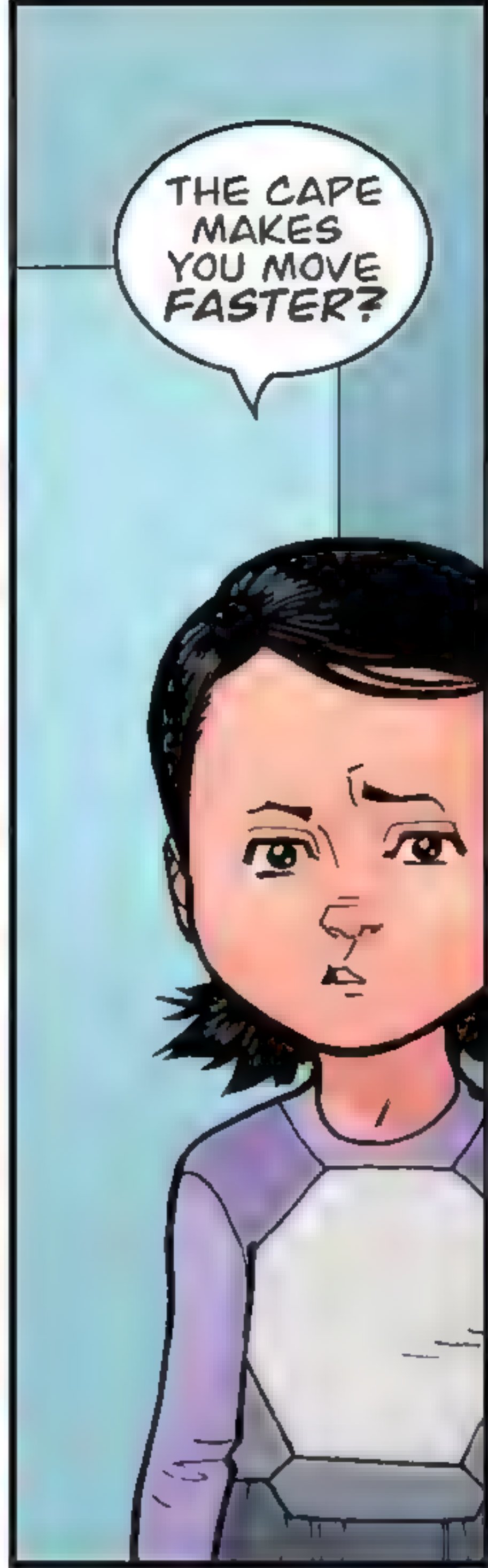


DON'T
LOOK AT
ME.

THIS
IS ON
YOU.



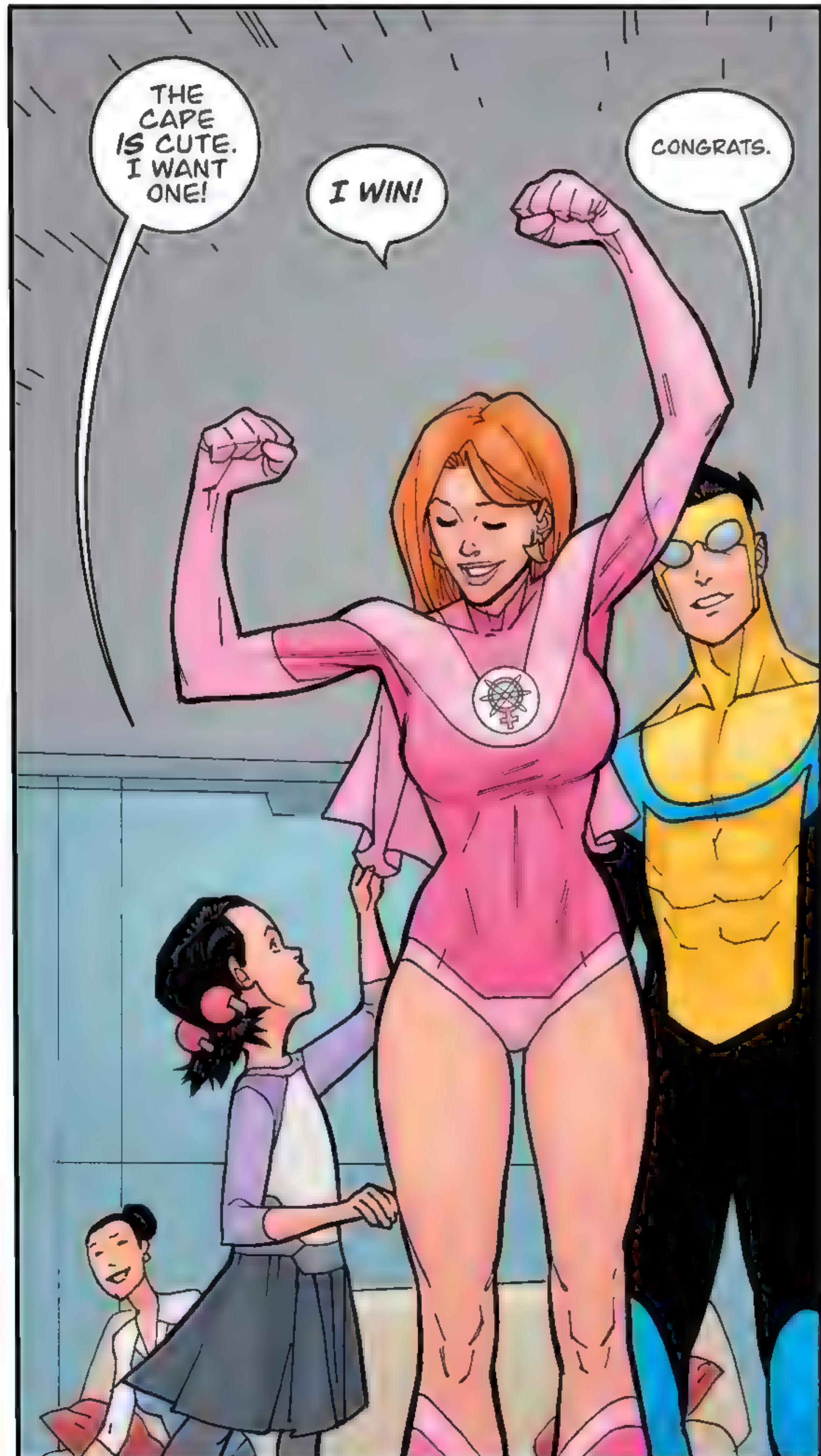
WE DON'T LOOK NAKED,
AND THE CLOTHES ARE
TIGHT TO ALLOW EASY
MOVEMENT... WE HAVE
TO MOVE AND FIGHT,
AND WE CAN'T HAVE
ANYTHING SLOWING
US DOWN,
Y'KNOW?



THE CAPE
MAKES
YOU MOVE
FASTER?



THE
CAPE
JUST
LOOKS
CUTE.



THE
CAPE
IS CUTE.
I WANT
ONE!

I WIN!

CONGRATS.



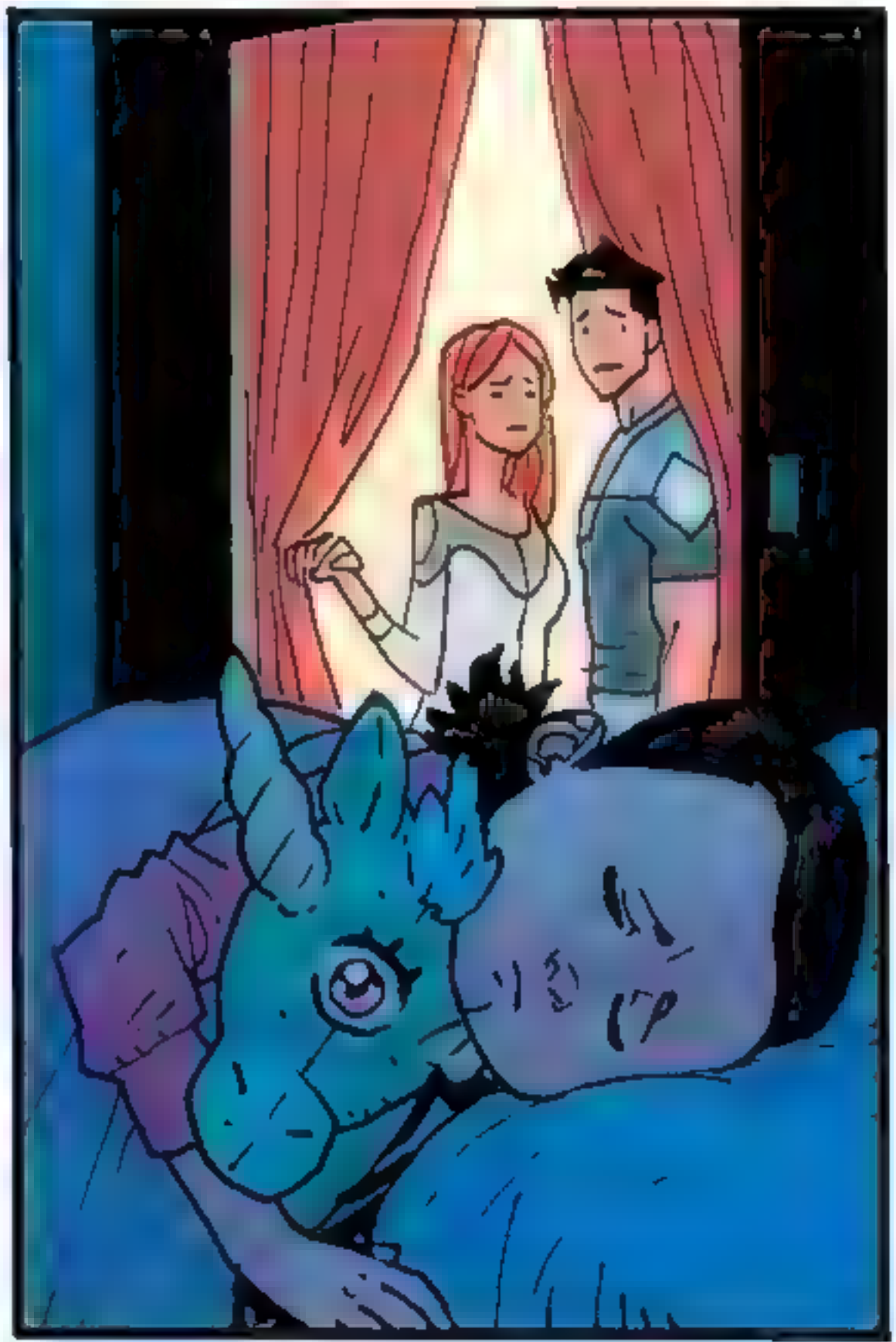
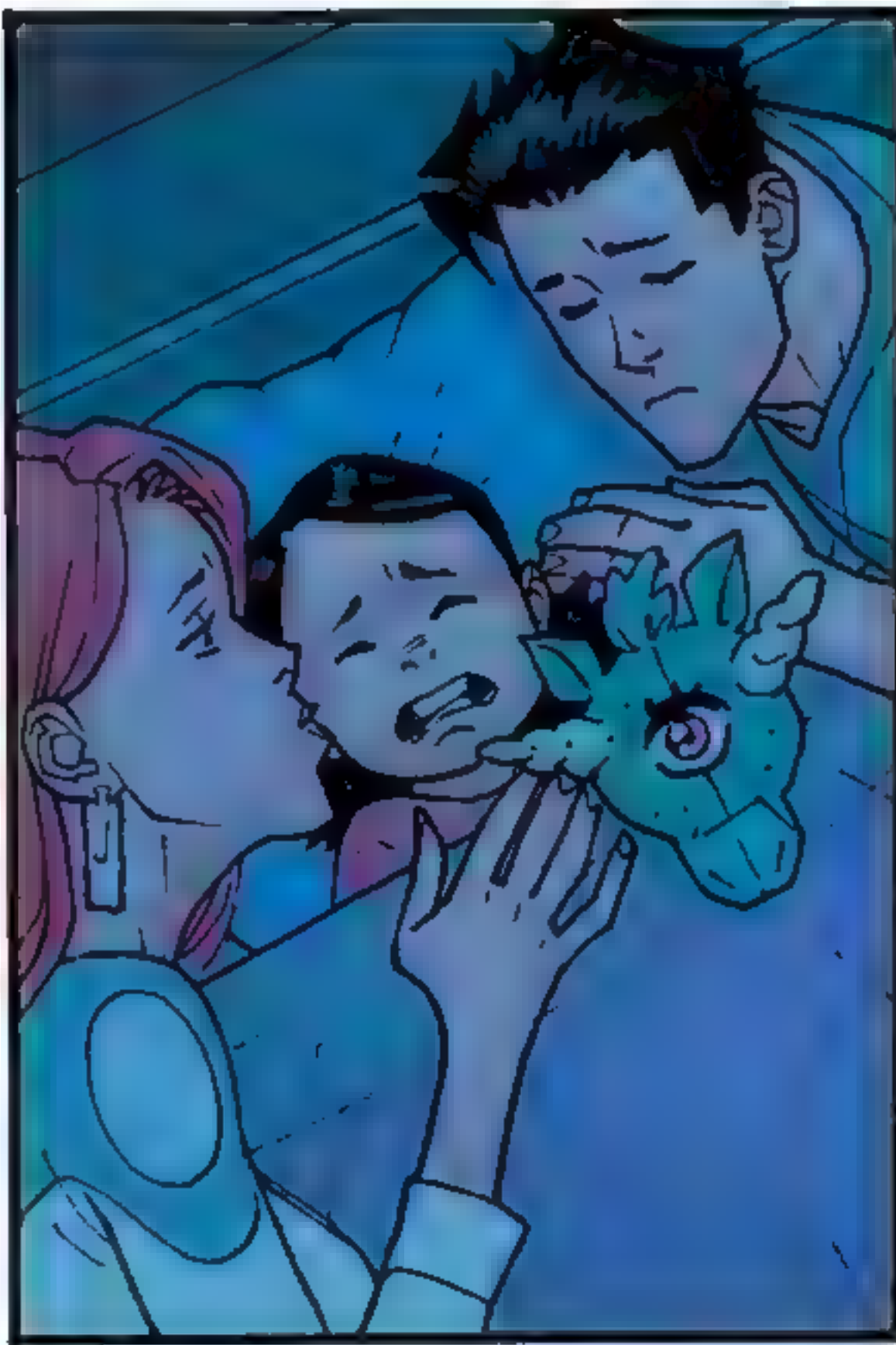
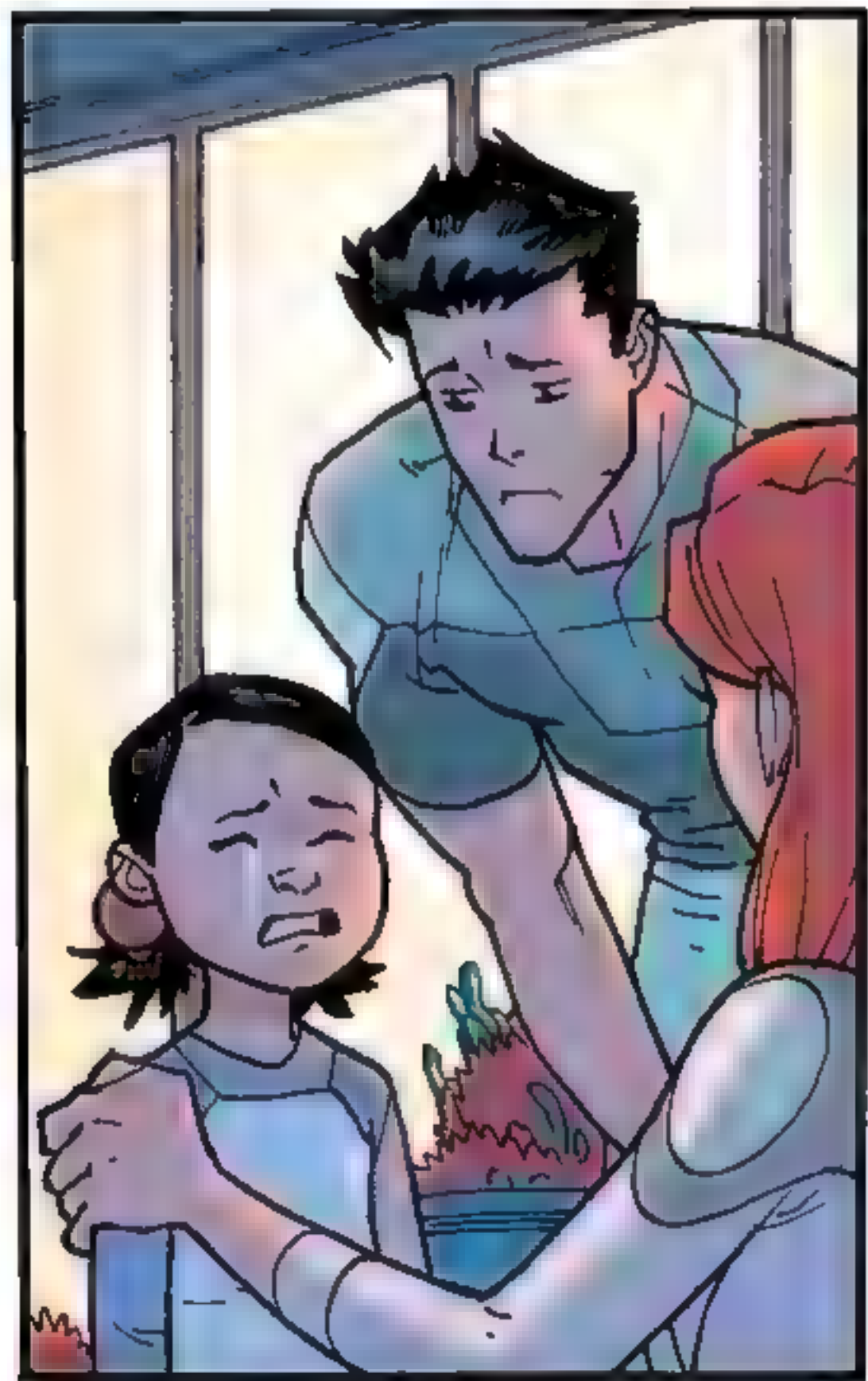
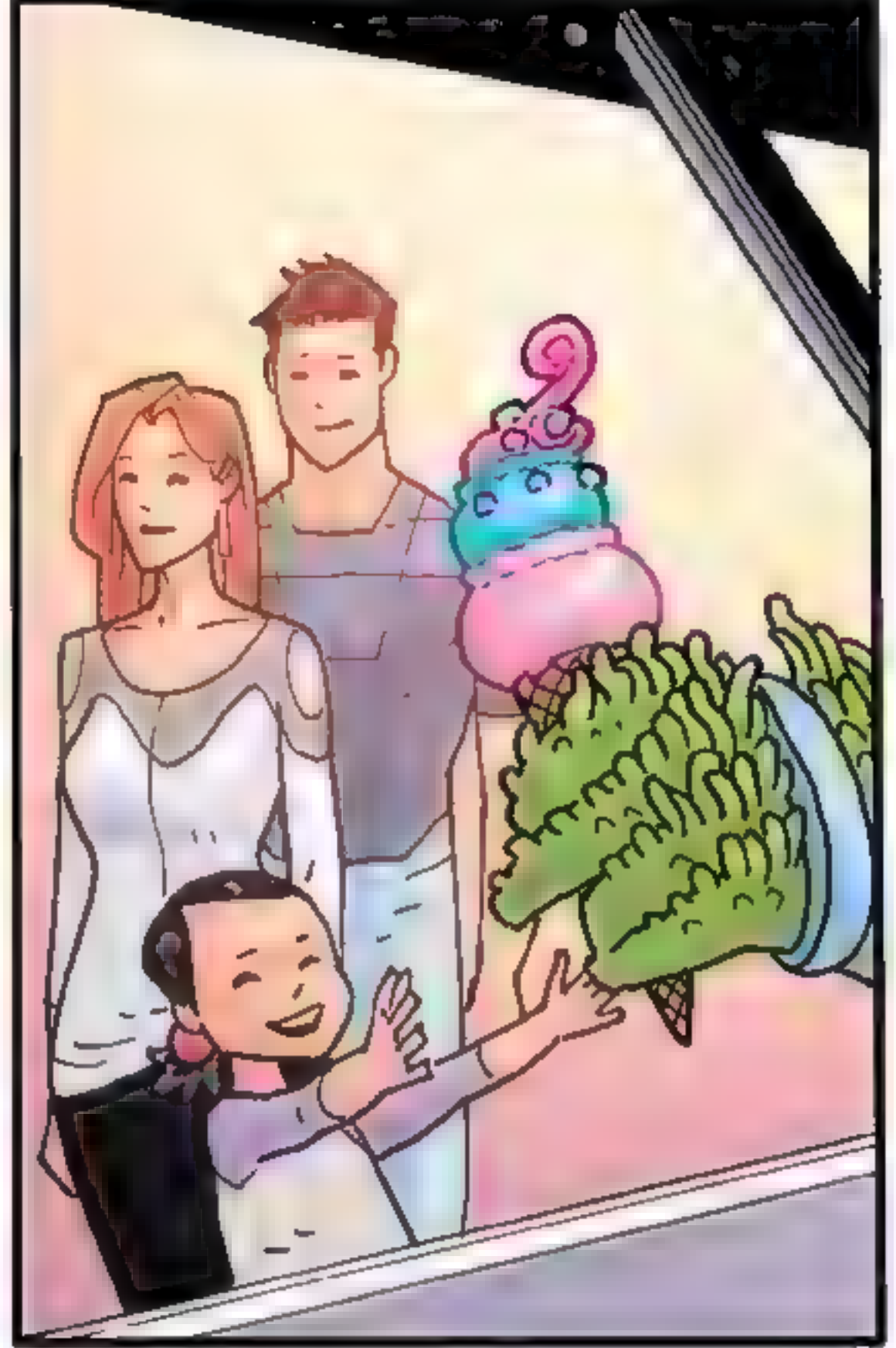
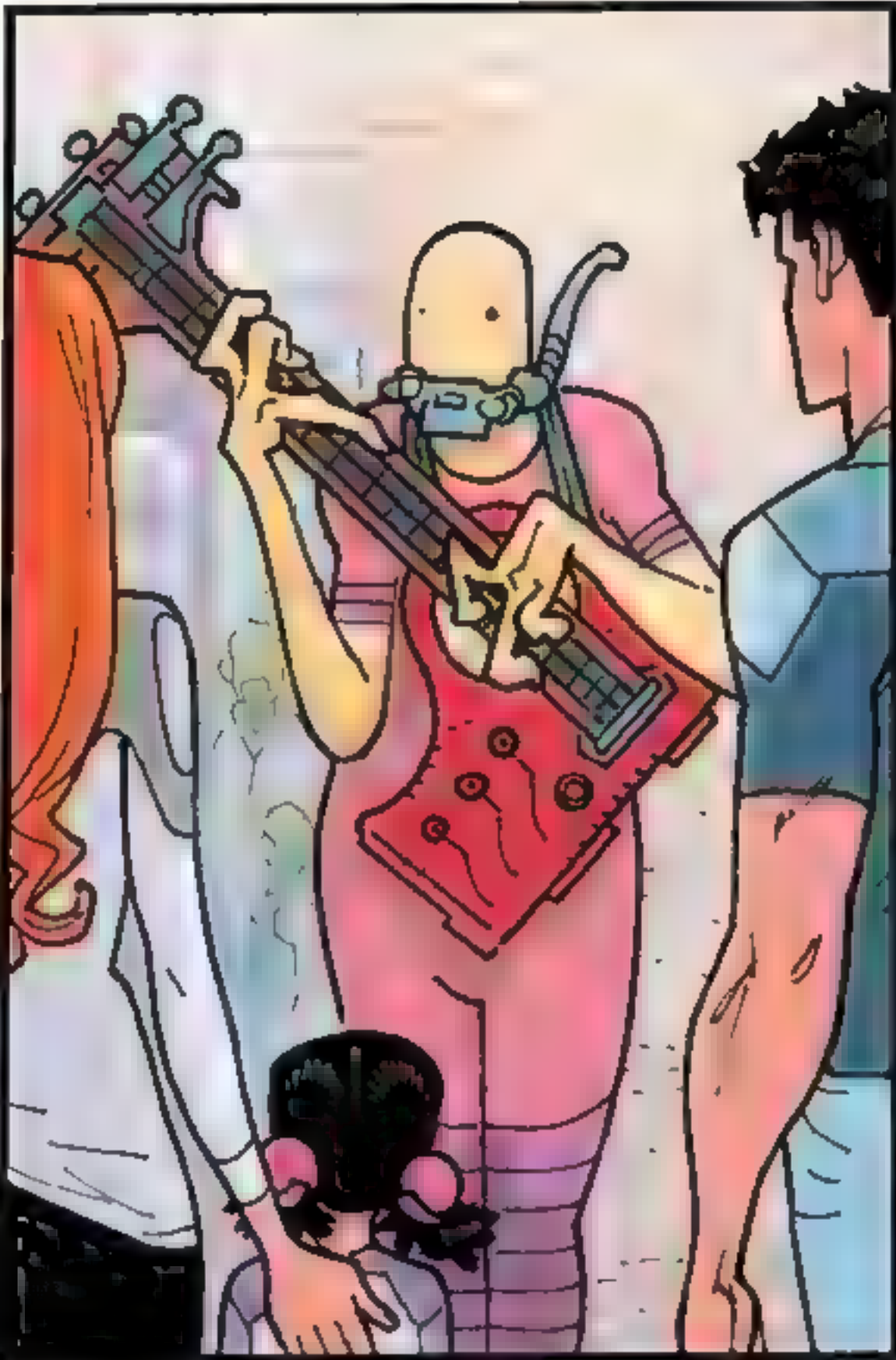
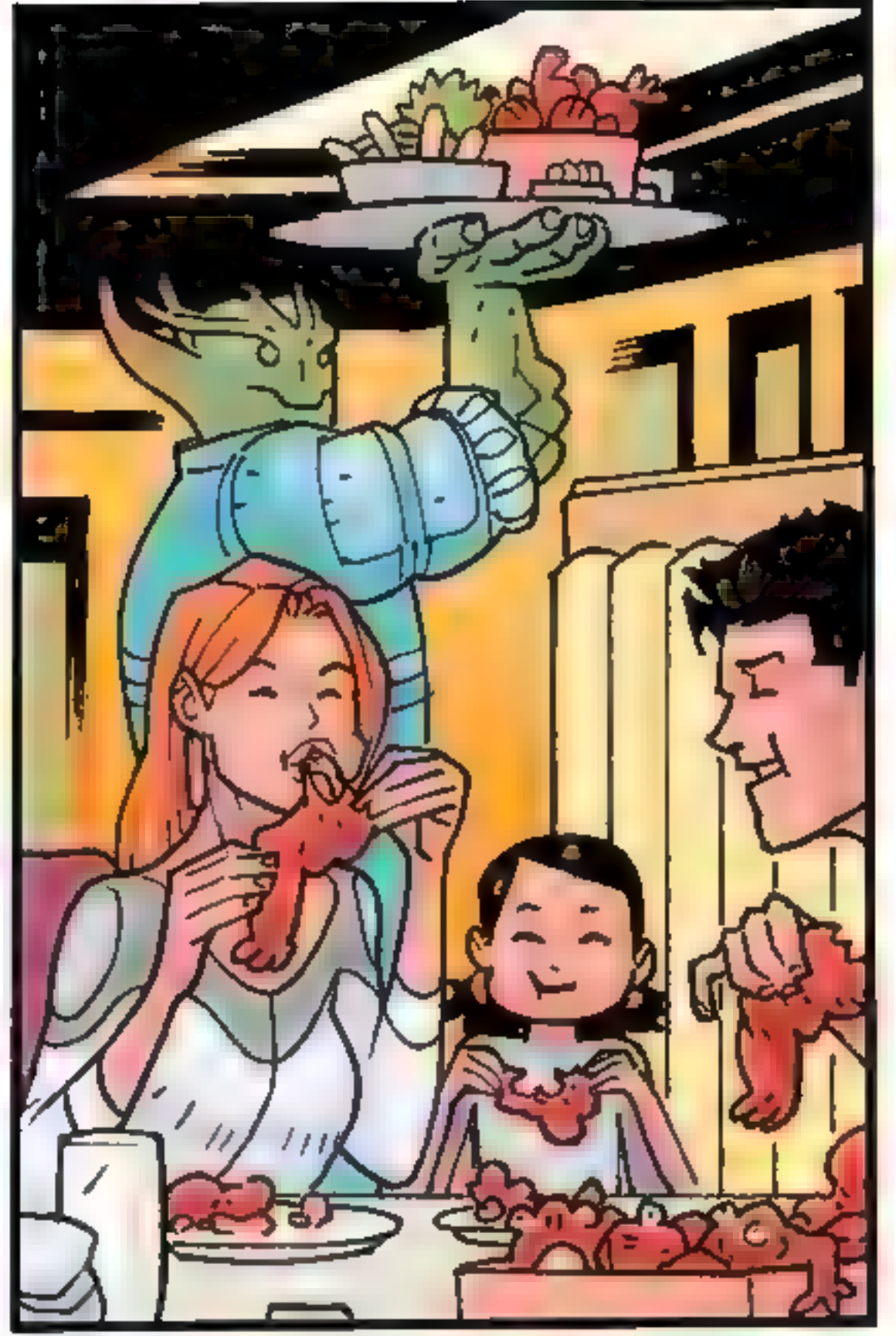
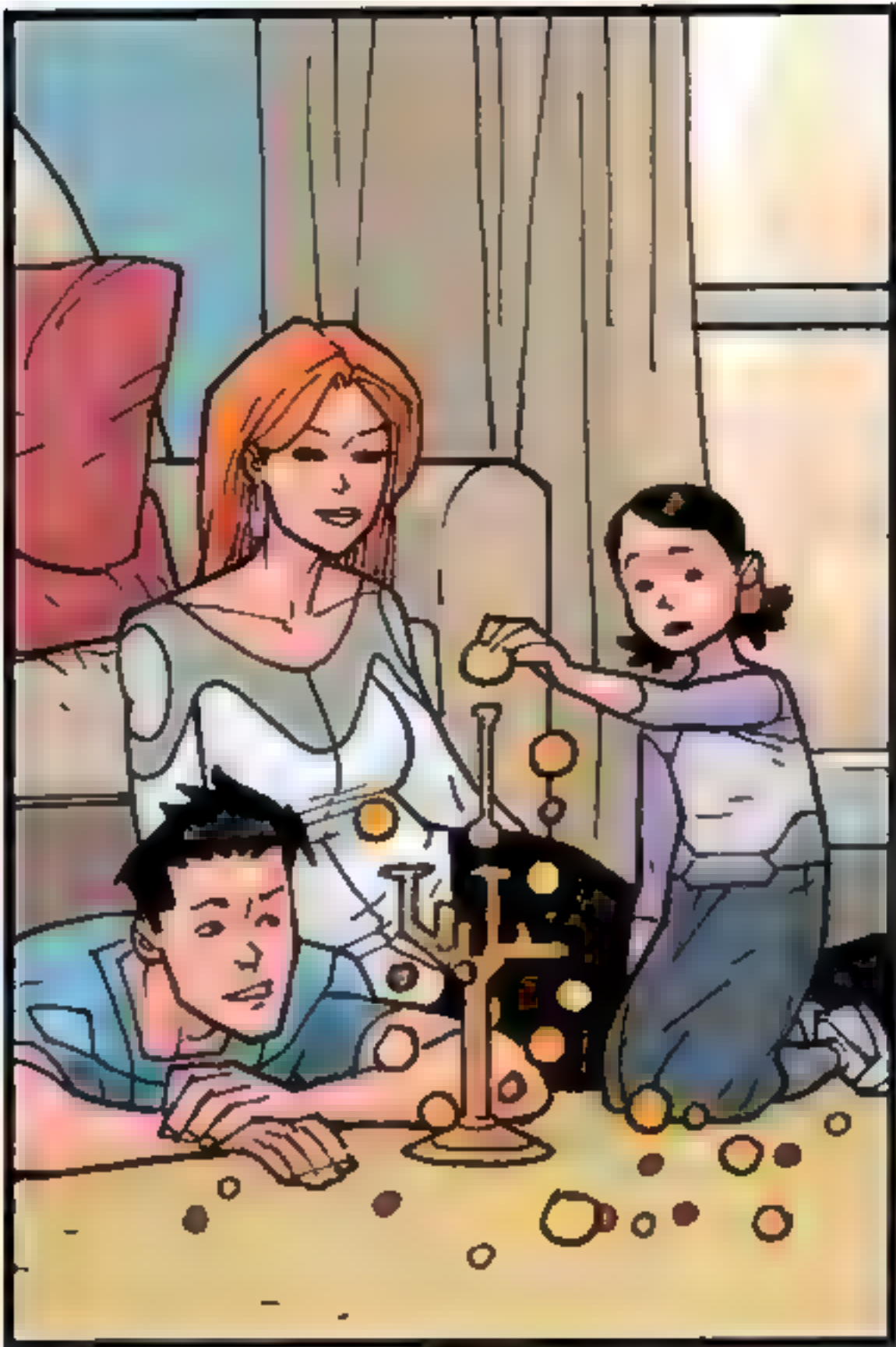
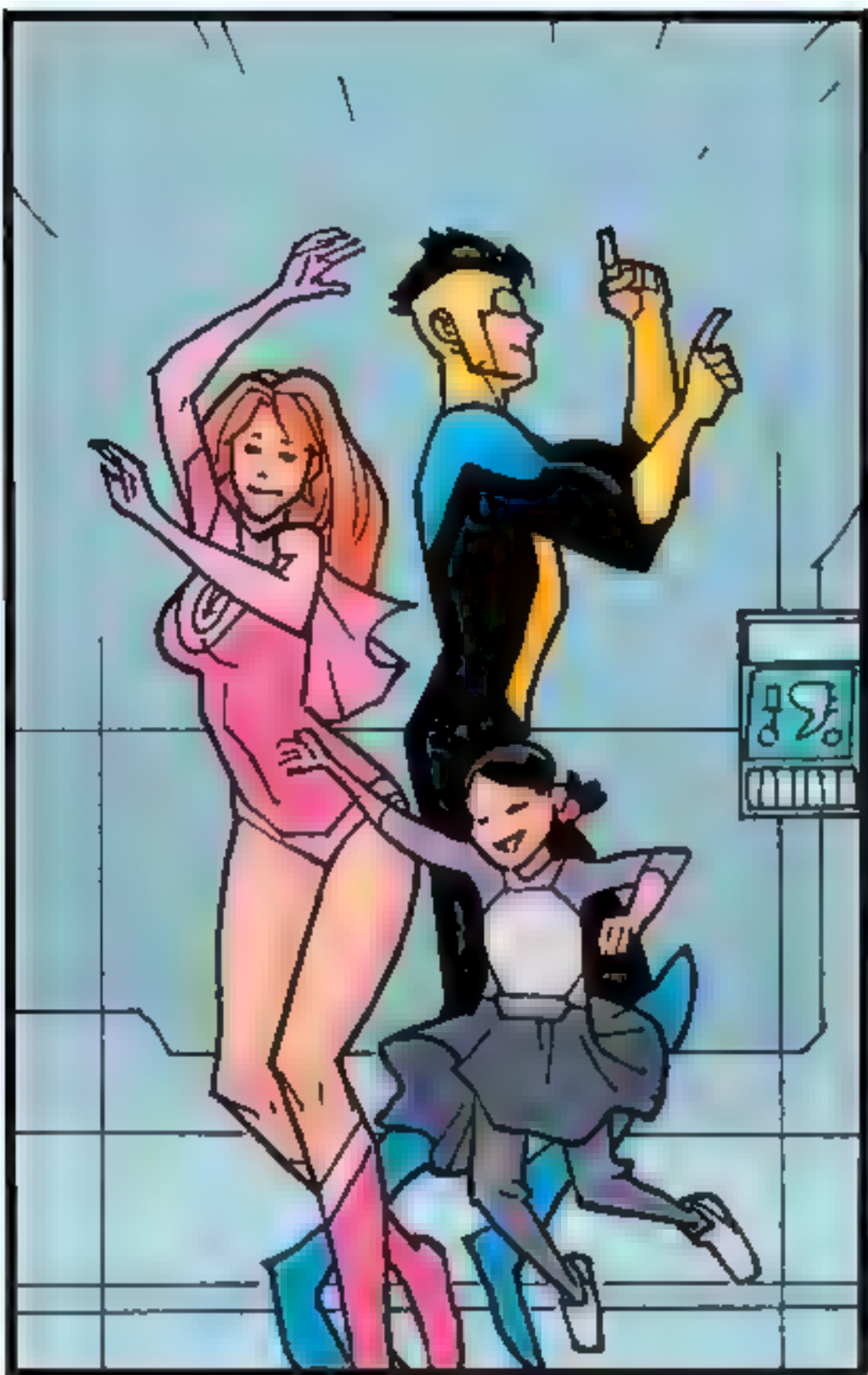
I ALWAYS
THOUGHT YOUR
FATHER LOOKED
VERY
HANDSOME
IN HIS
COSTUME.

THANKS,
MOM.

VERY
SILLY!

TERRA,
THIS IS OUR
LAST NIGHT
TOGETHER
BEFORE YOUR
FATHER AND I GO
AWAY FOR A
WHILE... LET'S NOT
SPEND IT MAKING
FUN OF US,
OKAY?

FINE.



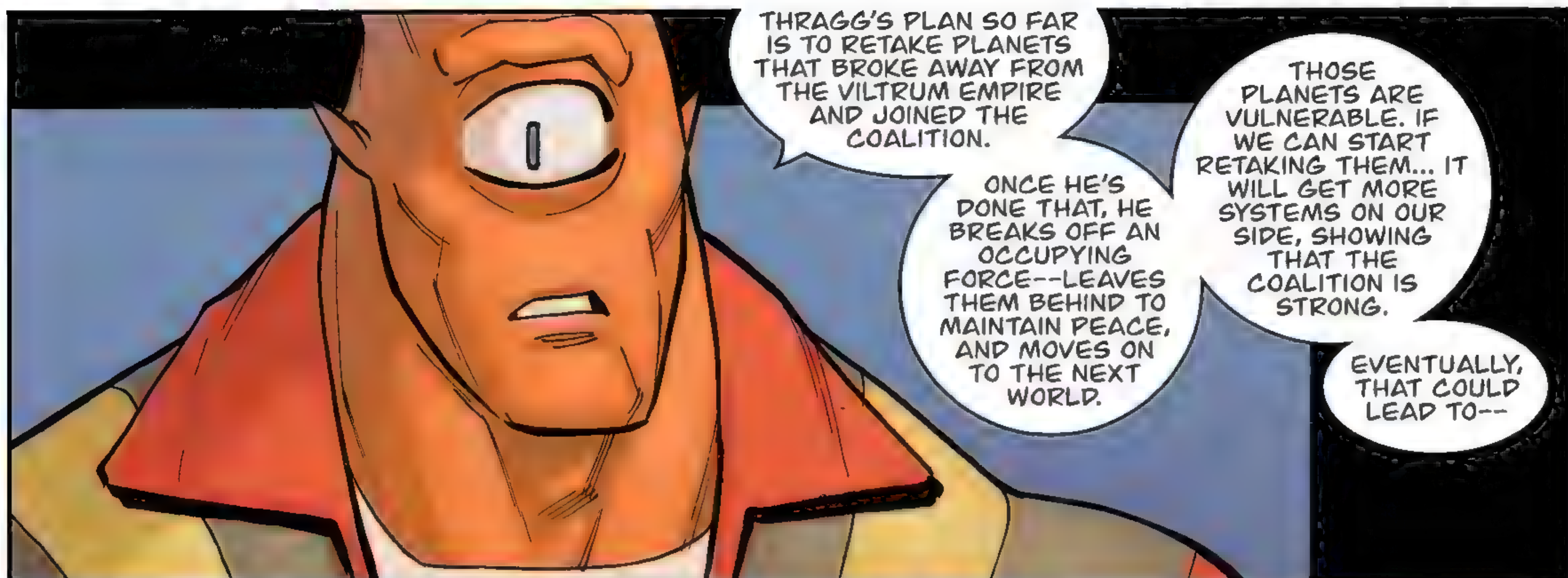
WE NEVER REALLY GOT TO TALK TO HER ABOUT IT. WHAT SHE SAW. SHE WAS THERE WHEN OLIVER WAS... SHE SAW EVERYTHING.

IT HASN'T SEEMED TO AFFECT HER... FOR NOW, AT LEAST. BUT SHE'S GOING TO NEED TO TALK ABOUT IT EVENTUALLY, AND I'M WORRIED THAT WE WON'T BE HERE.

I'VE GOT EVERYTHING COVERED. I CAN HANDLE THIS. TERRA IS **STRONG**. YOU HAVE NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT.

SHE'S GOING TO BE FINE. YOU TWO FOCUS ON KEEPING EACH OTHER SAFE. I'VE GOT THIS COVERED.



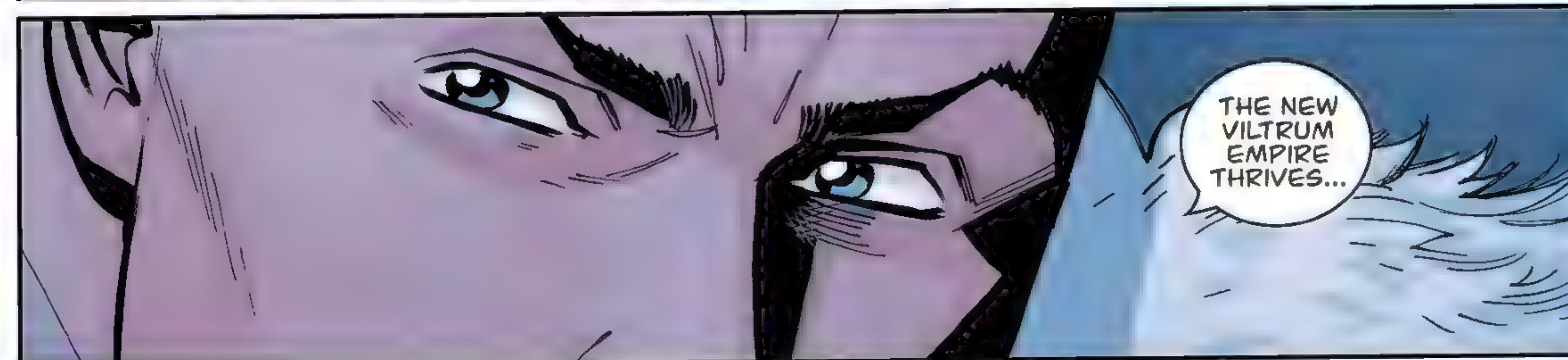
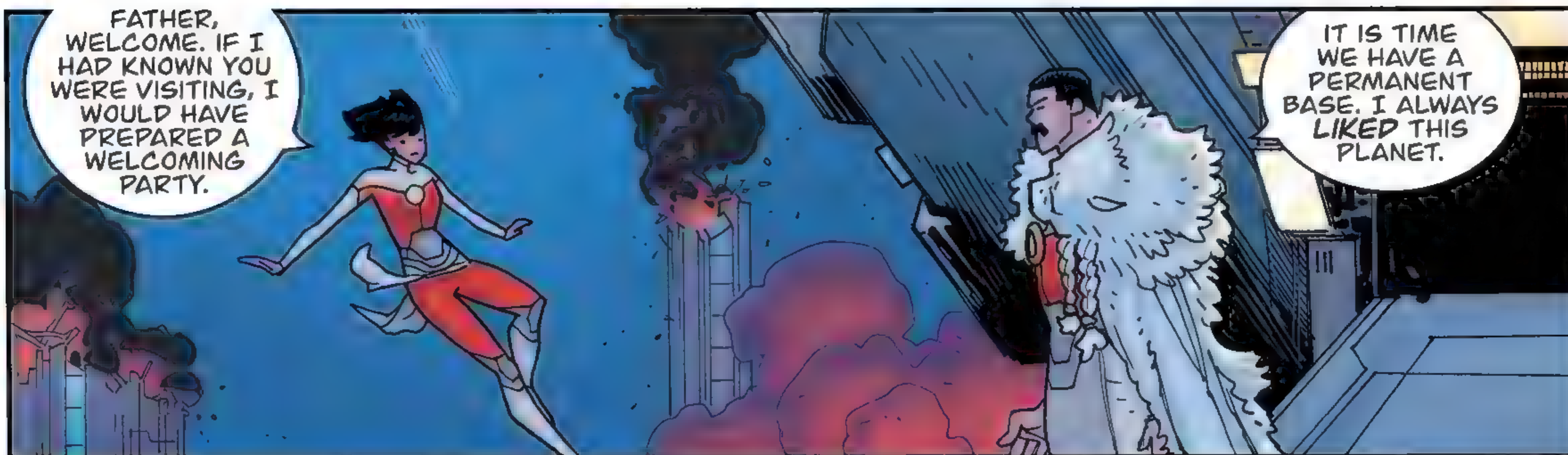


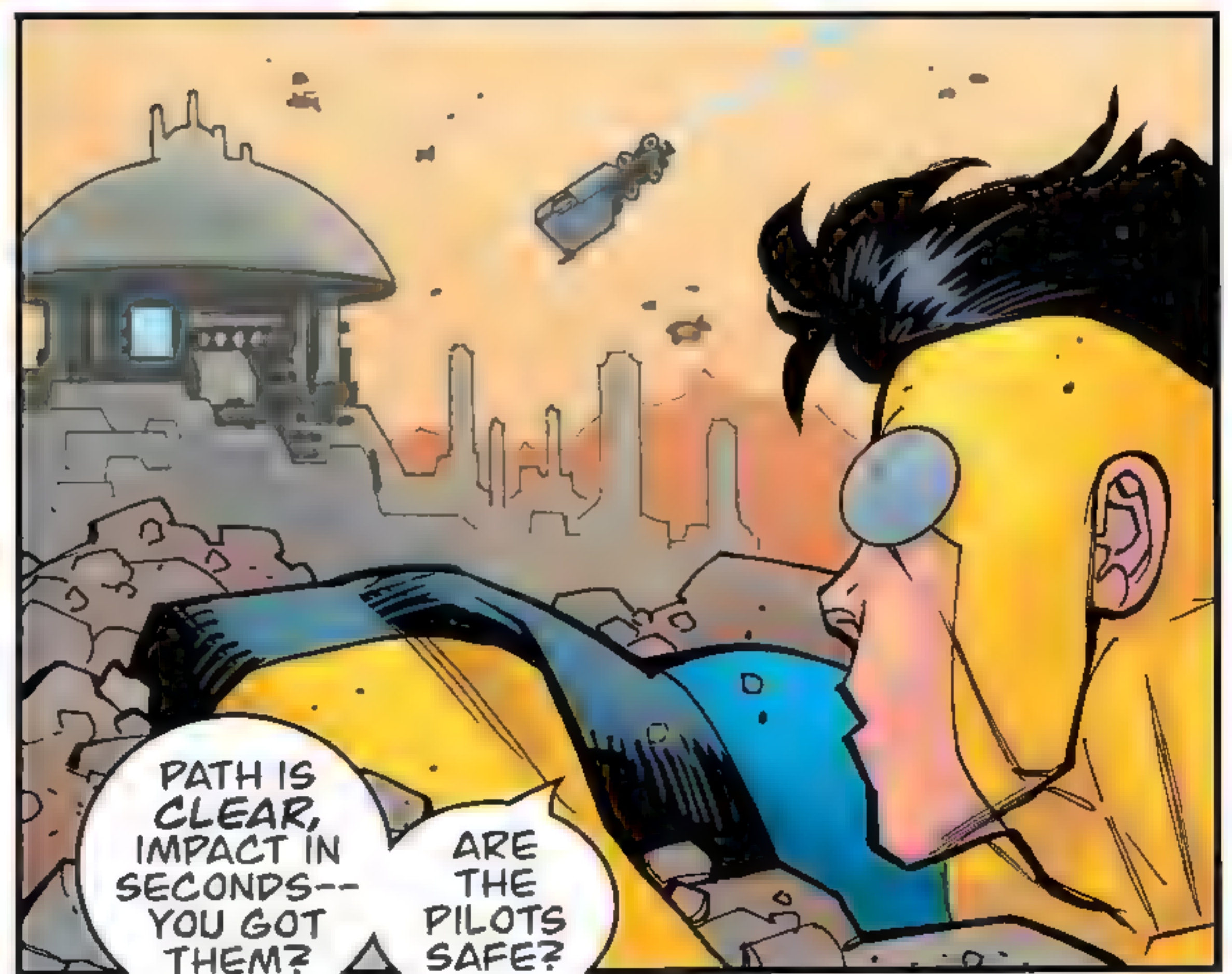
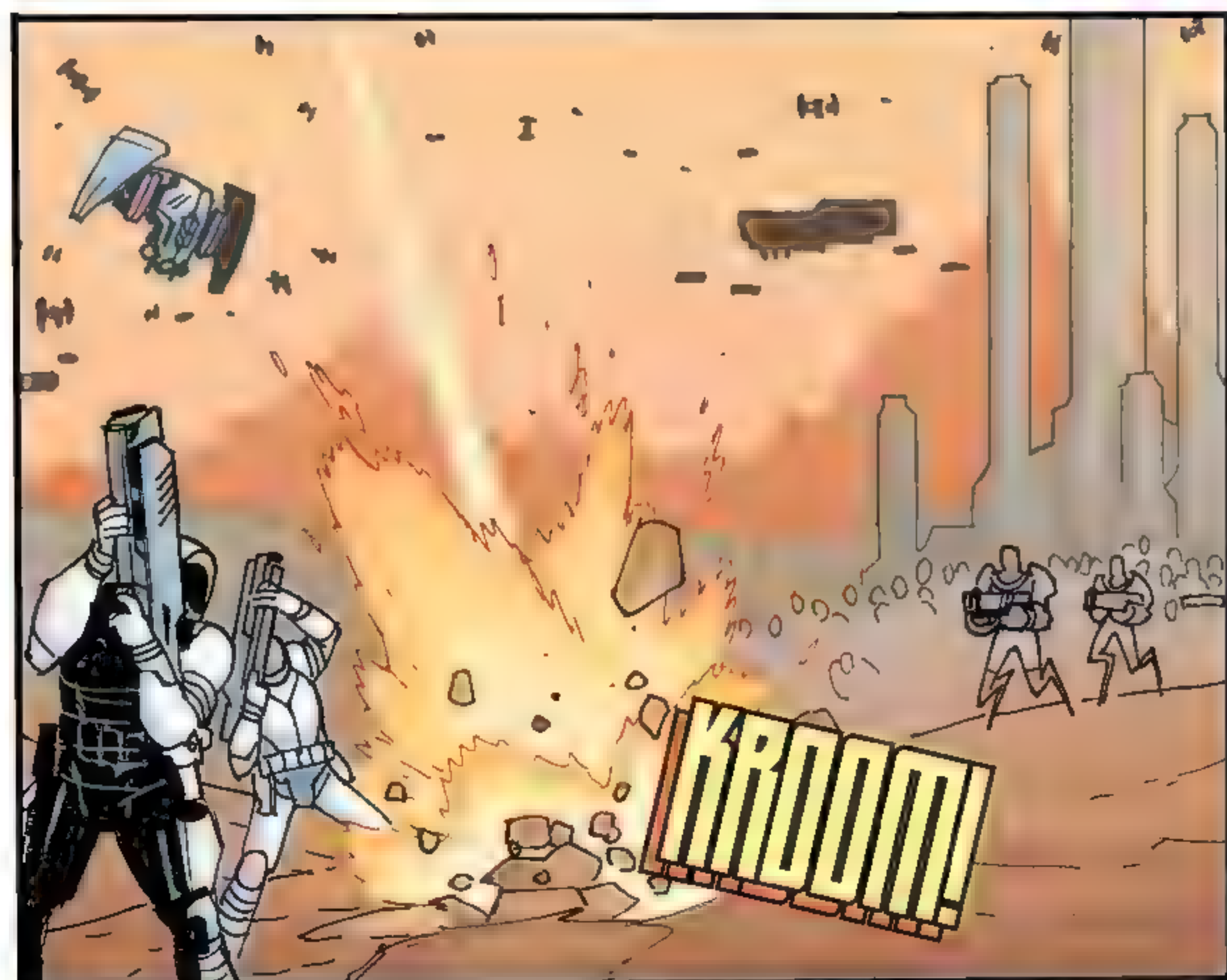
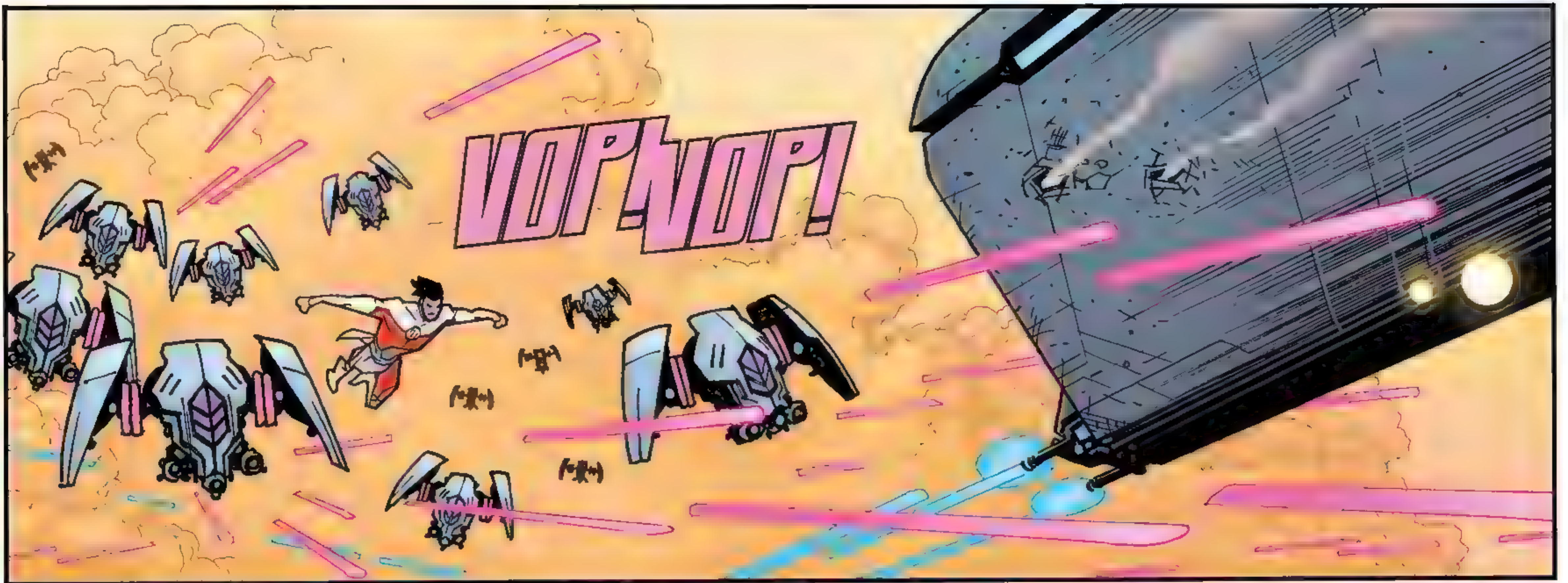


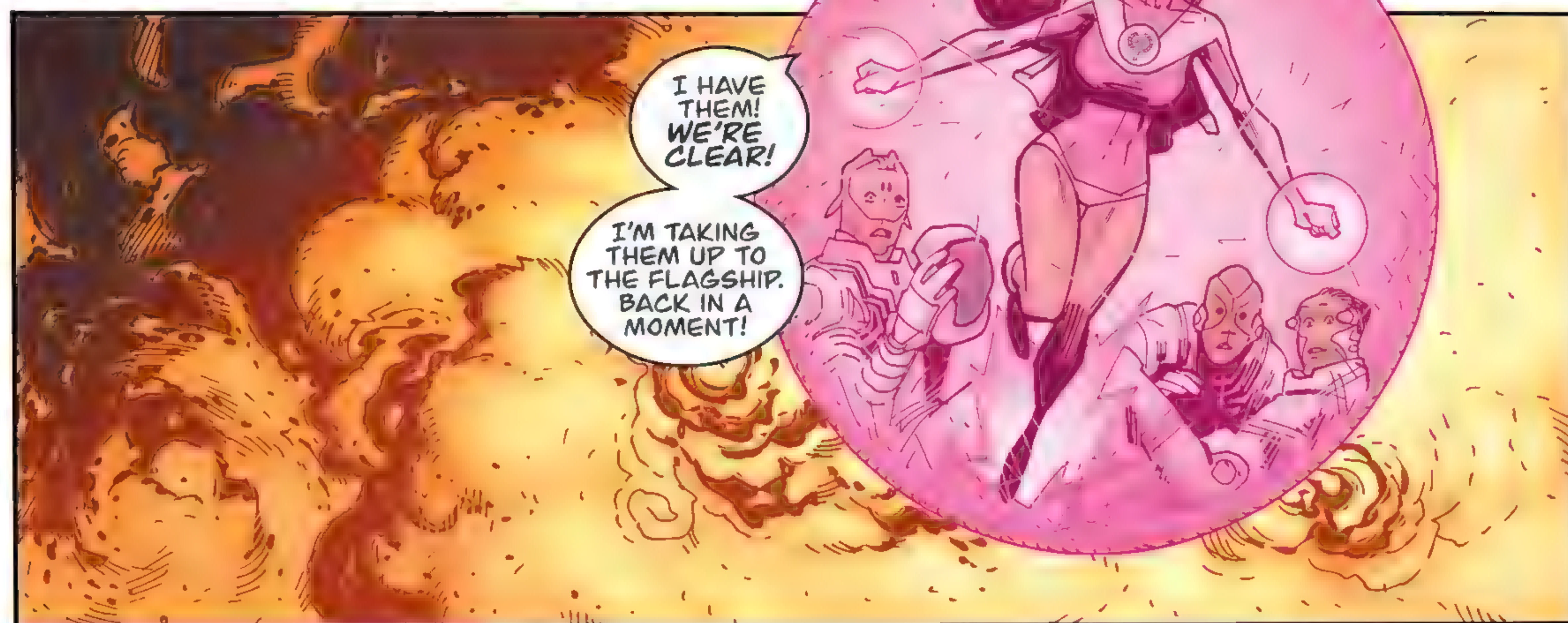
CHAPTER 135

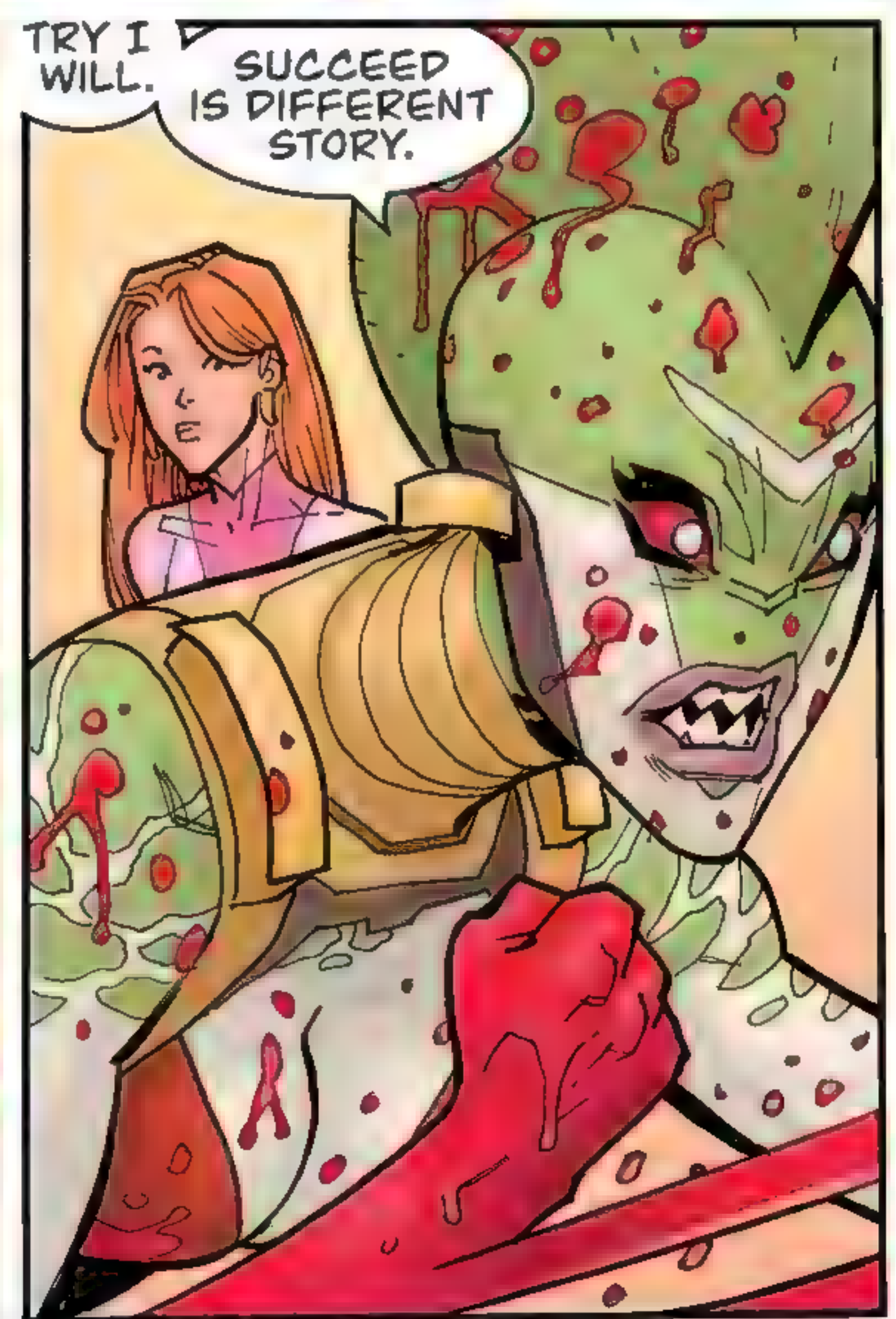
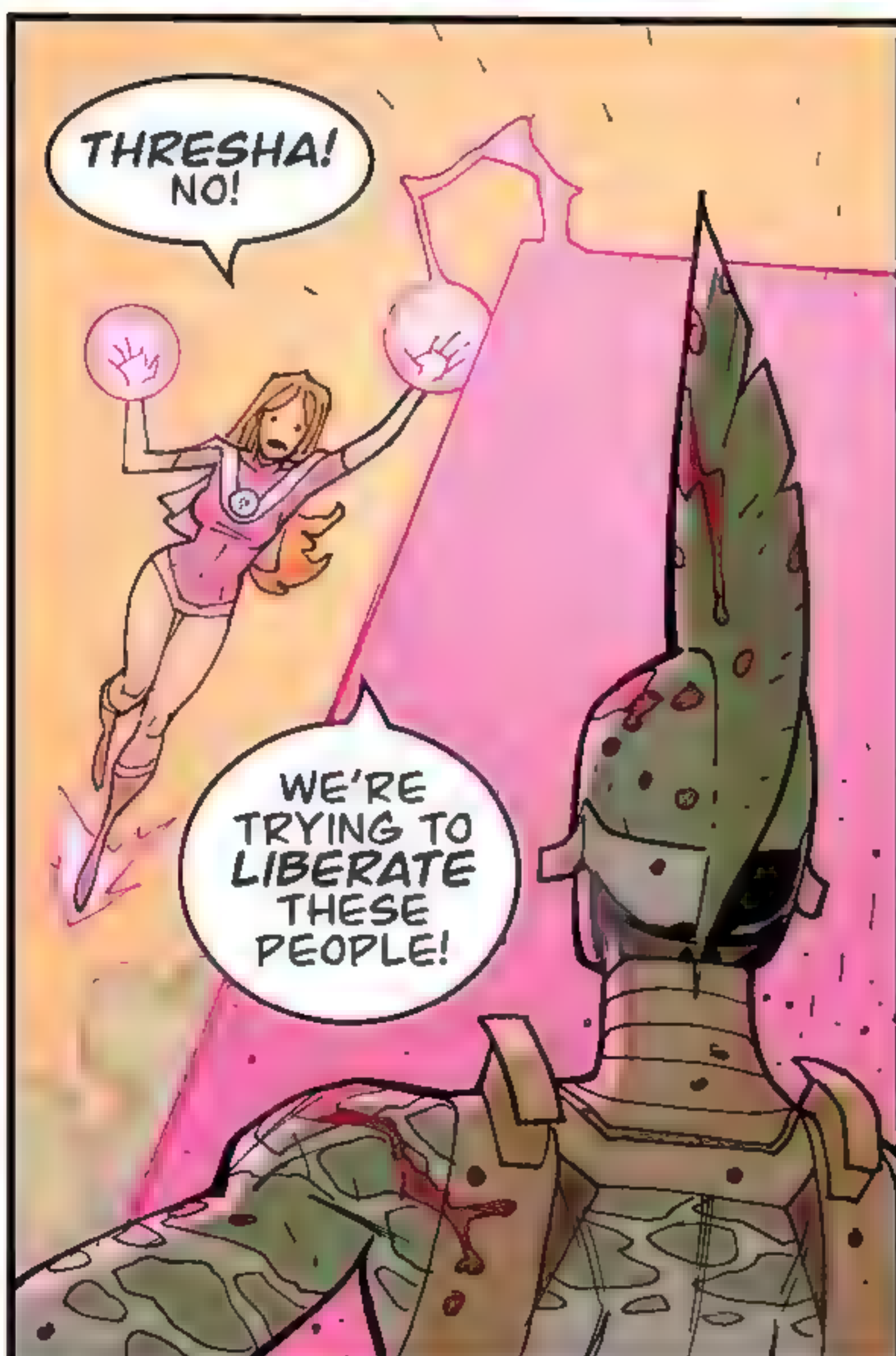
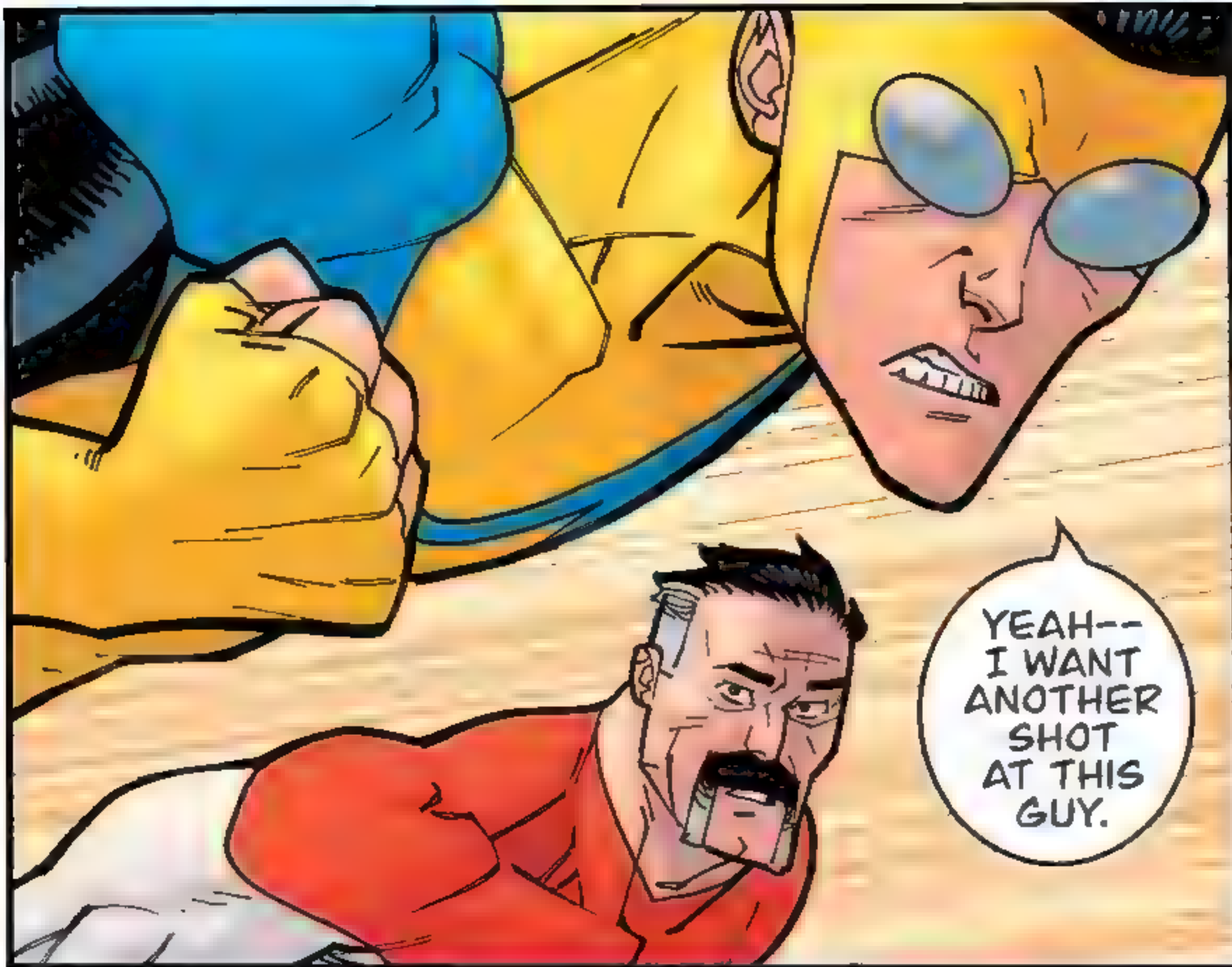




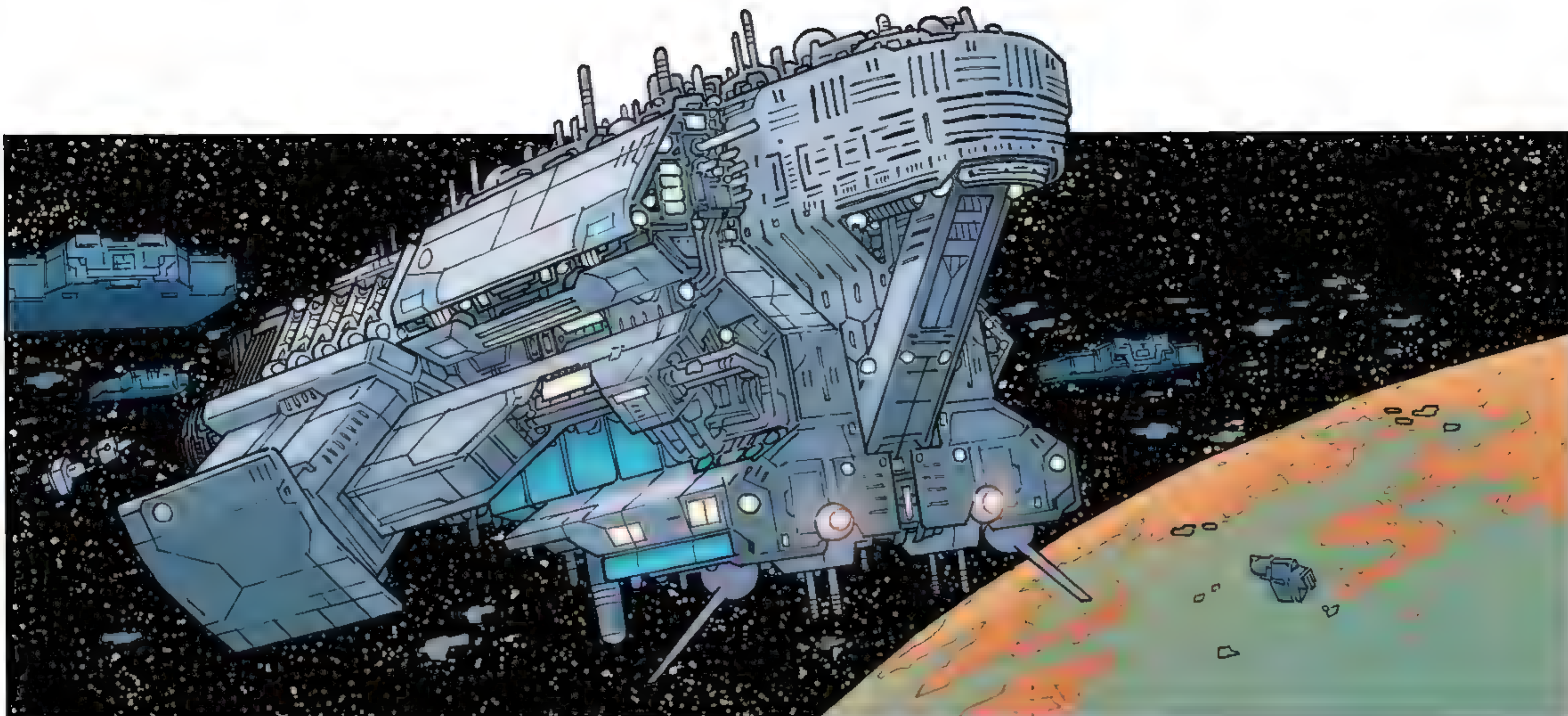


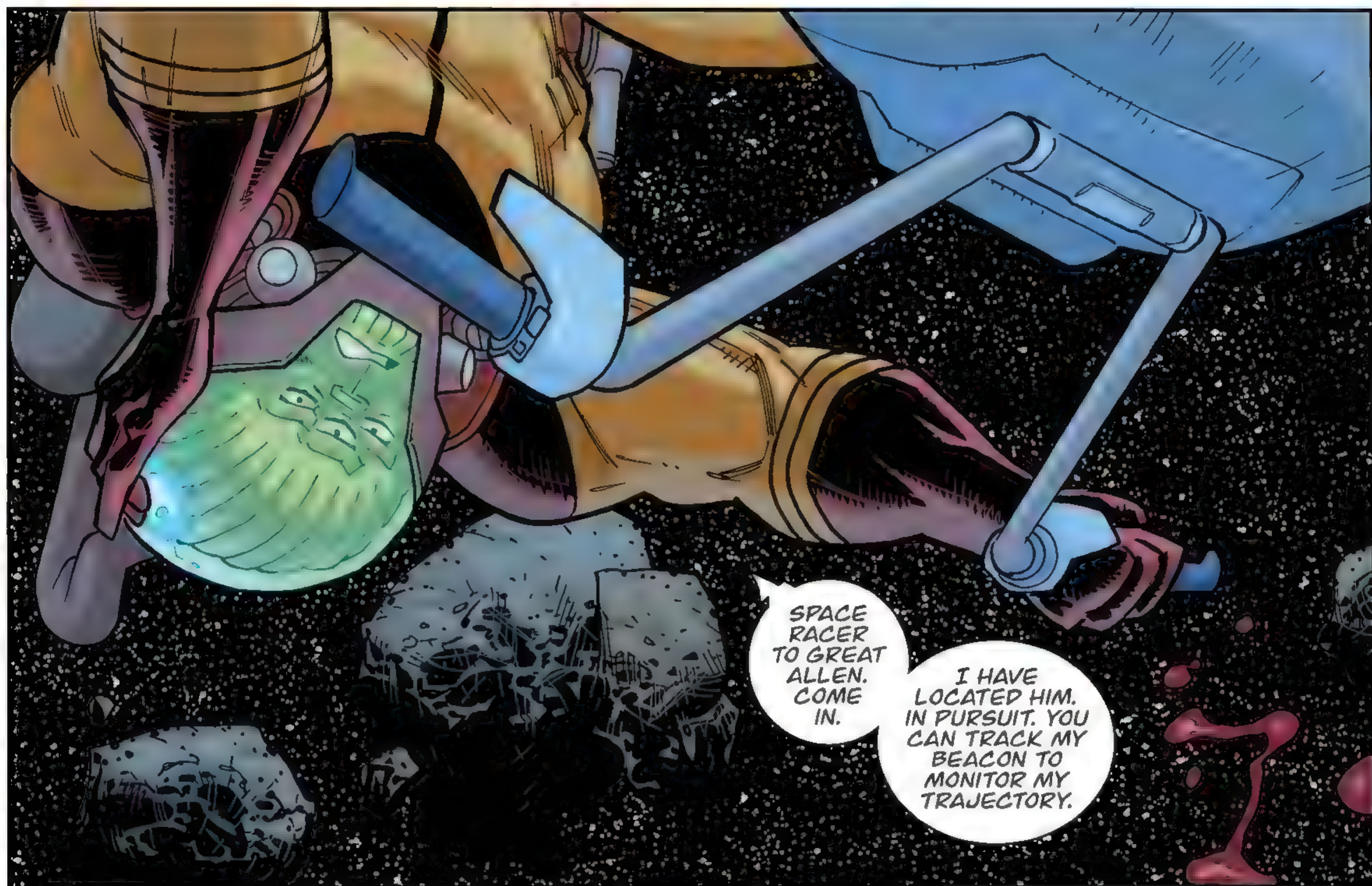


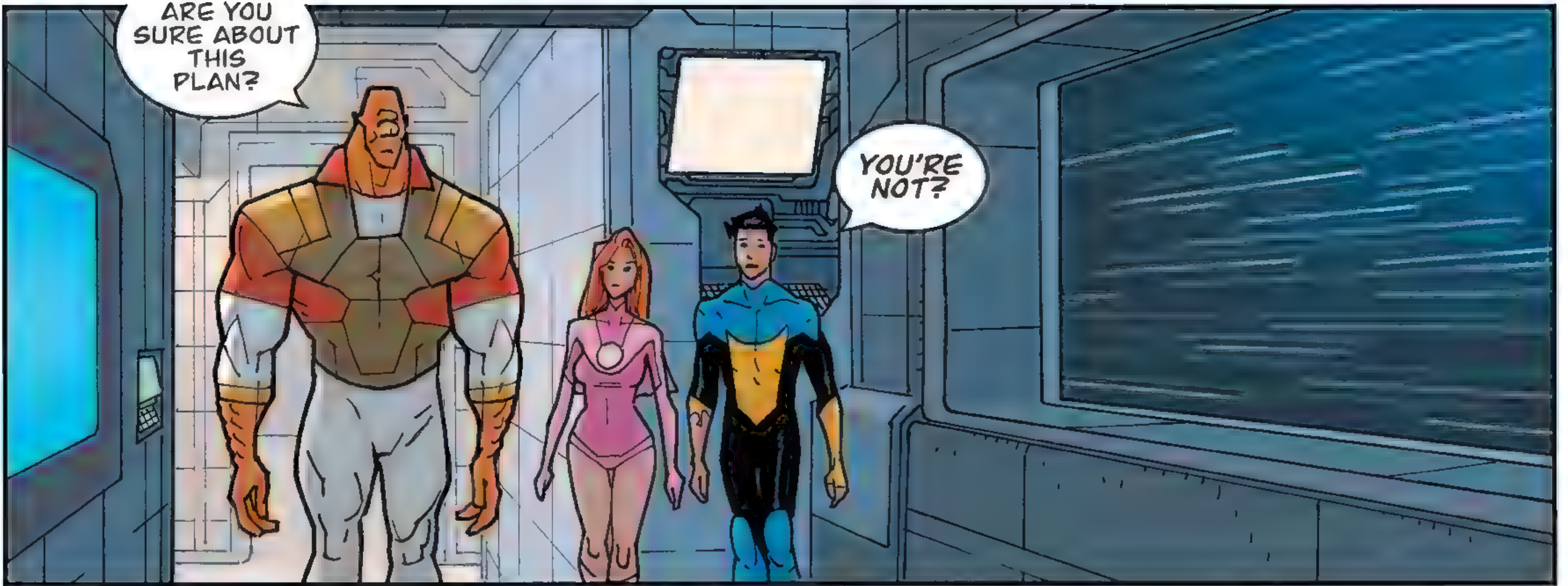


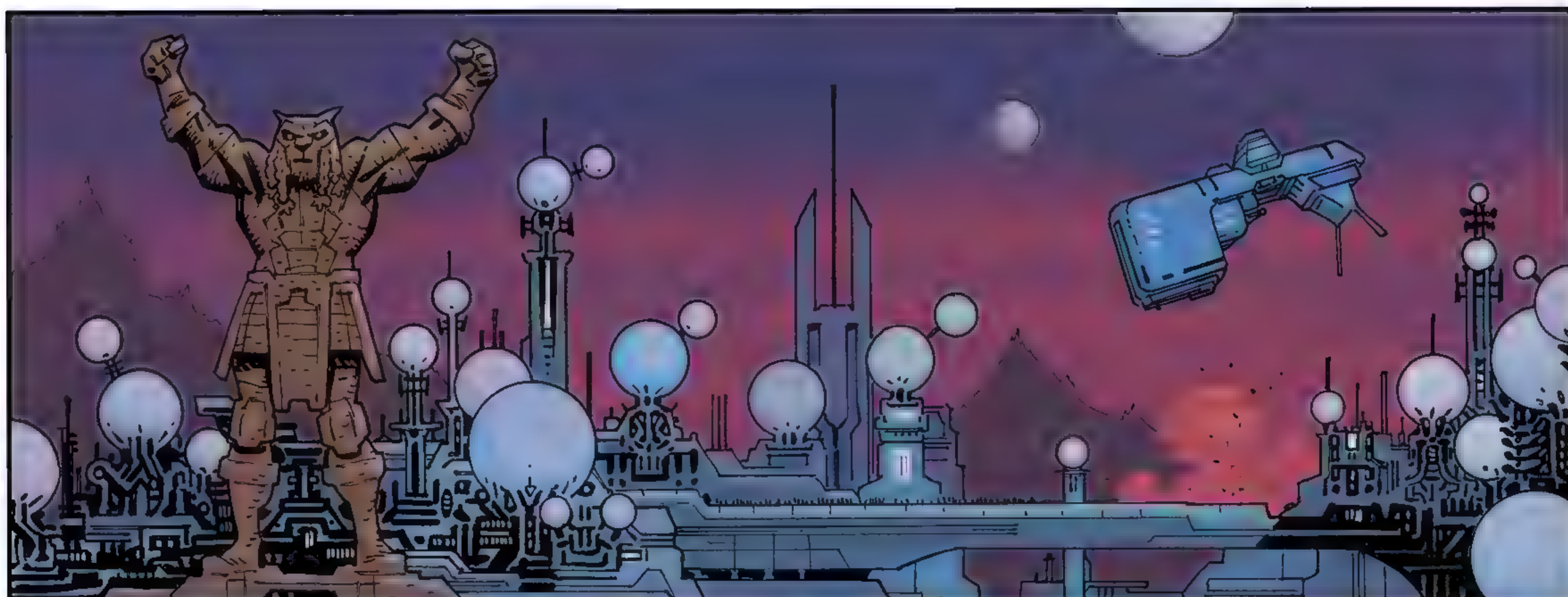














THIS IS...
UNEXPECTED.



KING WROKK!
HAVE YOU
LOST YOUR
MIND?!

THIS MAN
SEEKS TO
ENSLAVE US AND
UNDO ALL THAT
BATTLE BEAST HAD
ACCOMPLISHED
FOR OUR GREAT
PEOPLE.

THIS IS
MADNESS!



AMBASSADOR
MOKK! IT IS YOU
WHO HAVE LOST
YOUR MIND!

END
HIM!



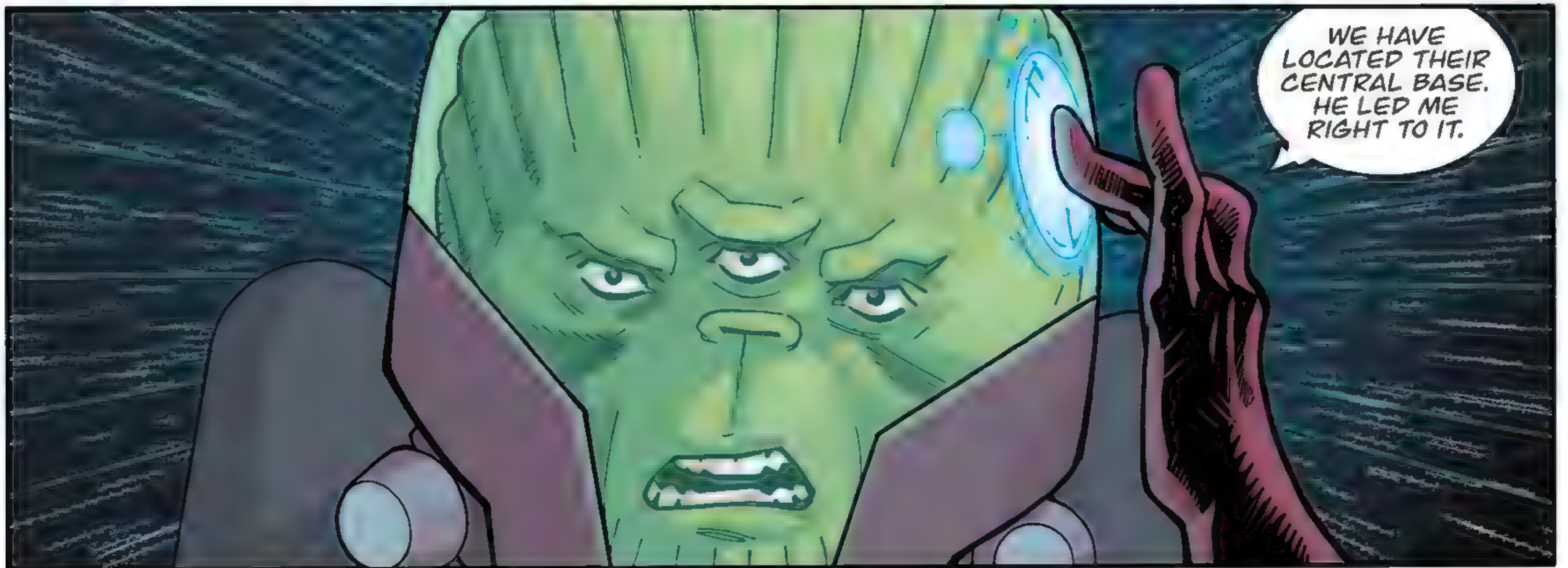
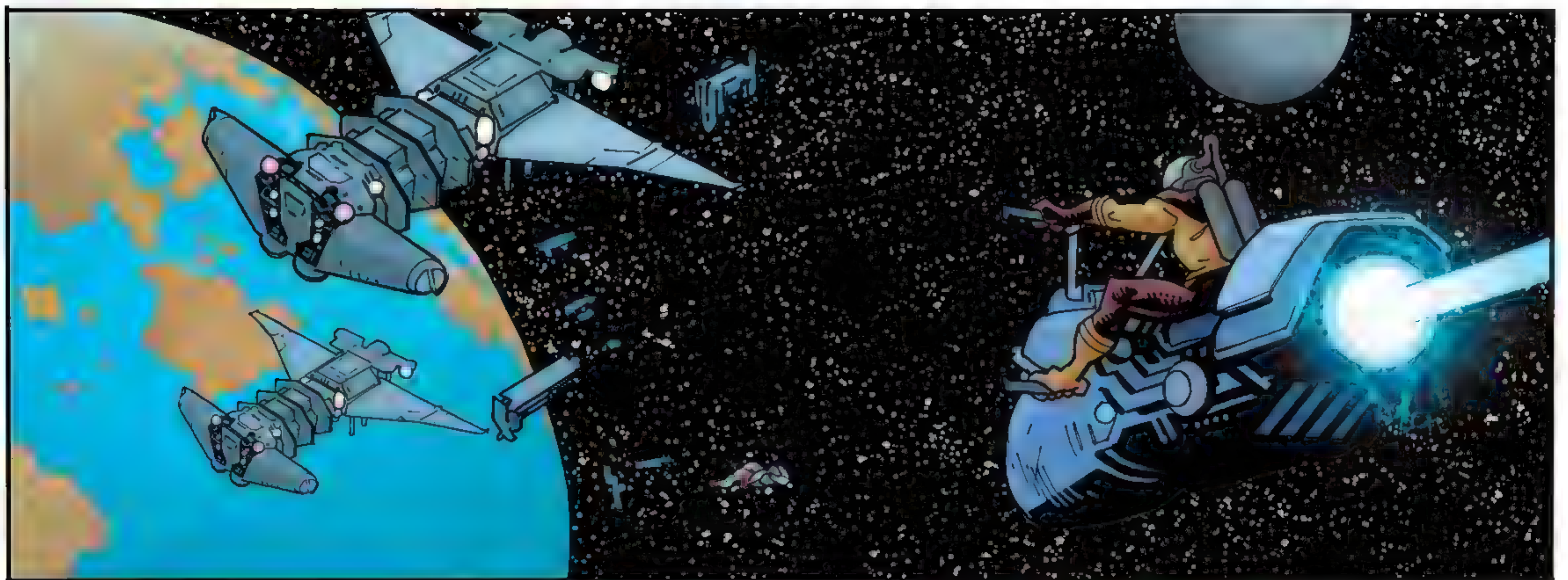
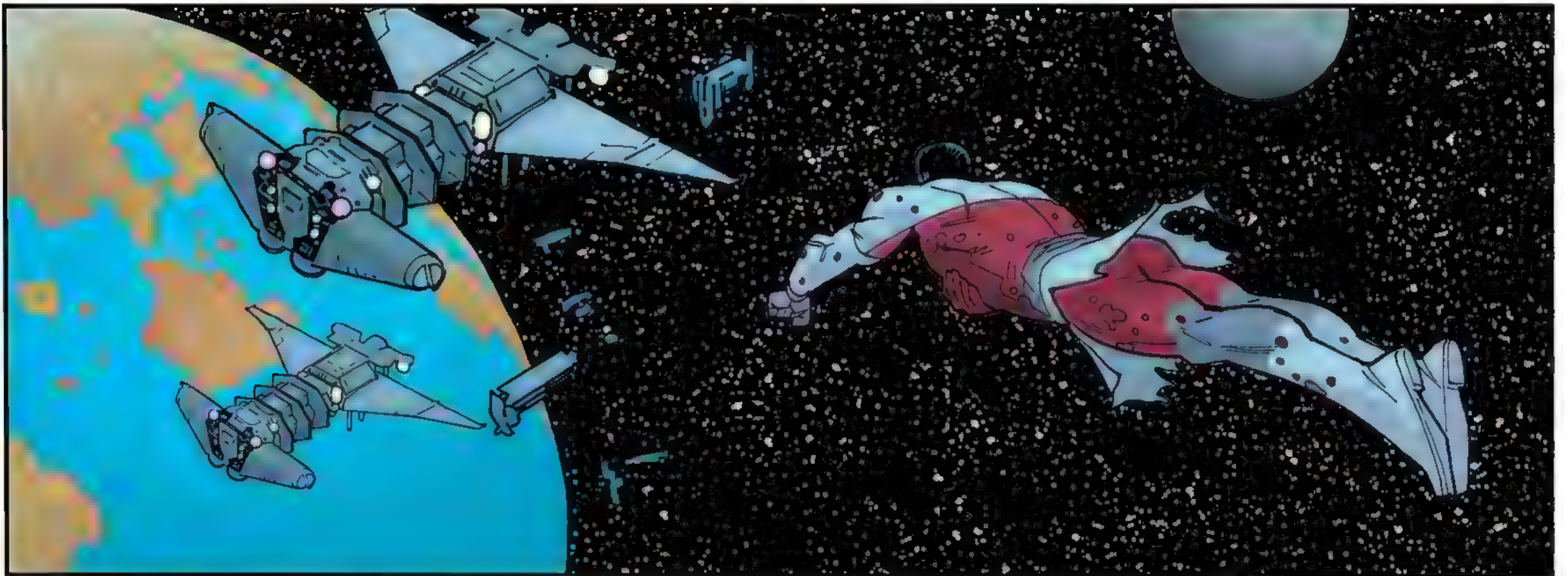
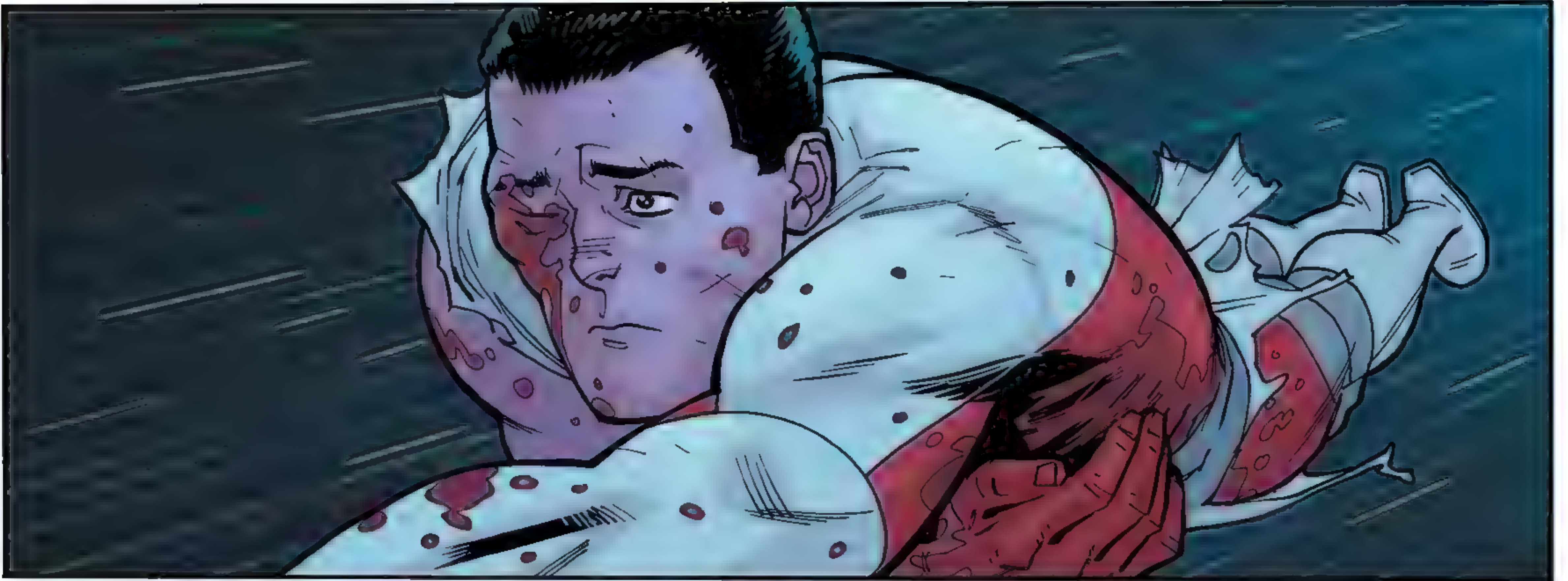
NO---
WAIT---

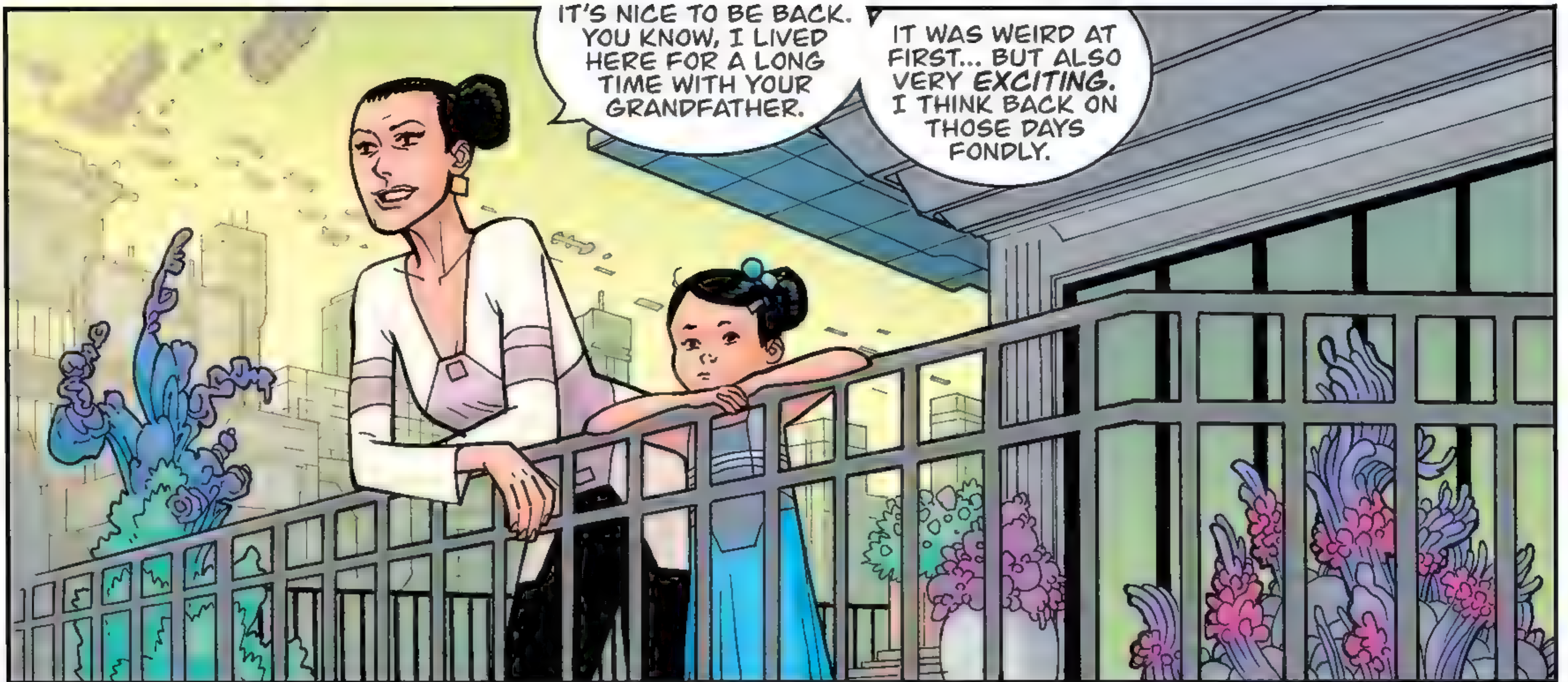
SMASH!



THIS WAS FAR EASIER THAN I'D
IMAGINED. ESTABLISH A BASE,
ASSIGN OFFICERS TO MAINTAIN
IT, AND LET'S RETURN TO
CENTRAL COMMAND
IMMEDIATELY.

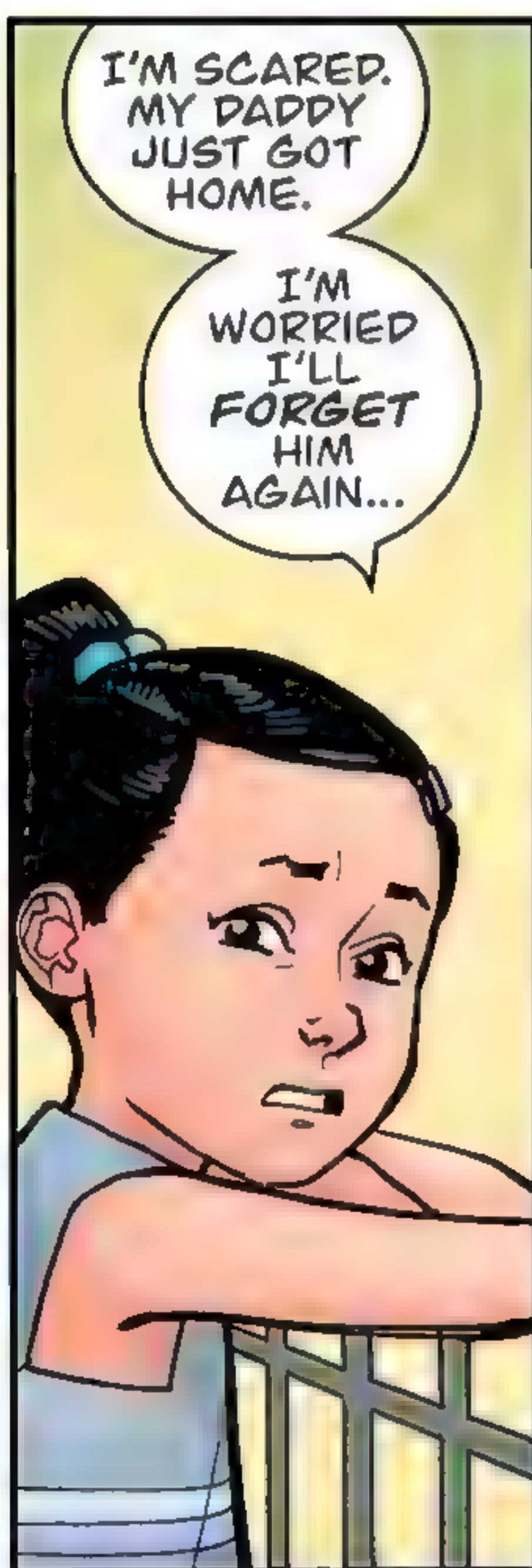
YES,
FATHER.





IT'S NICE TO BE BACK. YOU KNOW, I LIVED HERE FOR A LONG TIME WITH YOUR GRANDFATHER.

IT WAS WEIRD AT FIRST... BUT ALSO VERY EXCITING. I THINK BACK ON THOSE DAYS FONDLY.



I'M SCARED. MY DADDY JUST GOT HOME.

I'M WORRIED I'LL FORGET HIM AGAIN...



OH, HONEY. THIS IS A DIFFERENT THING. WE KNOW WHERE THEY ARE. THEY'RE WITH YOUR PAPA, OUT IN SPACE... FIGHTING BAD GUYS.



COULD THEY GET HURT FIGHTING?

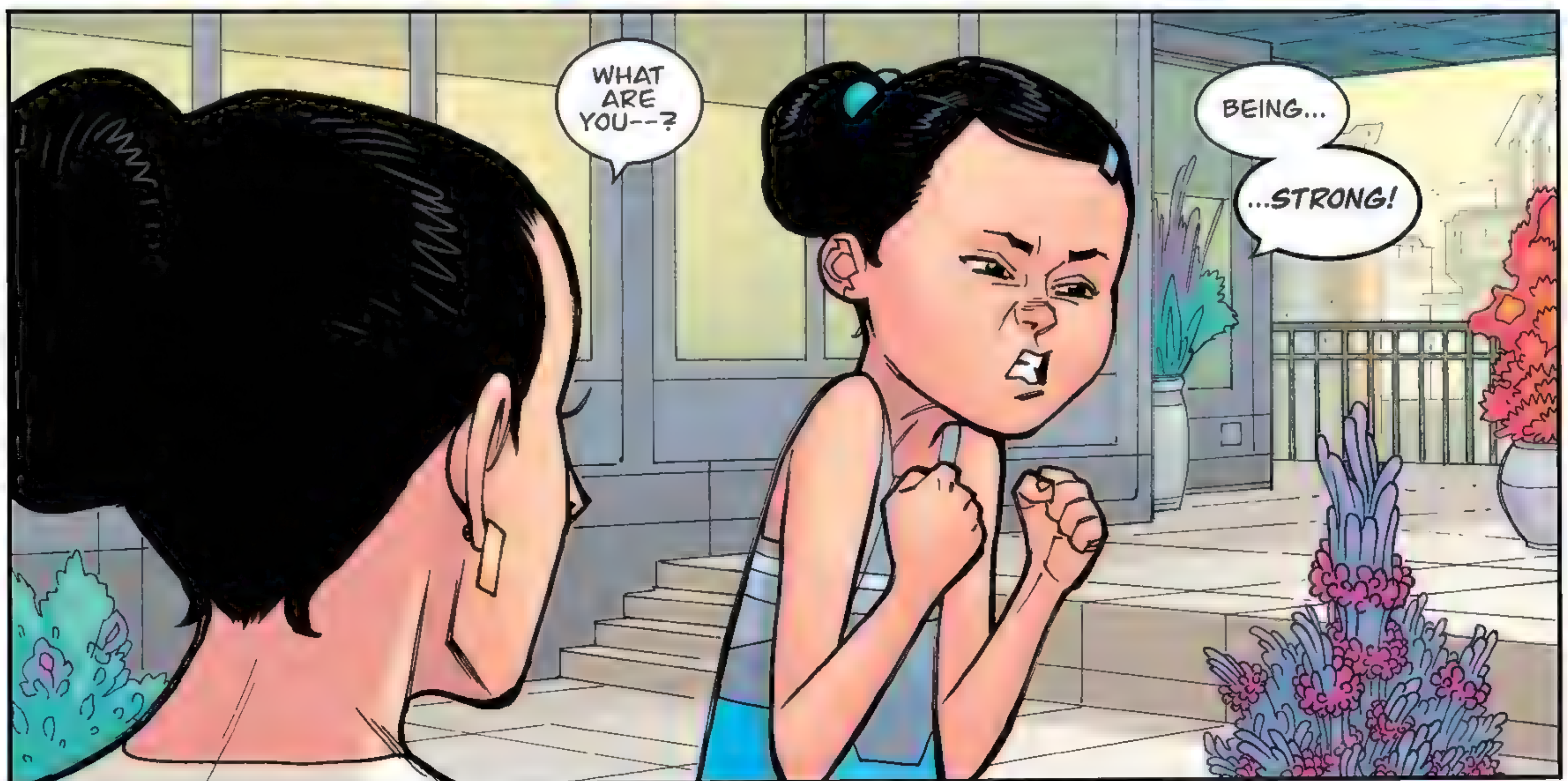


TERRA. YOU'RE TOO STRONG FOR THIS. YOU ARE YOUR PARENTS' DAUGHTER. THEY MADE YOU STRONG.

DO NOT LOOK FOR SOMETHING TO BE SCARED OF, OR WORRY ABOUT. BE STRONG.



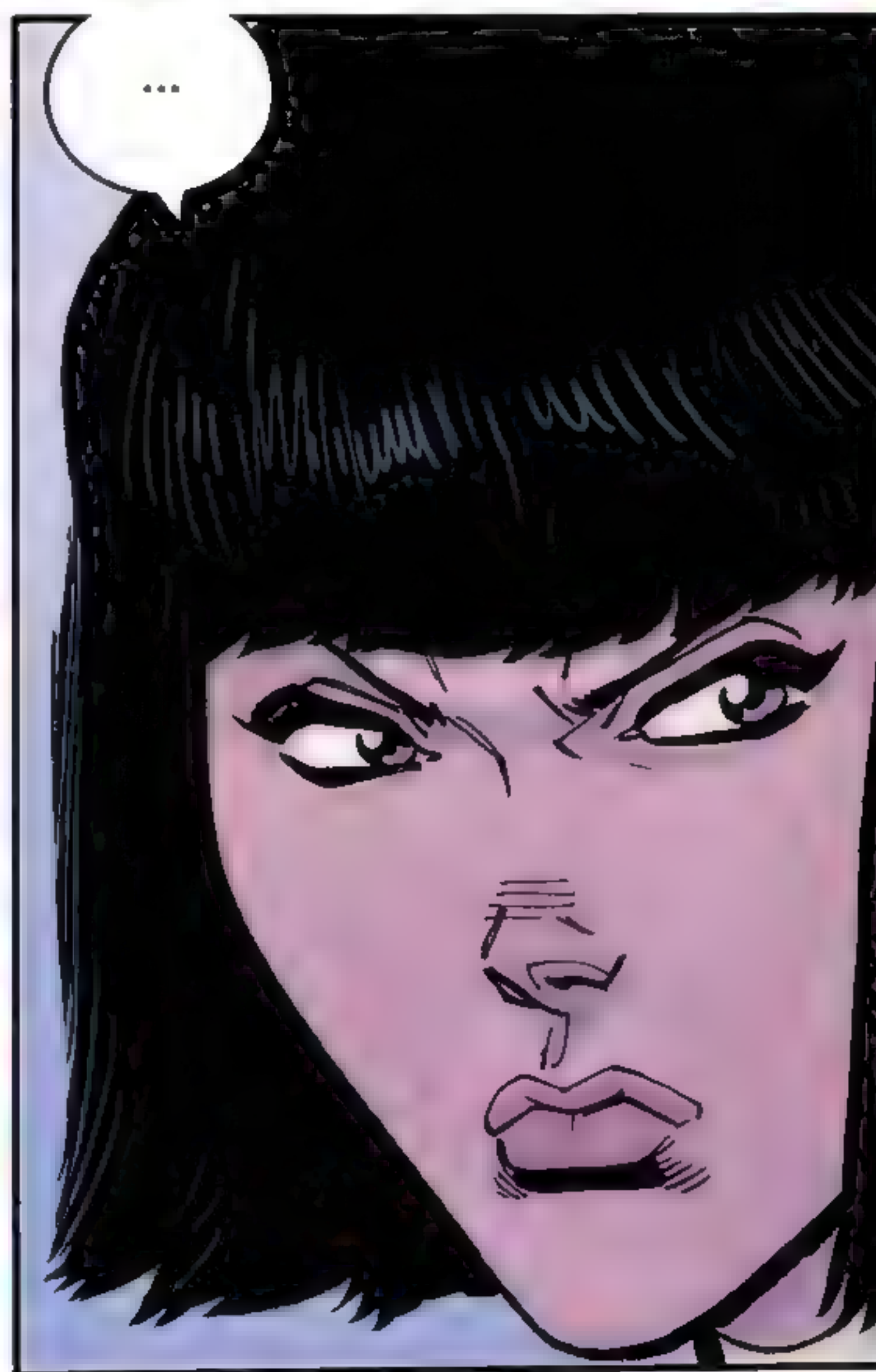
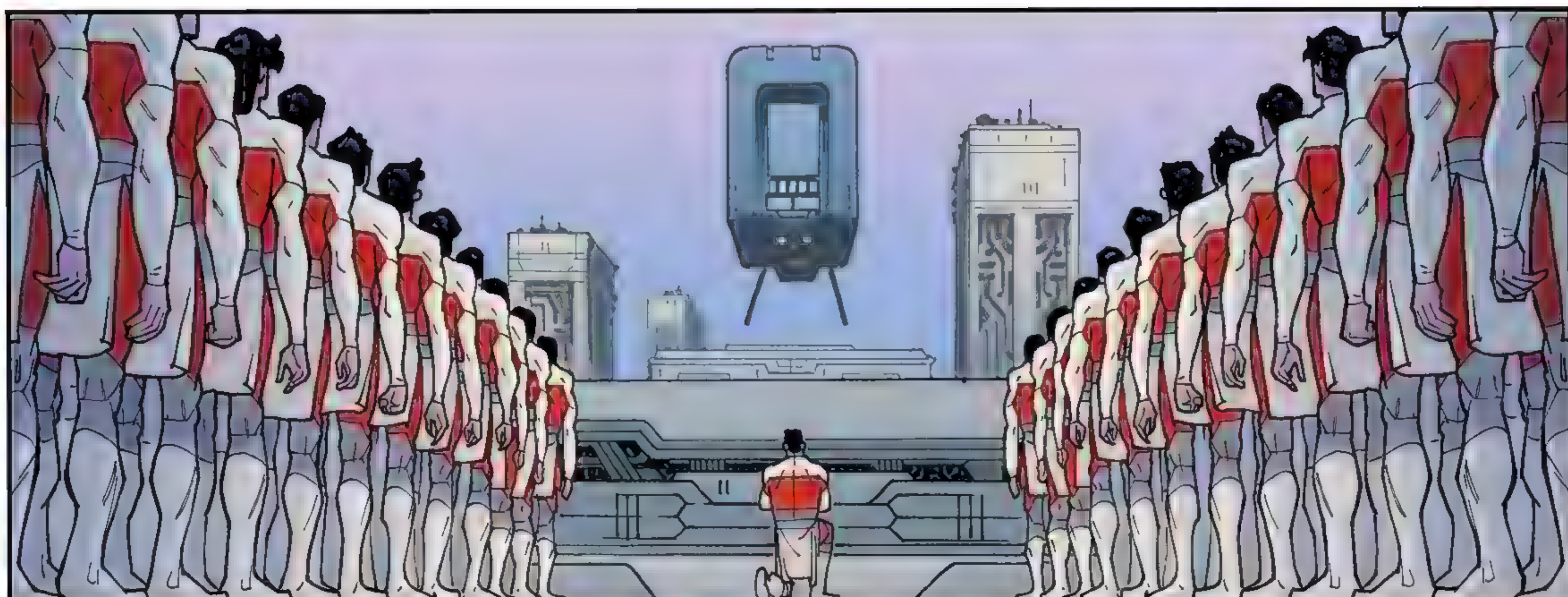
...



WHAT ARE YOU--?

BEING...

...STRONG!







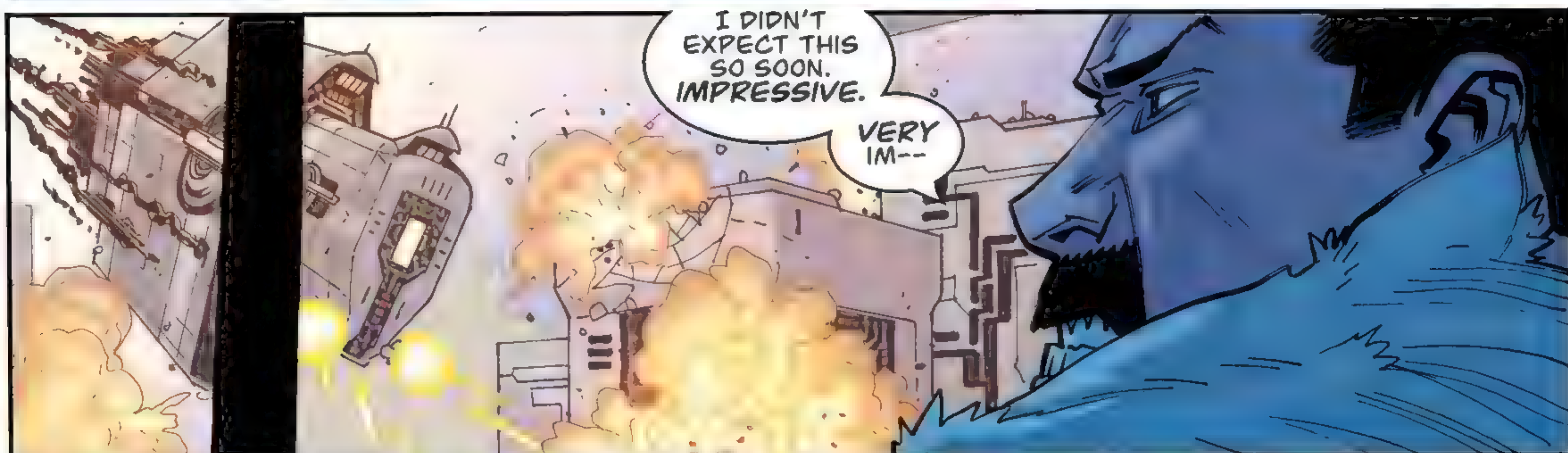
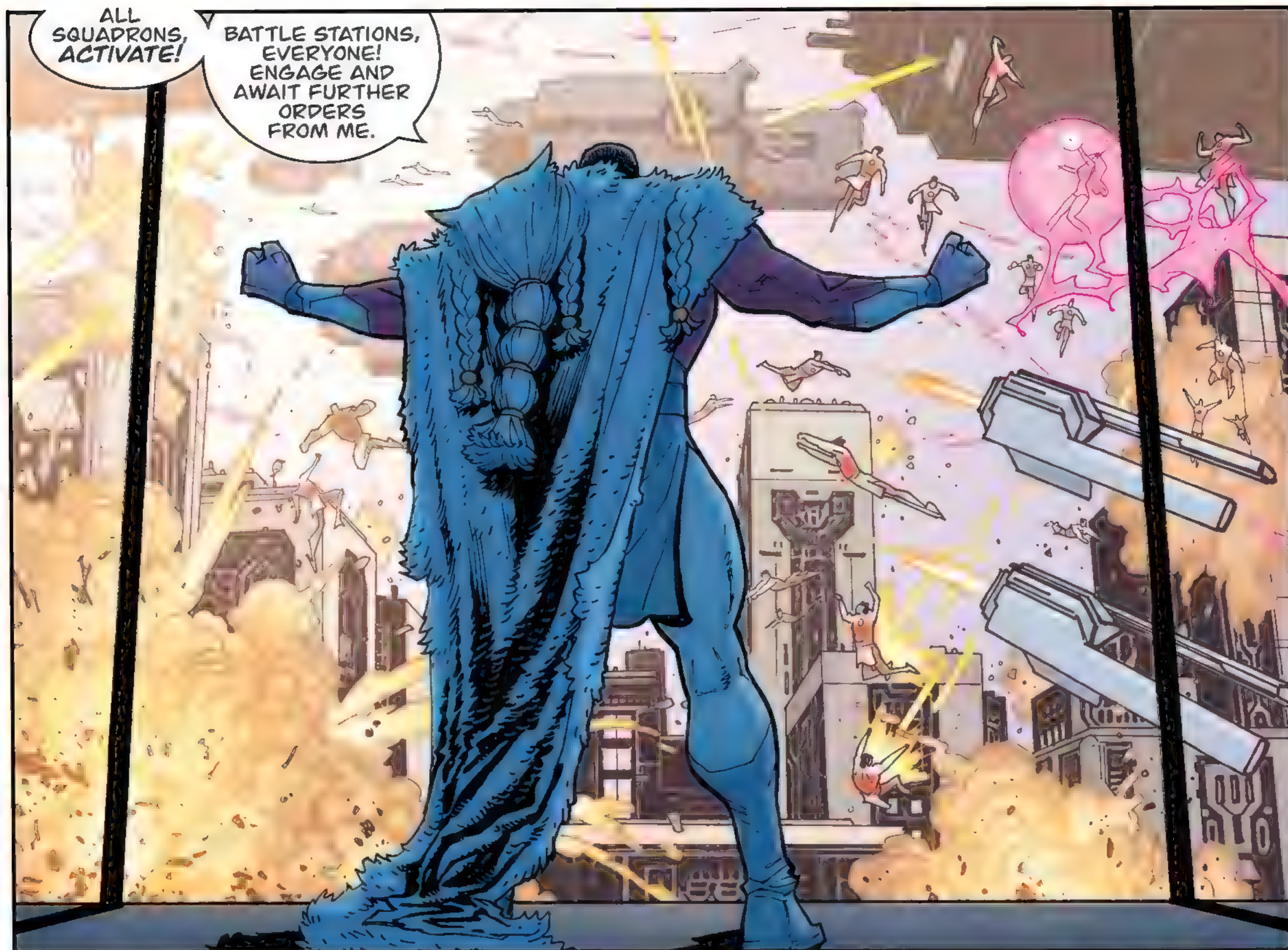






CHAPTER 136







LOOKS
LIKE WE'VE
GOT HIS
ATTENTION.

THAT
WAS
QUICK.

MARK
GRAYSON...
OF COURSE
YOU'RE
ALIVE...



VILTRUMITES
OF THE TRUE
EMPIRE!

LET'S
END THIS
QUICKLY!

ALL
FORCES
CONVERGE
ON ME!





THERE'S...

THERE'S TOO MANY.
WE HAD NO CLUE--
WE COULDN'T HAVE
ANTICIPATED THERE
WOULD BE
SO MANY...



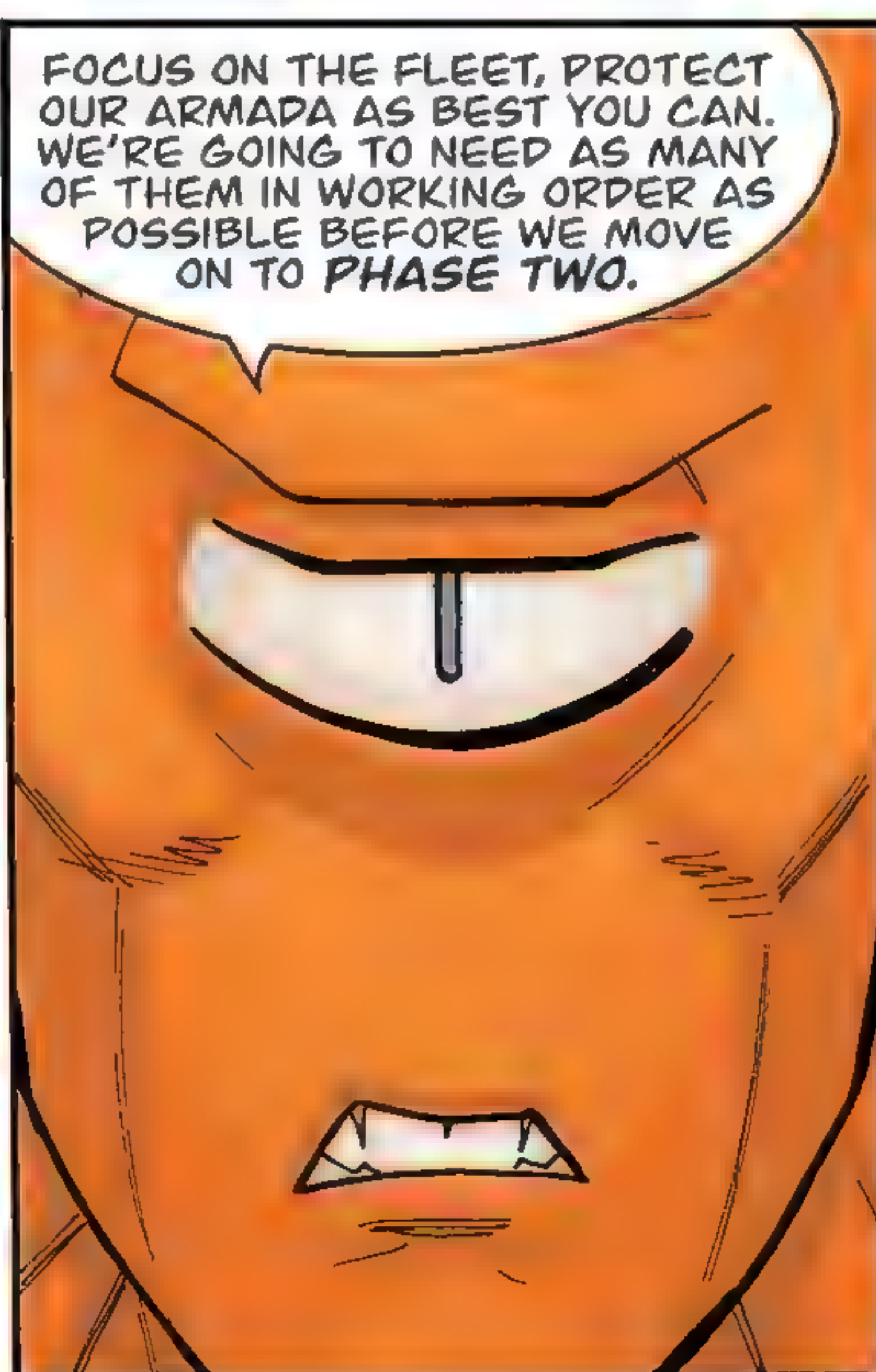
IT DOESN'T
MATTER!

IF ANYTHING, IT
HELPS. THE PLAN
STILL WORKS.
STICK TO THE
PLAN.

STAND READY!
BE PREPARED,
OR WE WON'T
SURVIVE LONG
ENOUGH TO
SEE YOUR
PLAN
THROUGH.



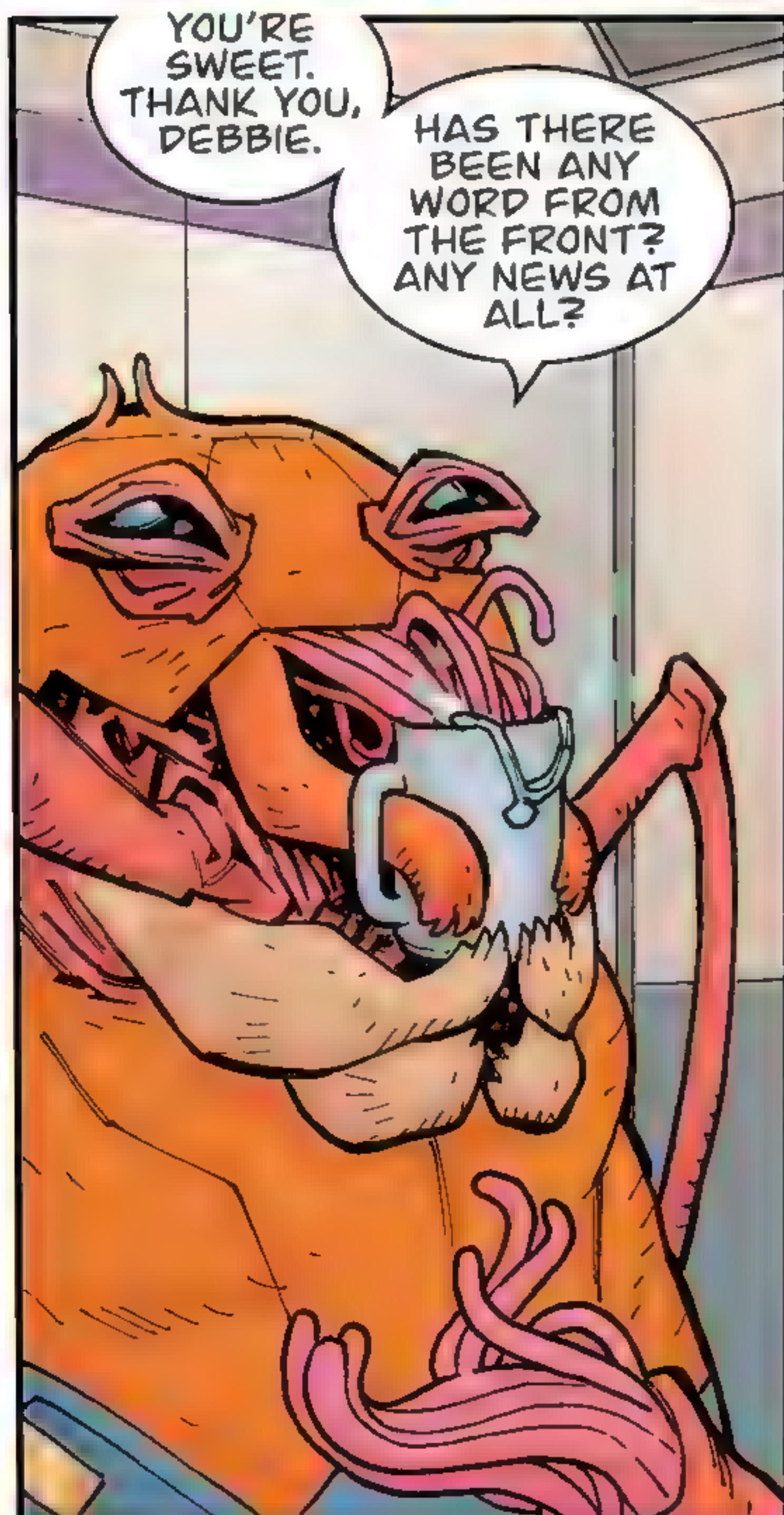
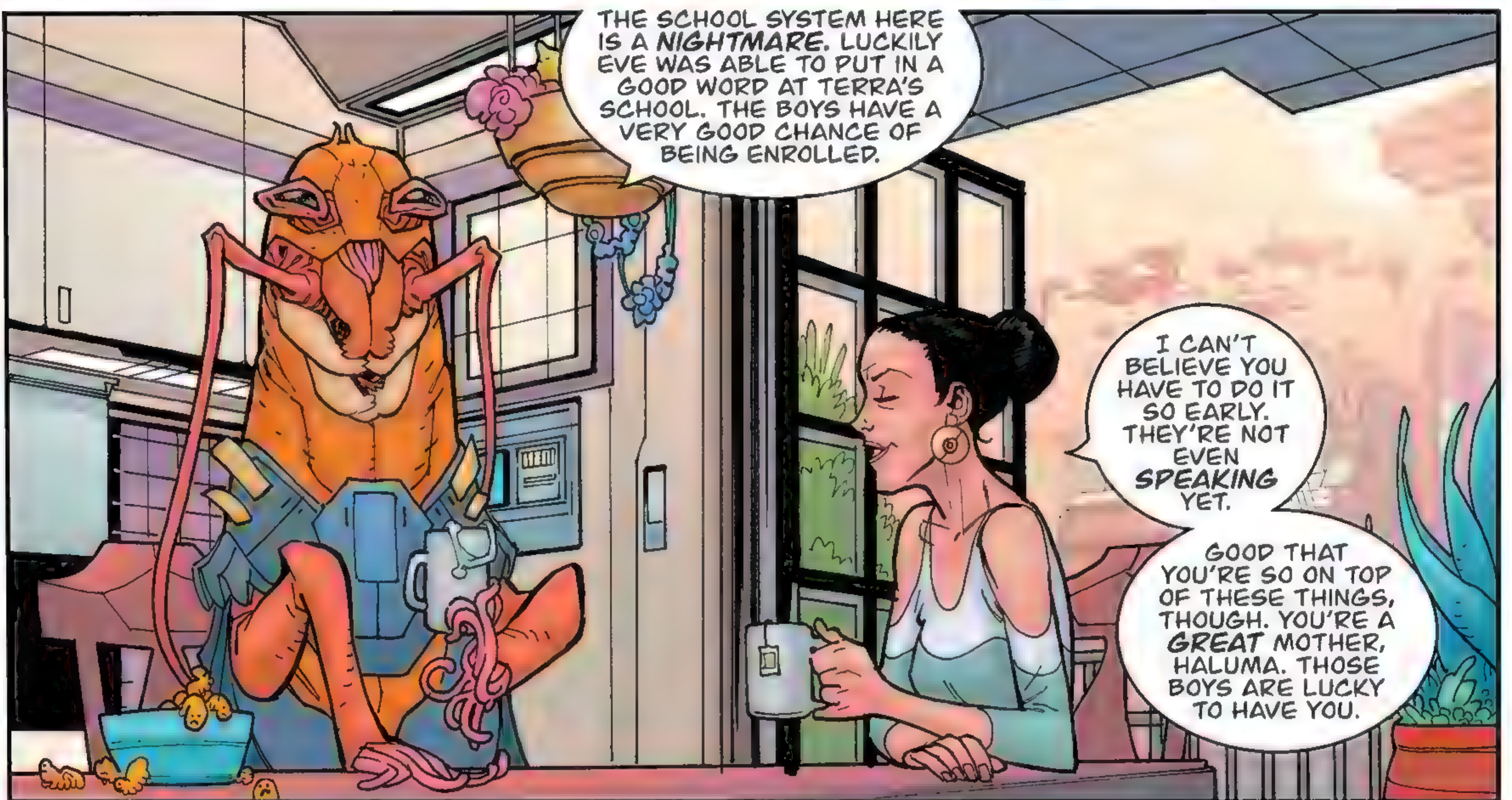
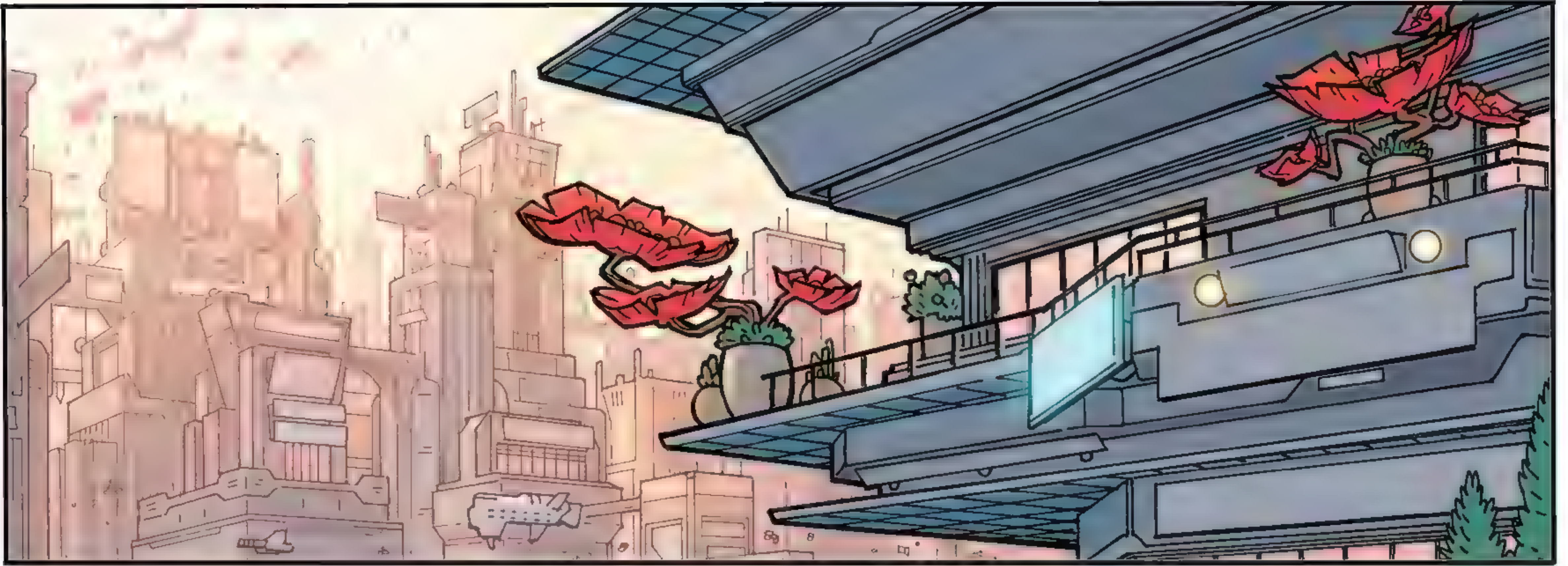
FOCUS ON THE FLEET, PROTECT
OUR ARMADA AS BEST YOU CAN.
WE'RE GOING TO NEED AS MANY
OF THEM IN WORKING ORDER AS
POSSIBLE BEFORE WE MOVE
ON TO PHASE TWO.



PROTECT THE
SHIPS, FIGHT THE
VILTRUMITES,
DON'T DIE.
GOT IT.



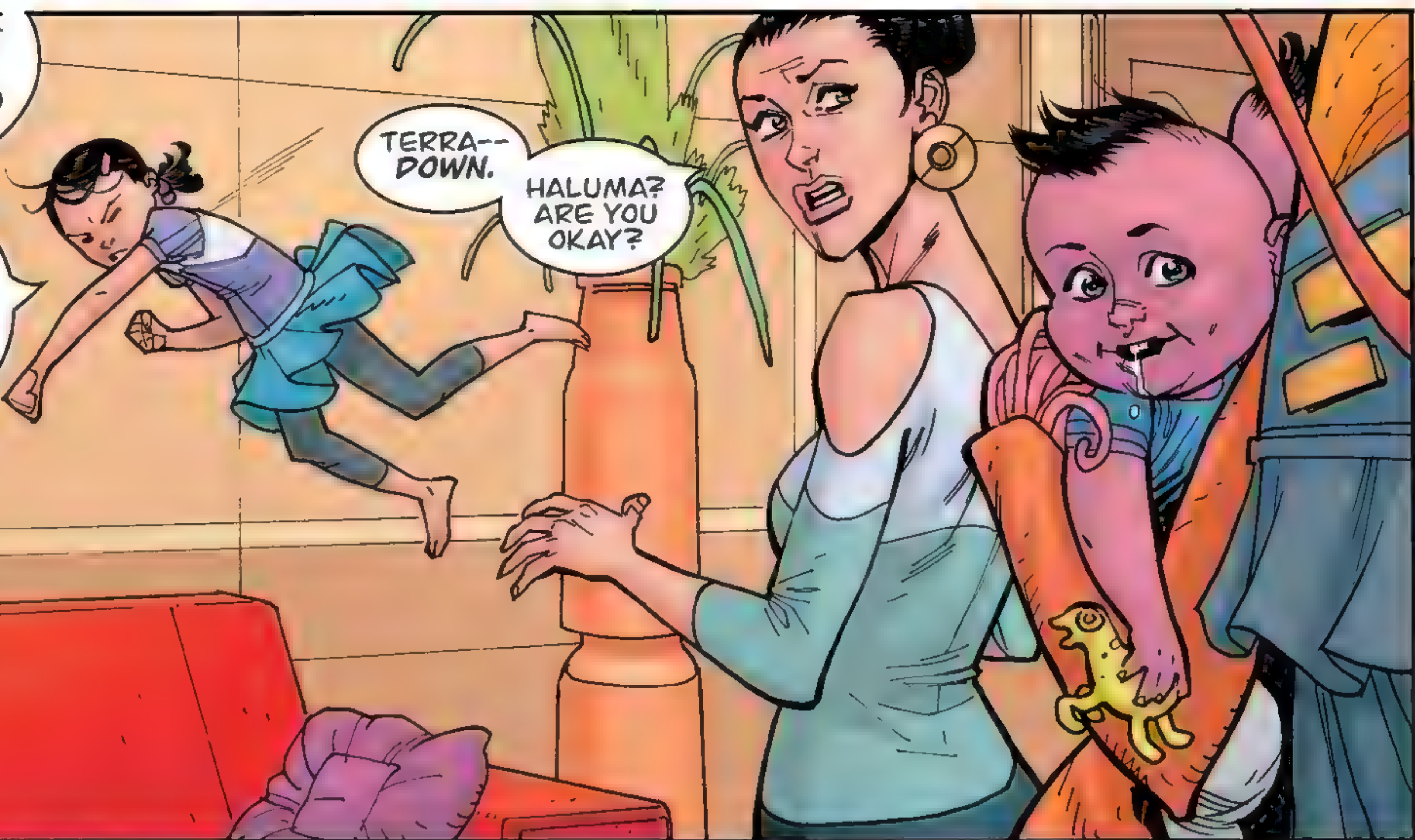
EMPHASIS
ON "DON'T
DIE."





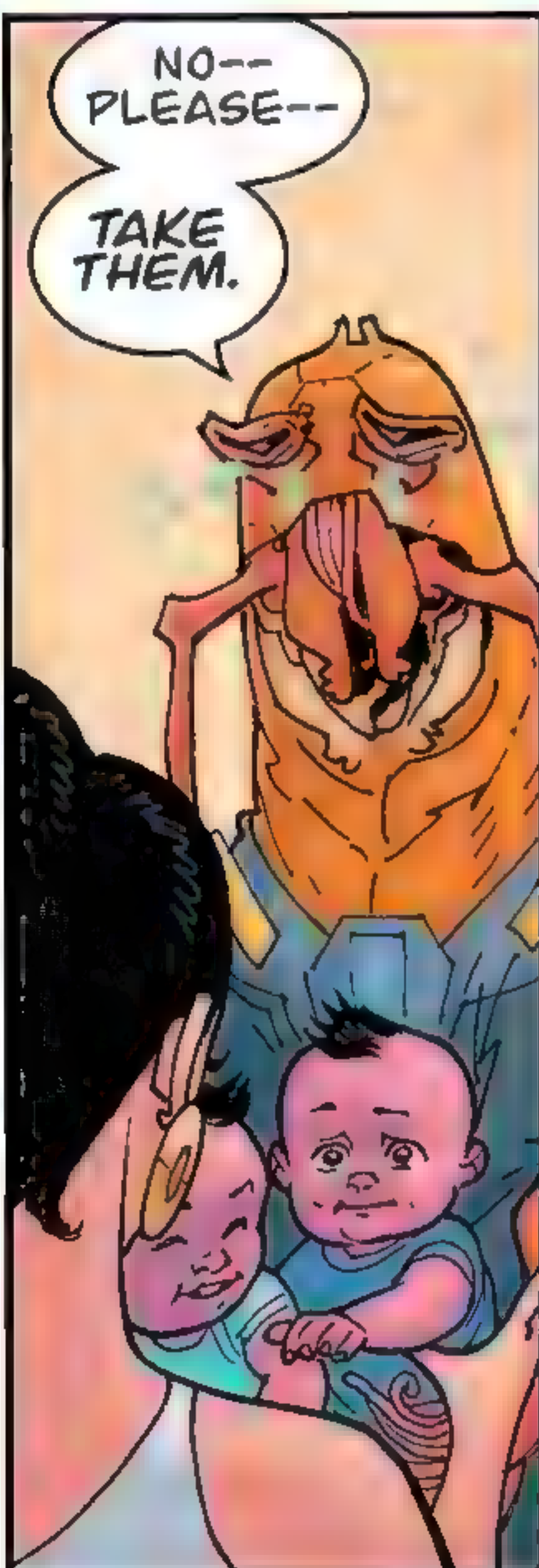
I'M PRACTICING SO I CAN GO HELP MOM AND DAD. I HAVE TO BE A GOOD FLYER SO I CAN BE A GOOD FIGHTER.

MOM AND DAD ARE GOING TO NEED ME. MOM MIGHT NEED ME TO GIVE HER MORE TIME TO FIX HER AND DAD IF THEY GET HURT.



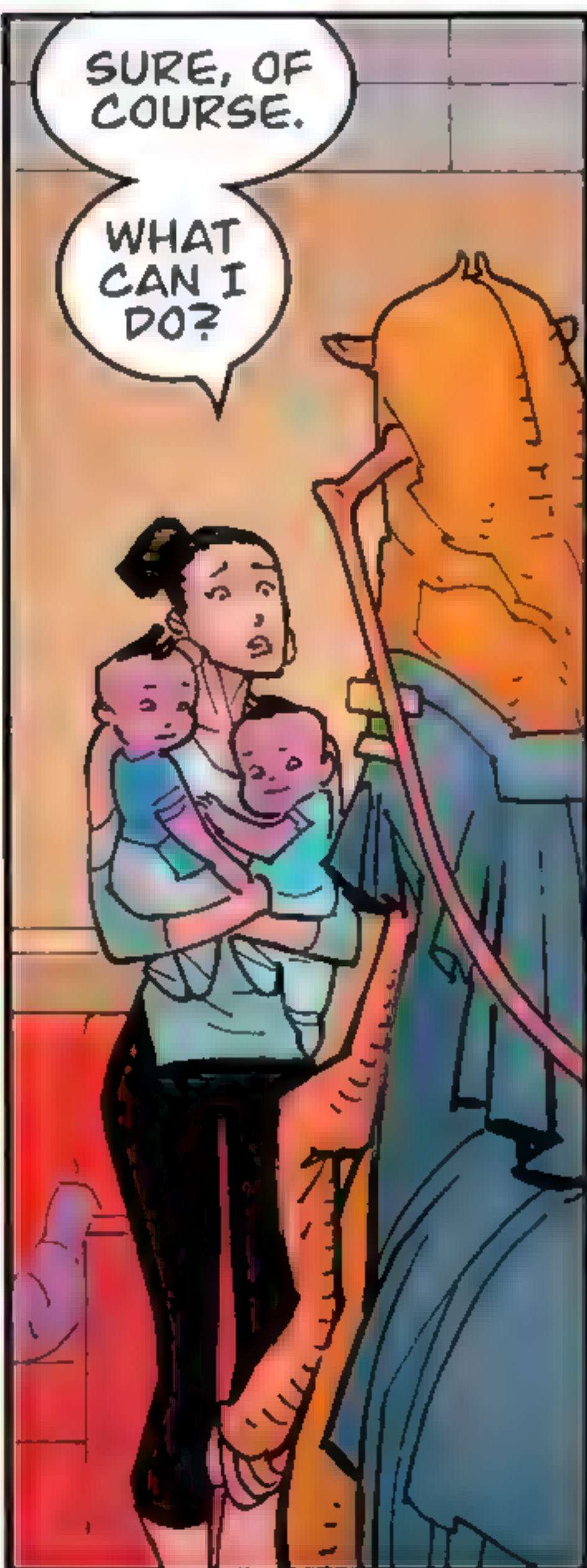
TERRA--
DOWN.

HALUMA?
ARE YOU
OKAY?



NO--
PLEASE--

TAKE
THEM.



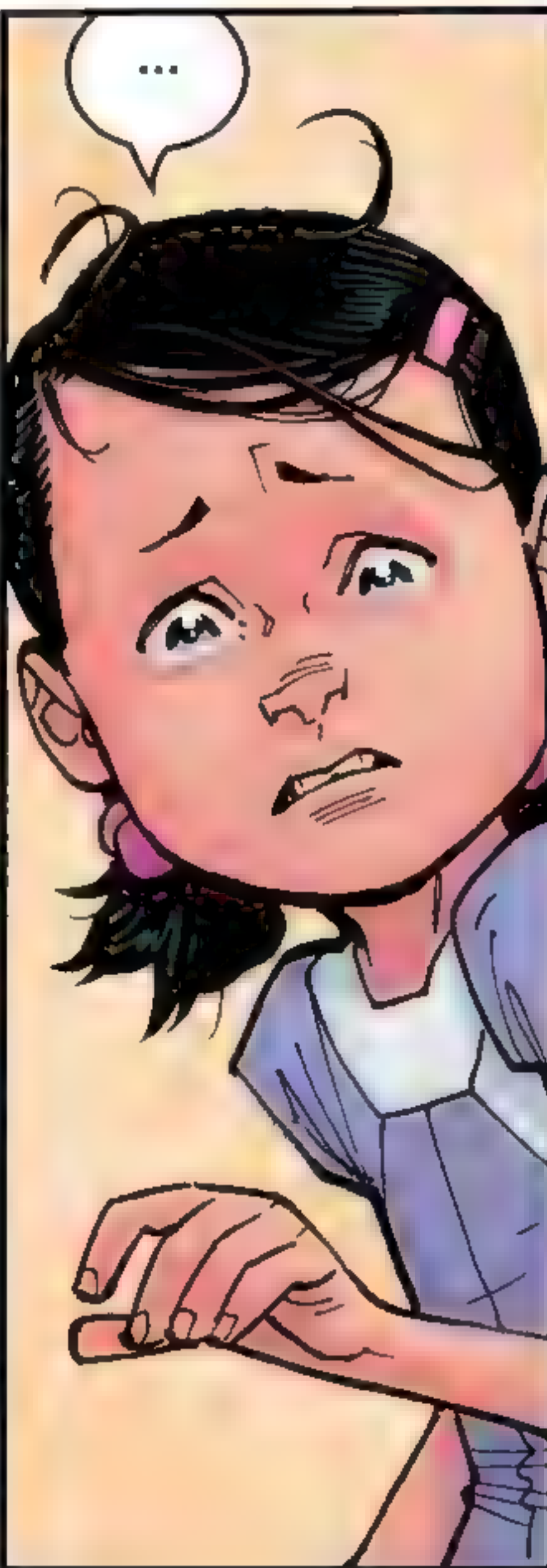
SURE, OF
COURSE.

WHAT
CAN I
DO?



OLIVER MADE ME
FEEL... SAFE. THRAGG
IS OUT THERE,
VILTRUMITES ARE
EVERYWHERE... AND
HE'S... GONE.

I HEARD
THAT NOISE AND I
THOUGHT... I THOUGHT
I'D LOST THEM, TOO.
I JUST CAN'T--
I CAN'T--



...



TERRA,
DEAR.
DON'T CRY.
YOU DIDN'T
MEAN TO...



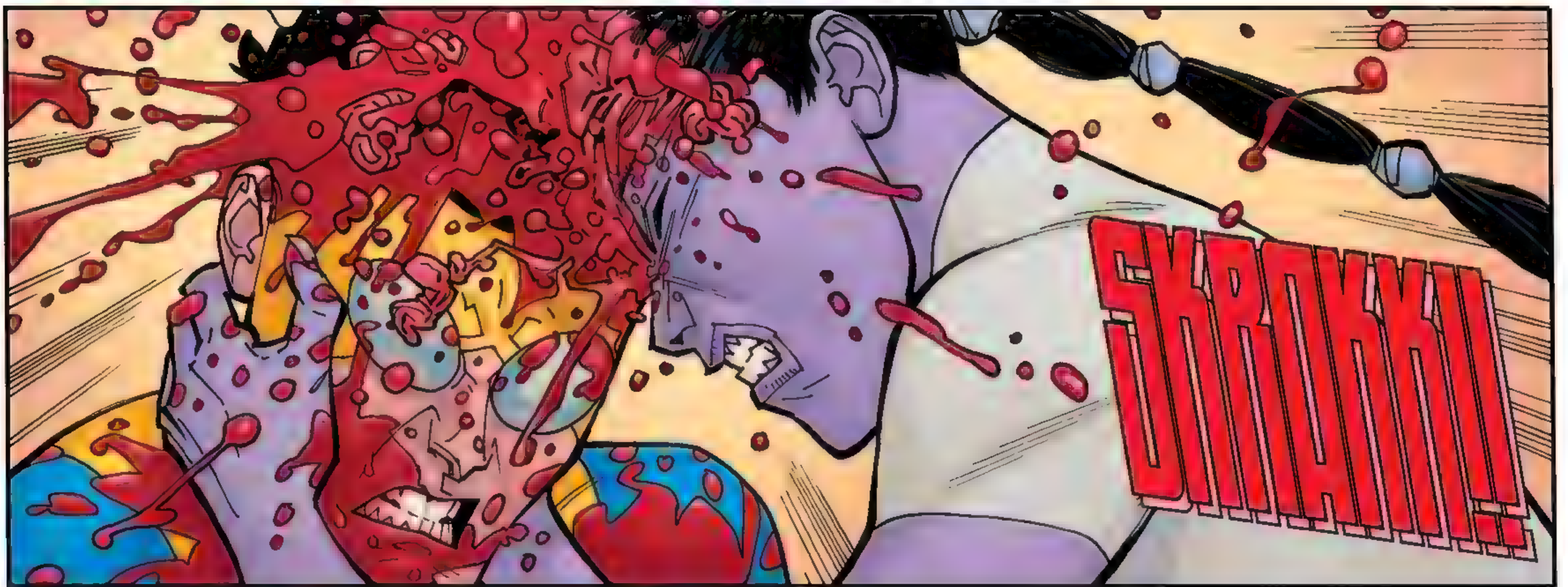
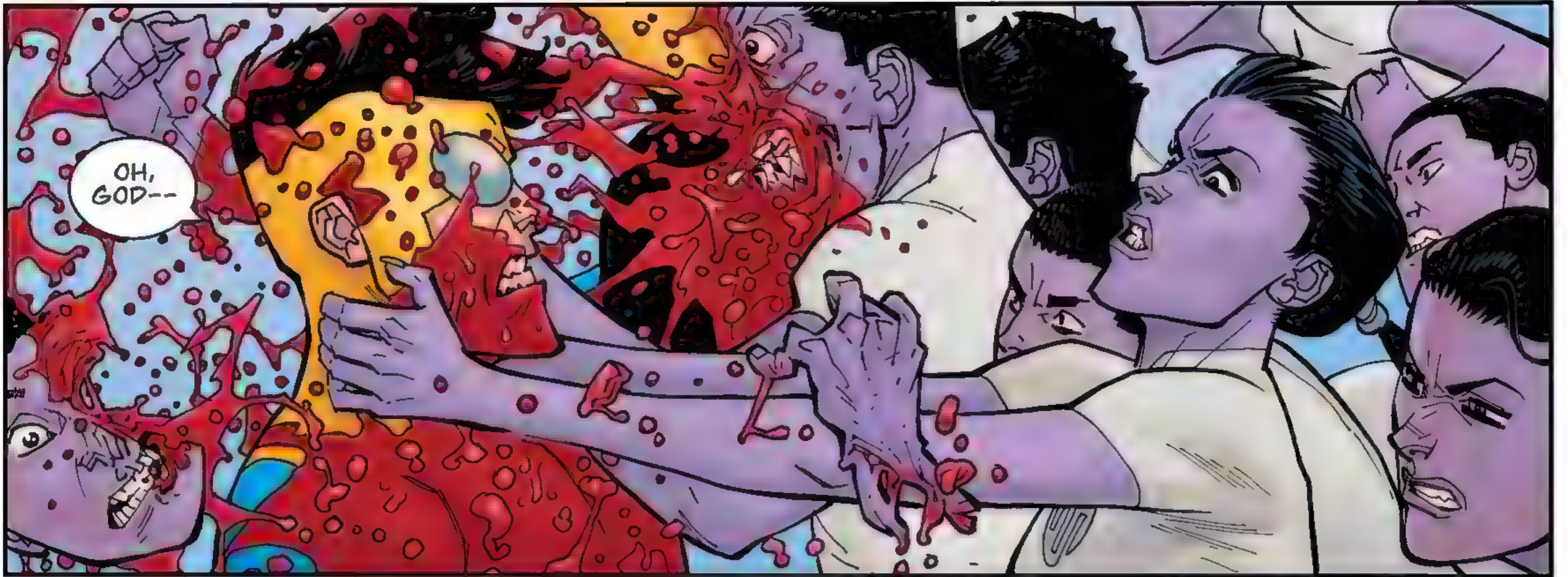
UNCLE OLIVER
TRIED TO SAVE
ME. HE FOUGHT
THE BAD
PEOPLE TO STOP
THEM FROM
KILLING ME.

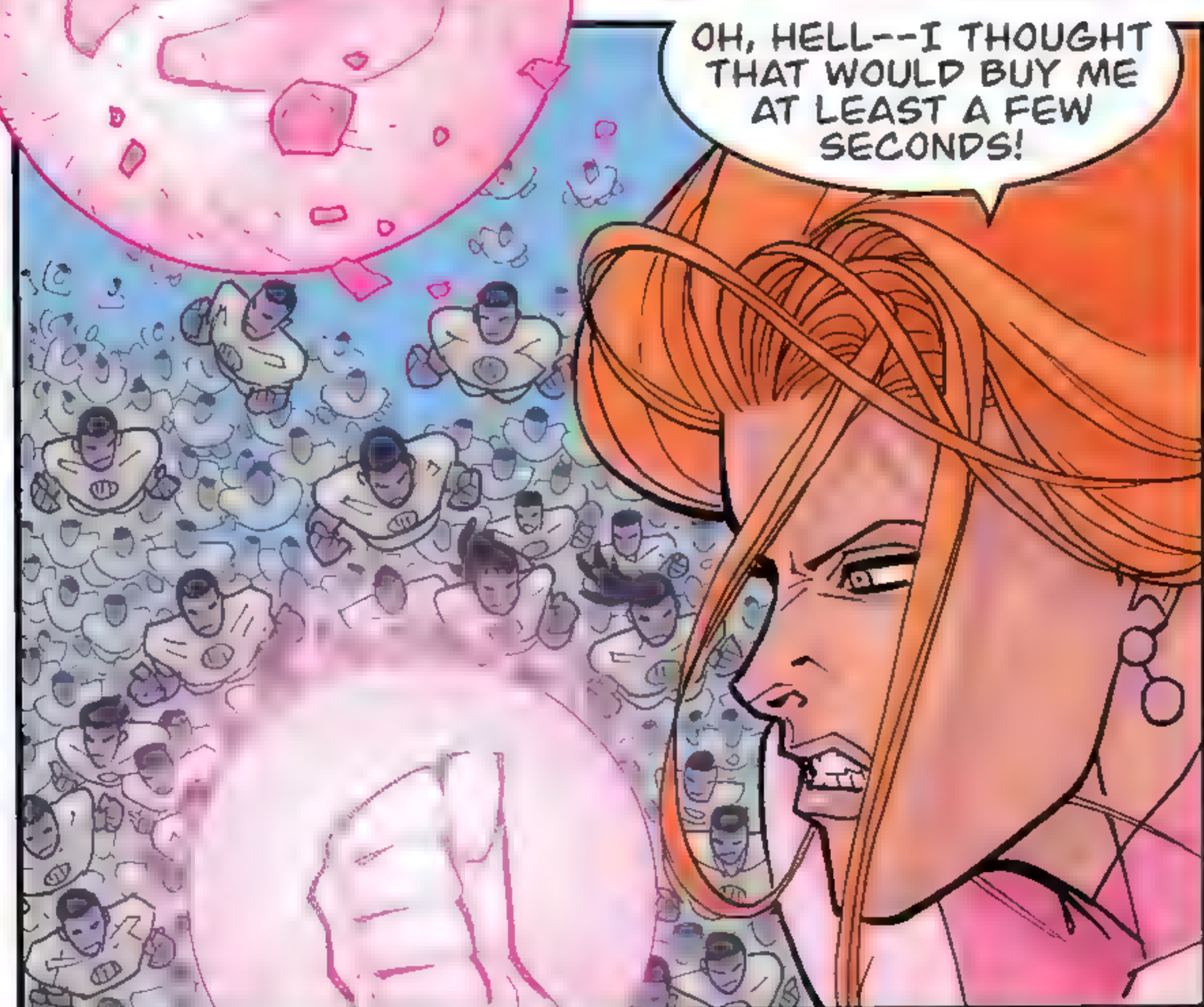
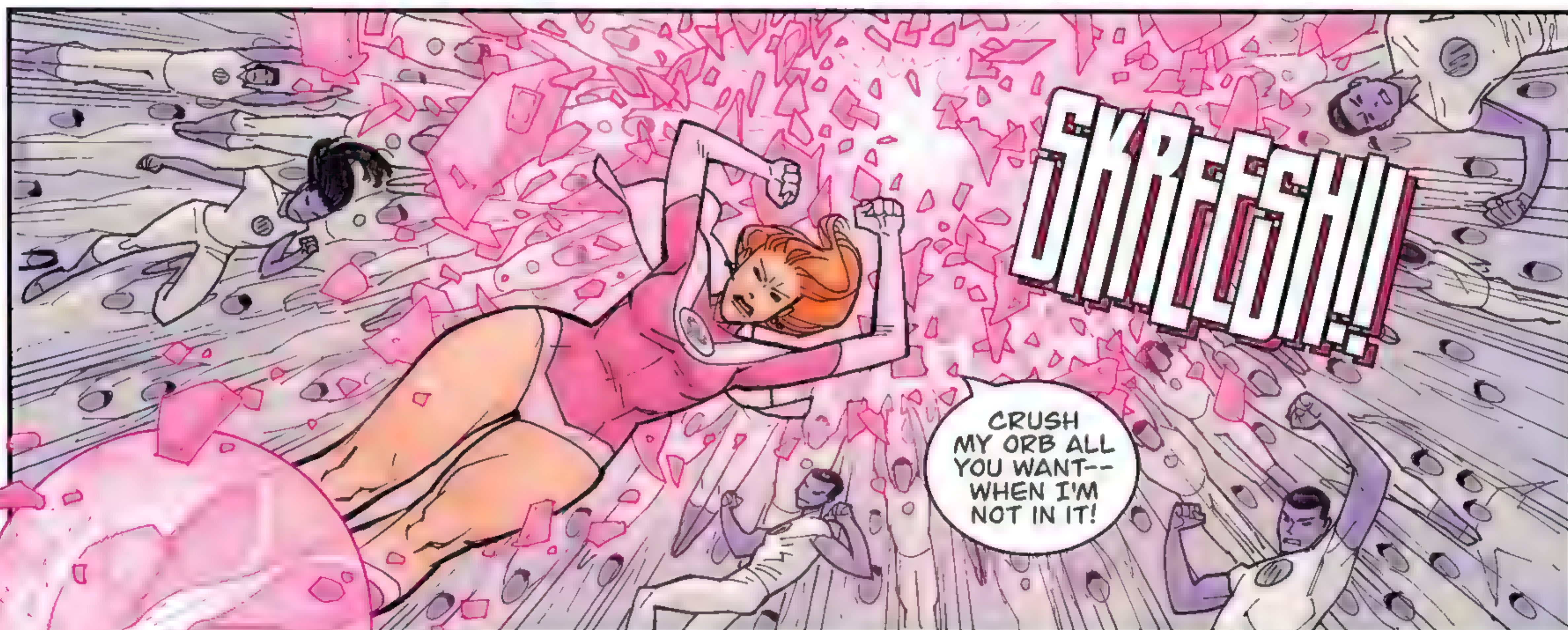
IT WAS
ALL MY
FAULT.

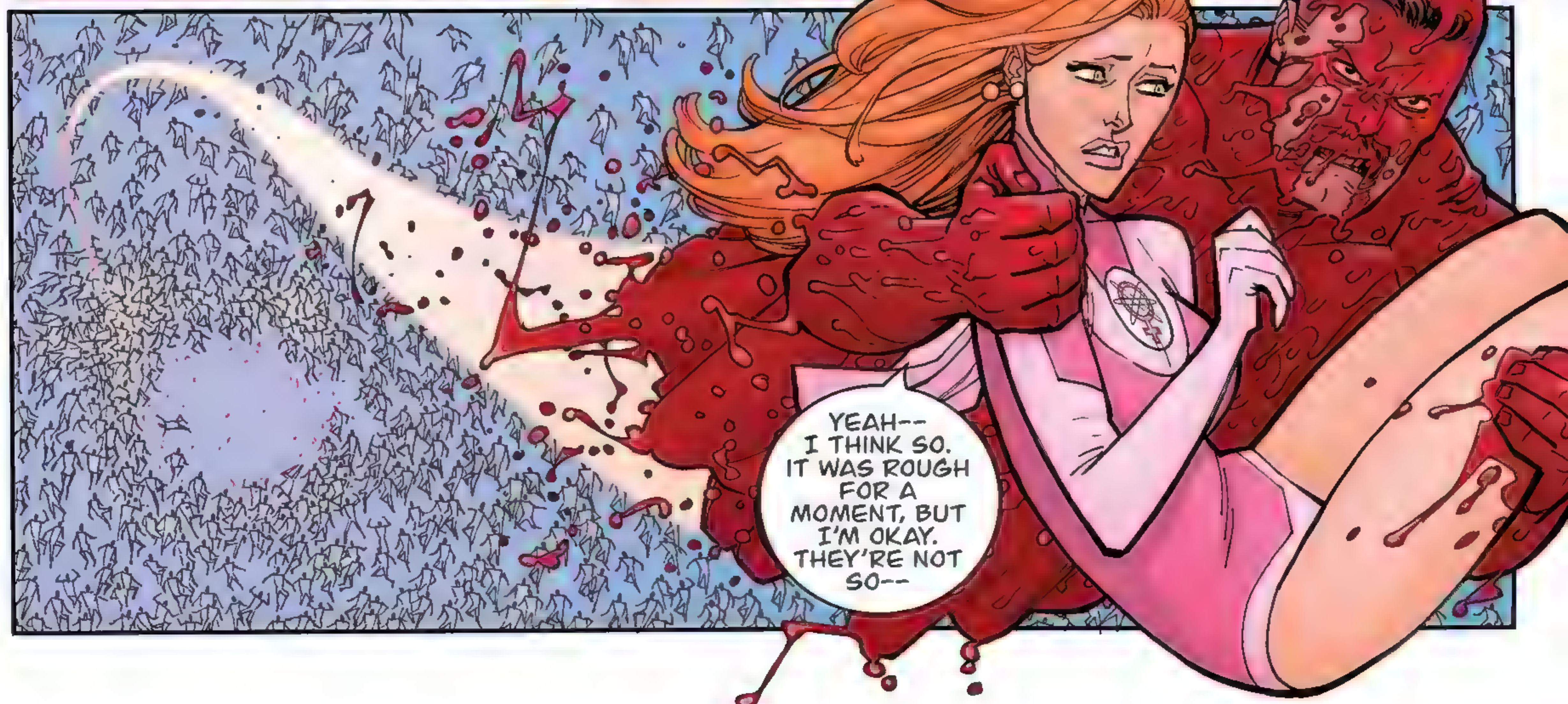
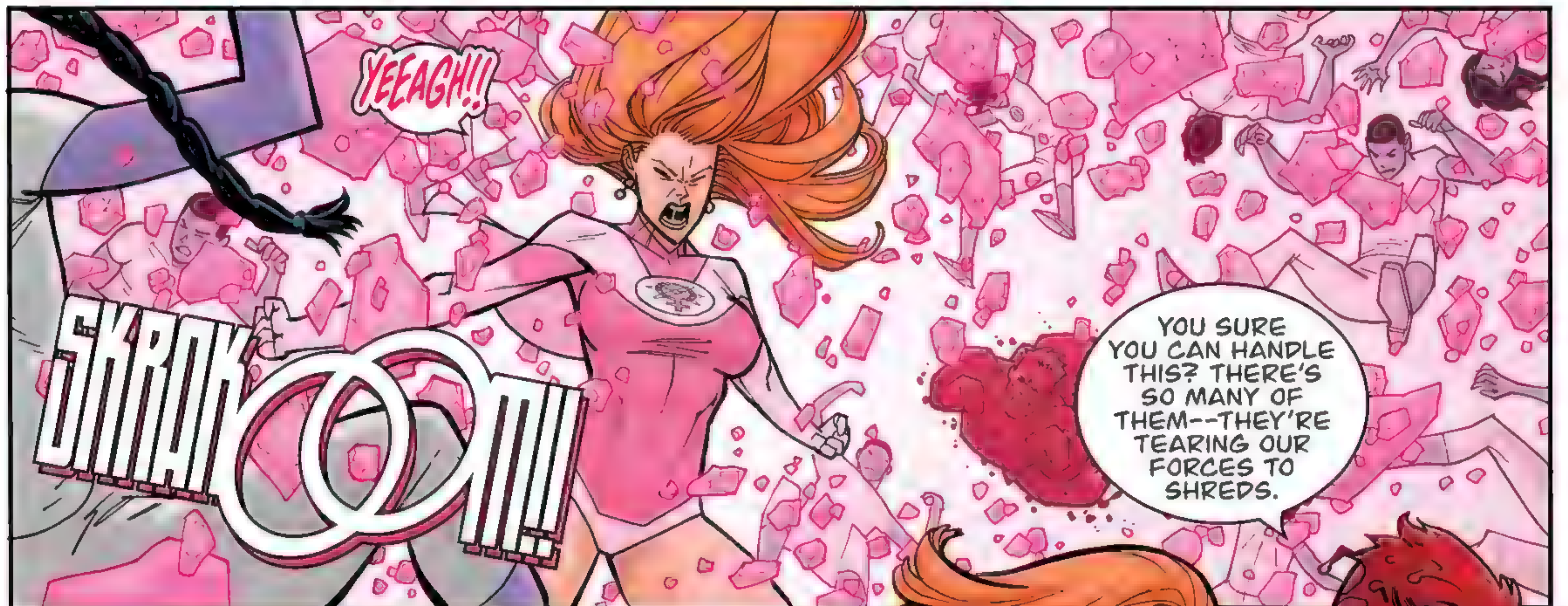
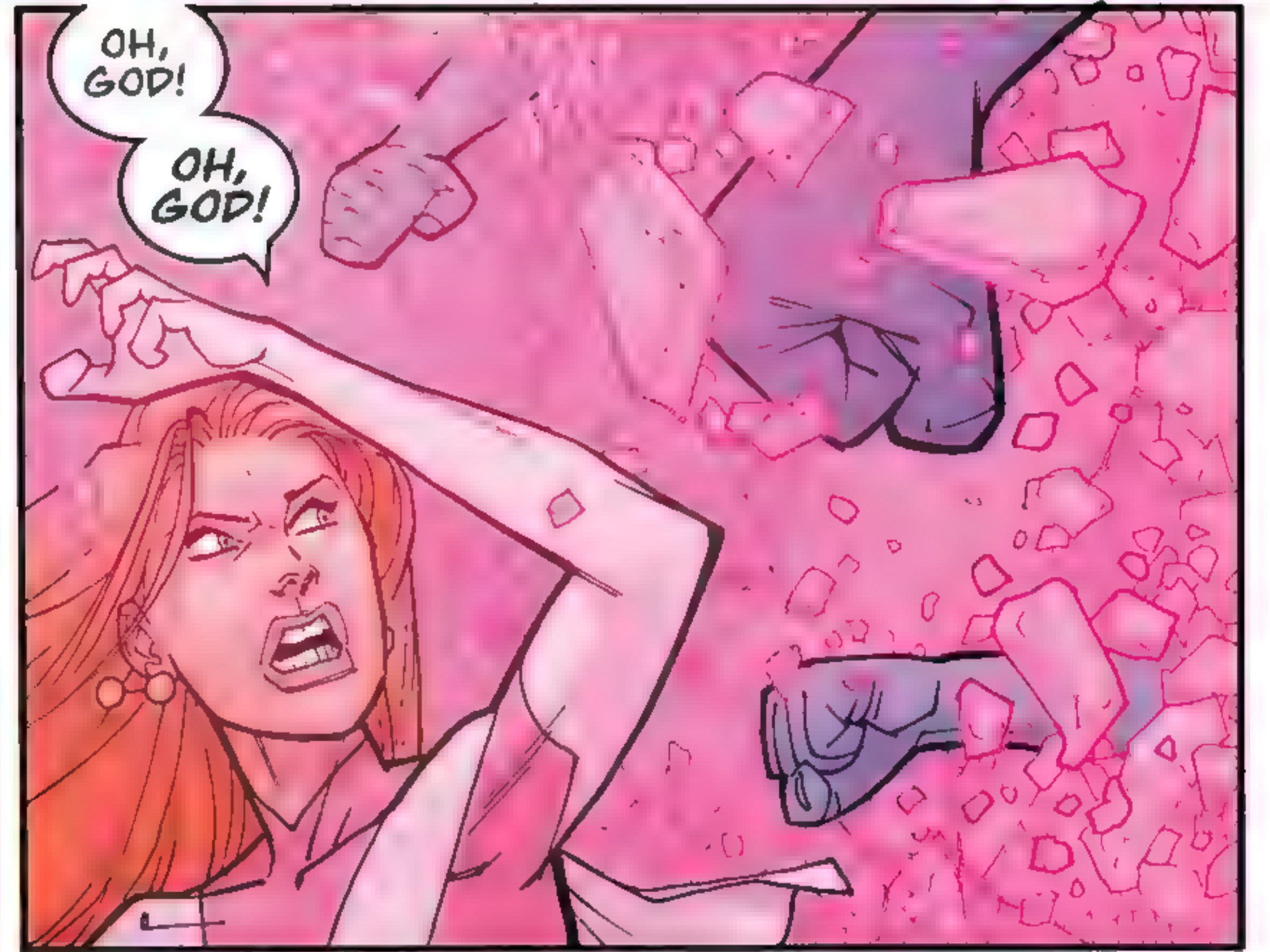
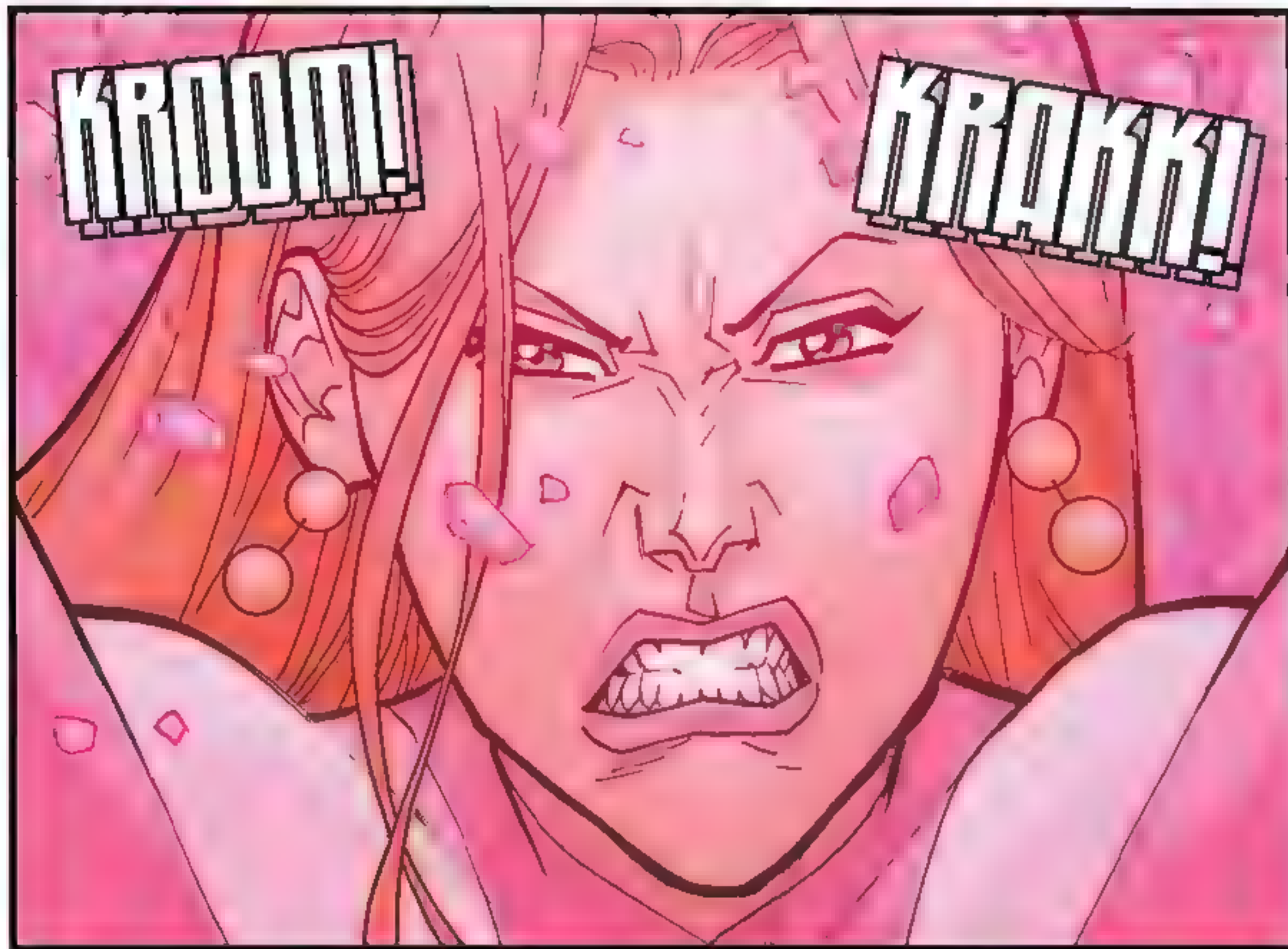
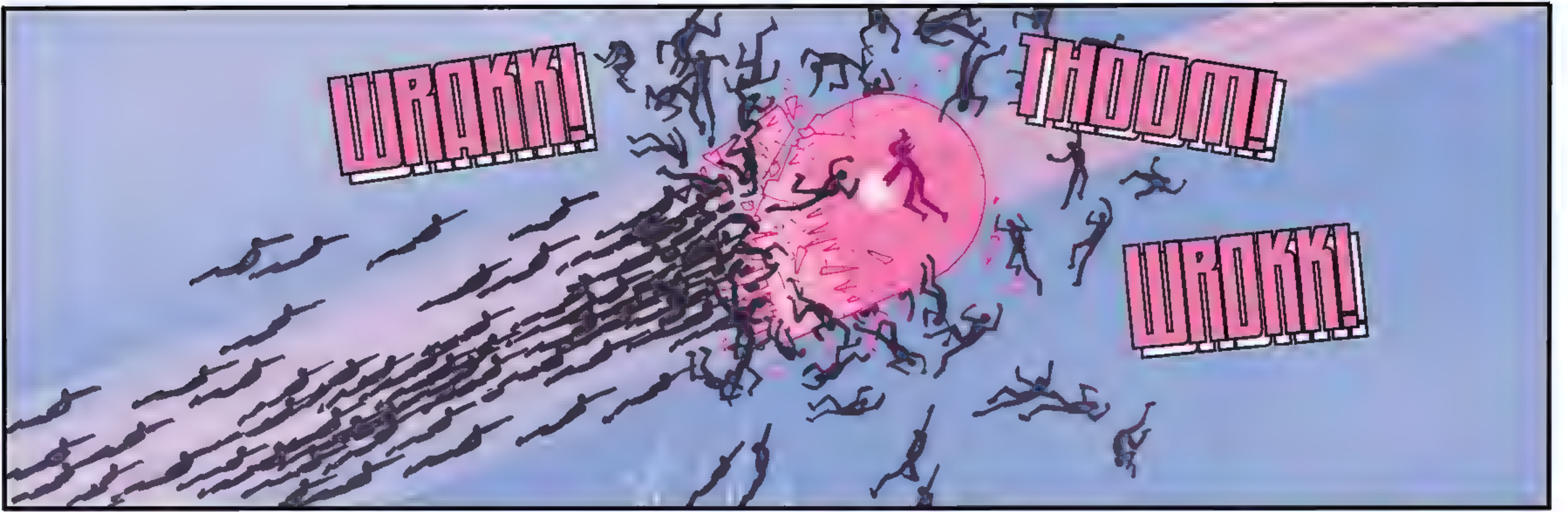
I WAS SO
SCARED. THE
BAD PEOPLE
HURT HIM SO
MUCH HIS WET
PARTS WERE
SHOWING... IT
WAS SAD AND
SCARY.

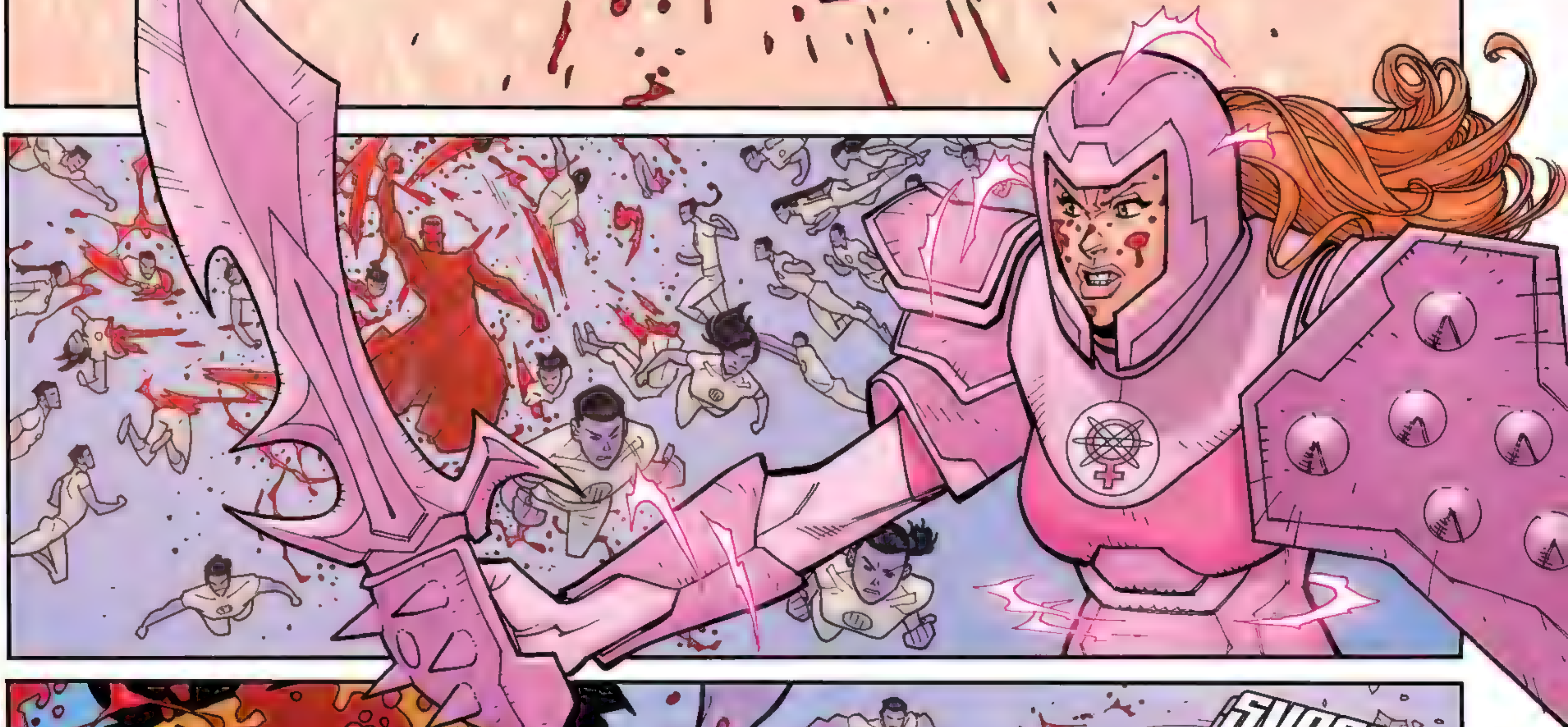
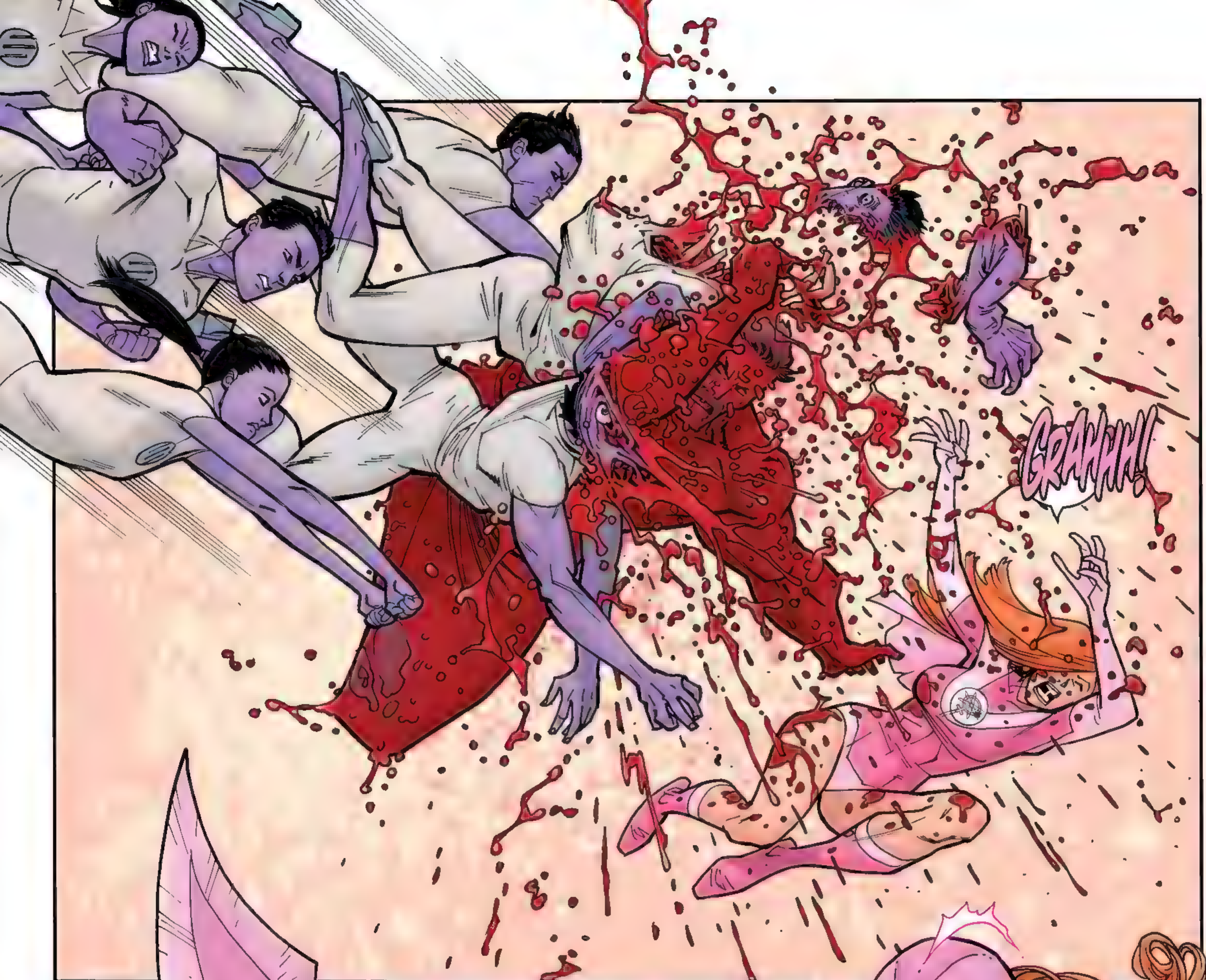
I'M SORRY
HE DIED. I HOPE
THAT NEVER
HAPPENS TO
ANYONE ELSE
EVER AGAIN
EVER.

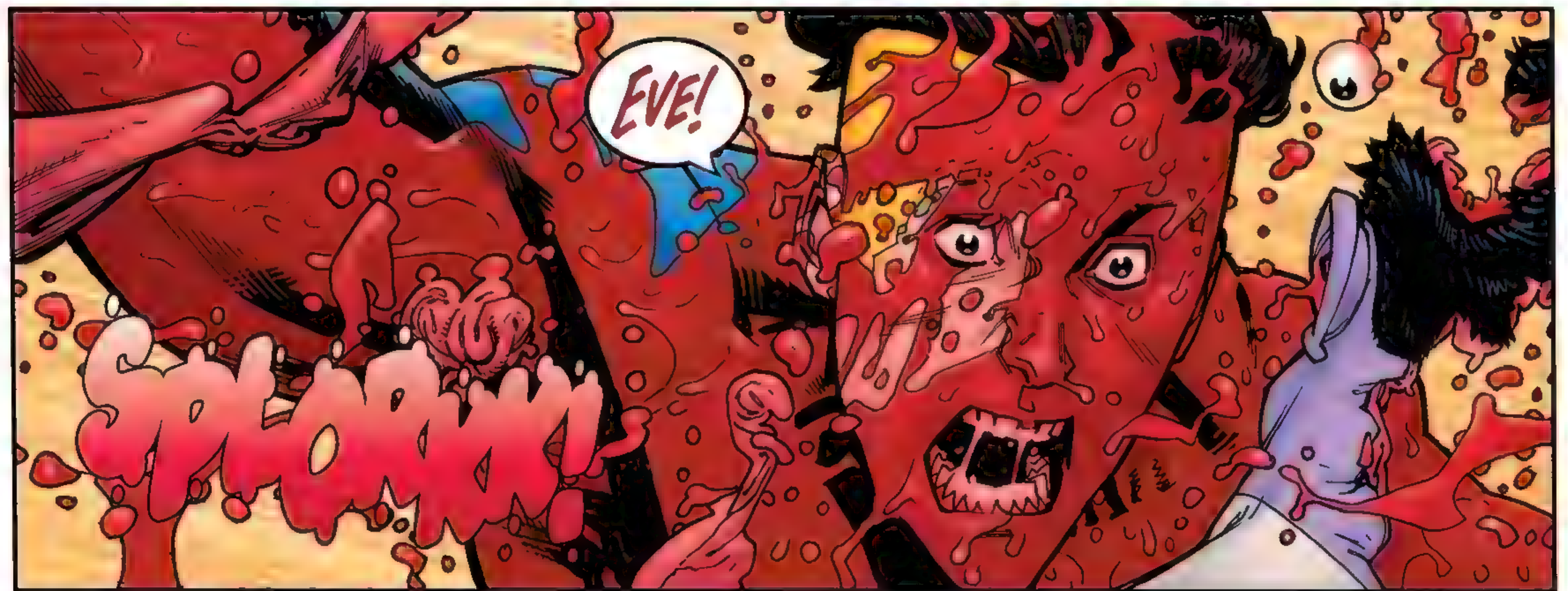
















THEY'RE
BREAKING
RANK. WE'VE
GOT THEM ON
THE RUN. THIS
BATTLE IS
WON.

BUT AT
WHAT
COST?!



WHAT?



MY BROTHERS AND SISTERS
ARE DYING! THEY'RE THROWING
THEMSELVES AT THE
ENEMY--IT'S KILLING
THEM!

DON'T YOU
SEE THE
BODY
COUNT?



I SEE
EVERYTHING!

THRAKK!

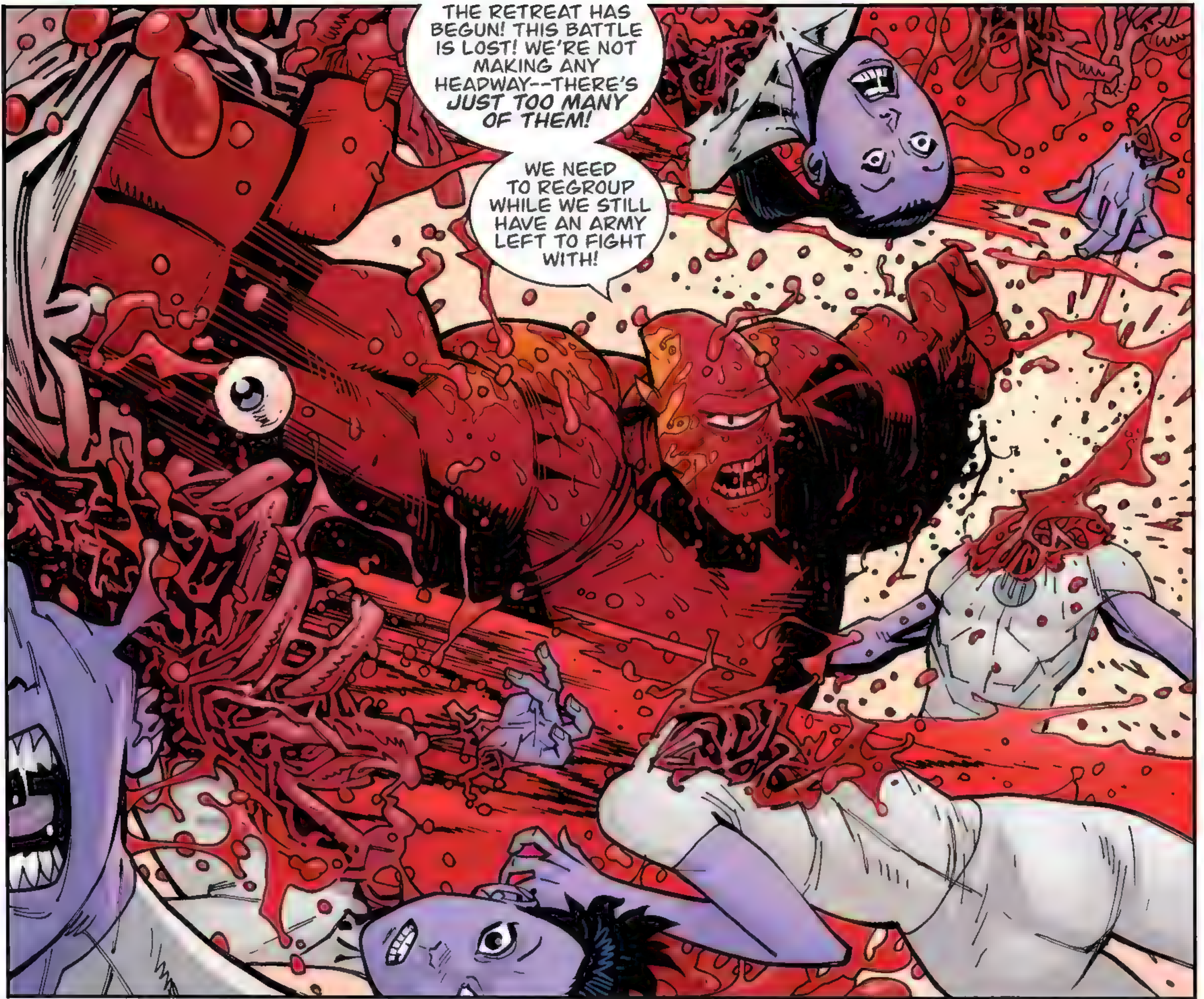


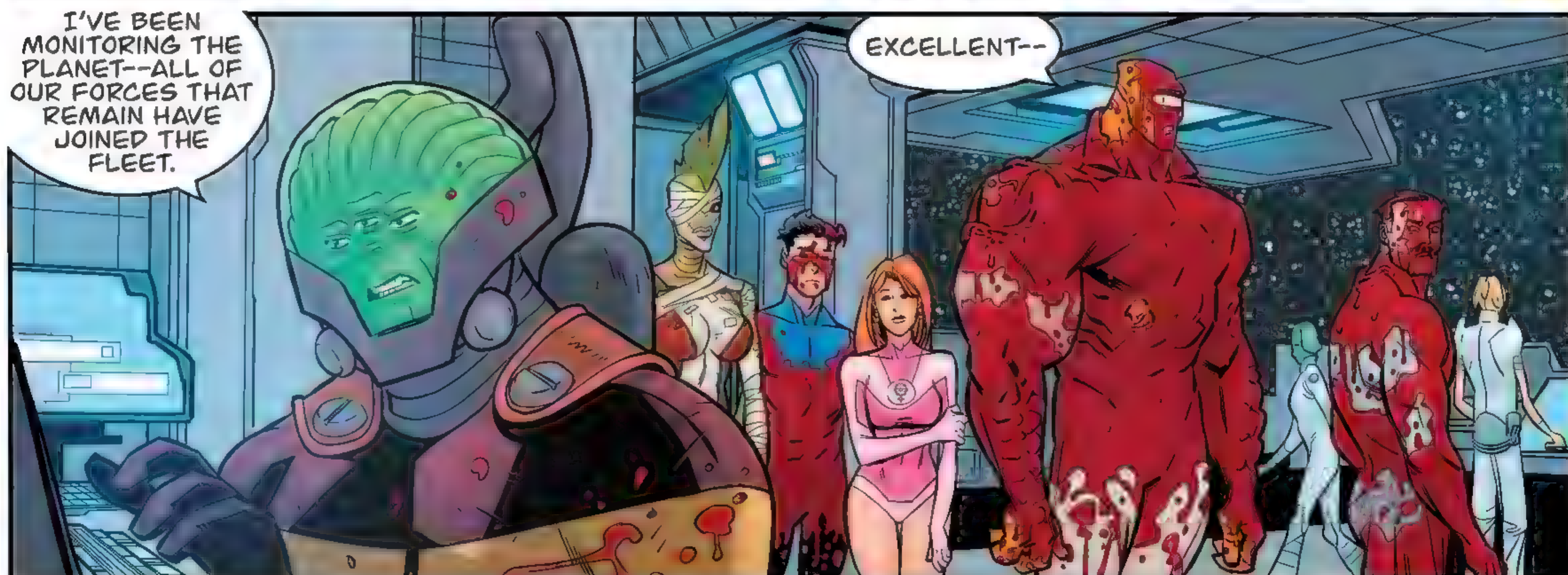
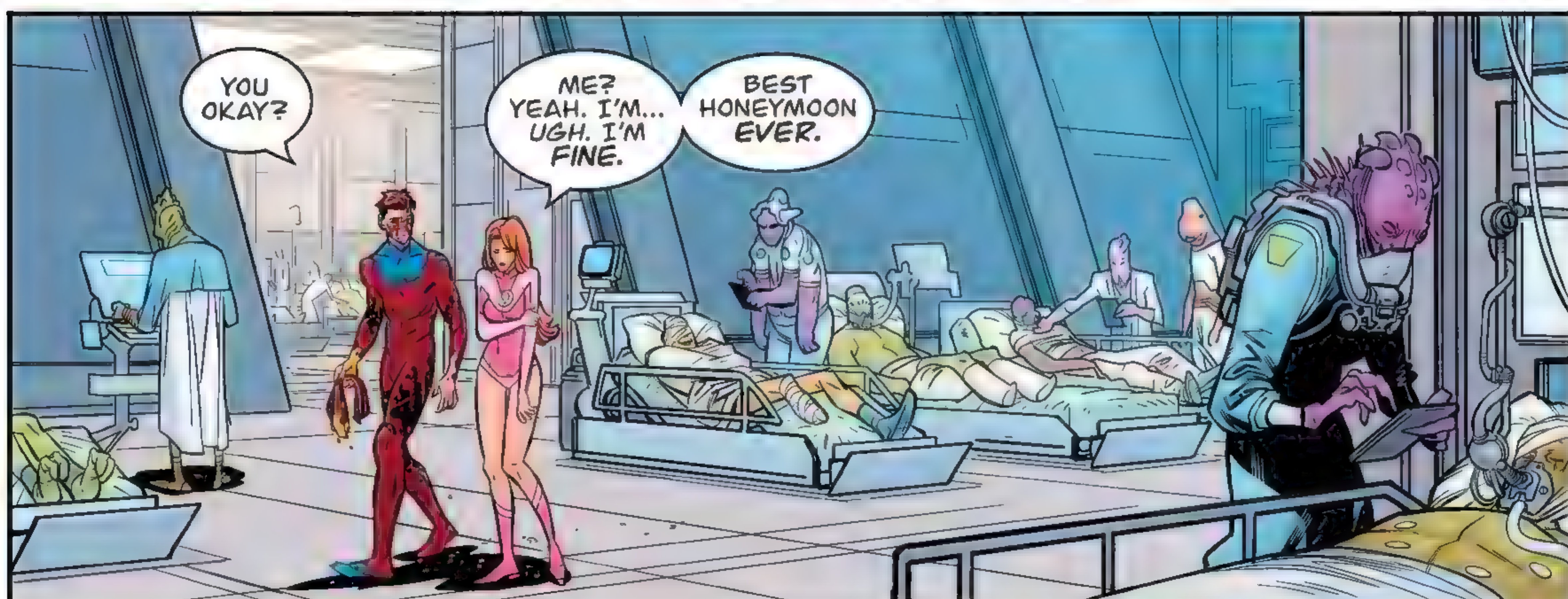
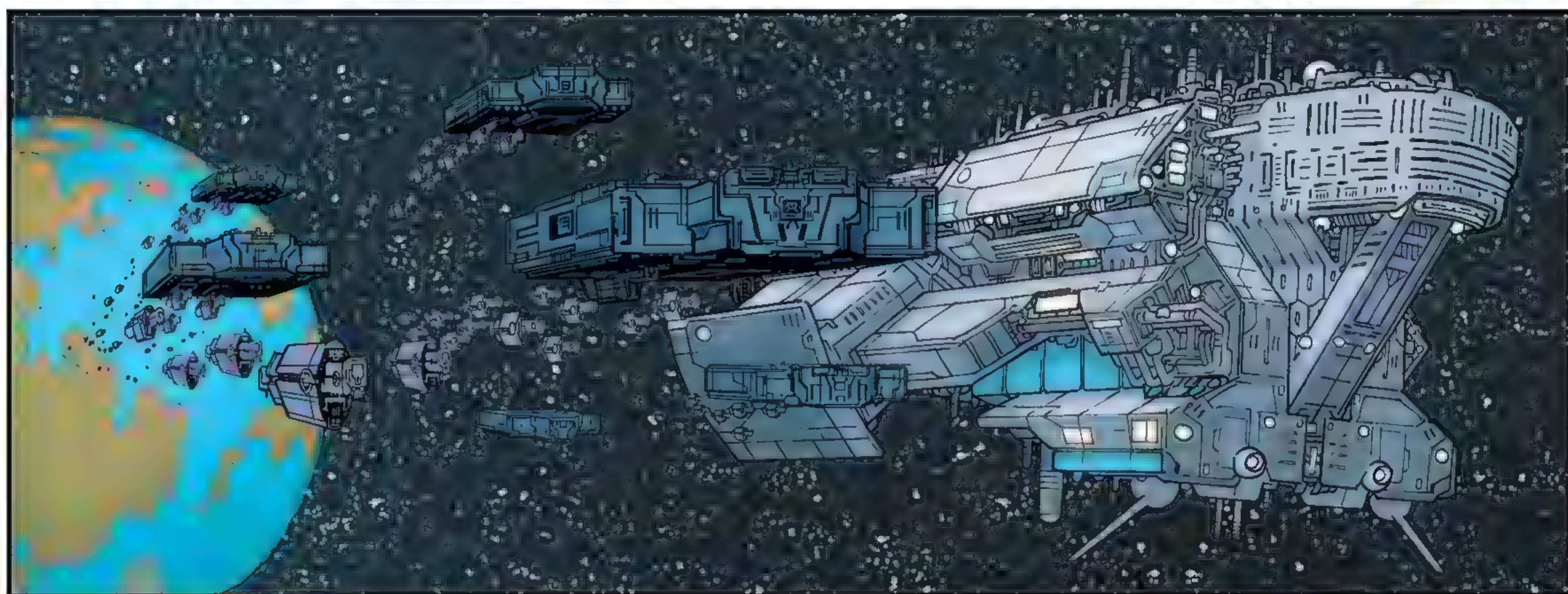
THE FALLEN WERE
WEAK, AND IT IS OUR
WAY TO CAST THEM
OFF... OUR EMPIRE
WILL BE BUILT WITH
THE STRONG.

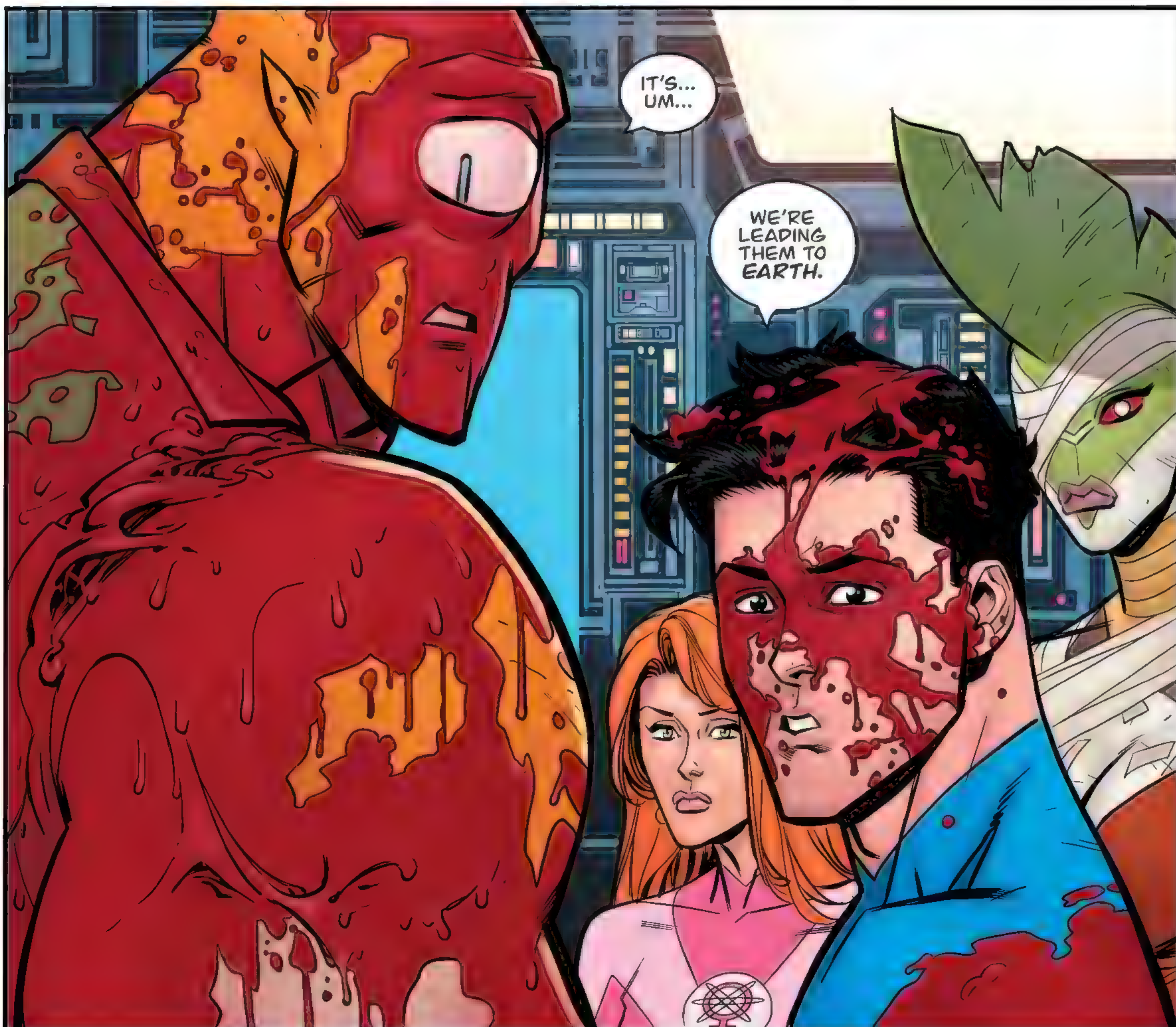
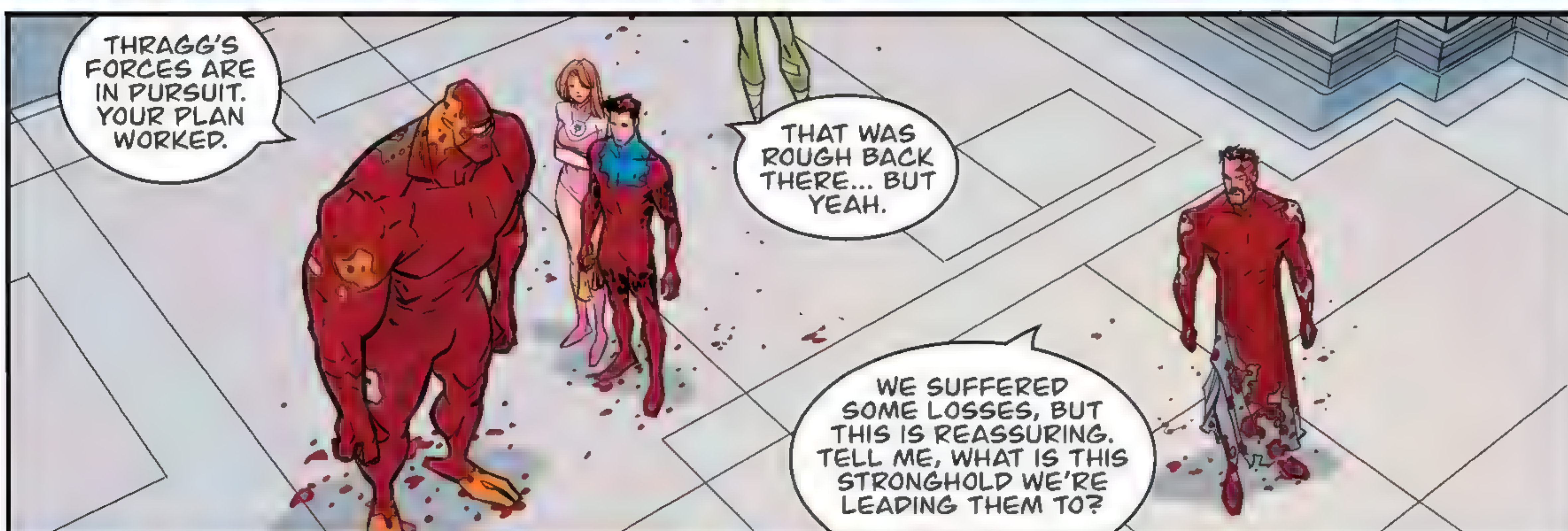
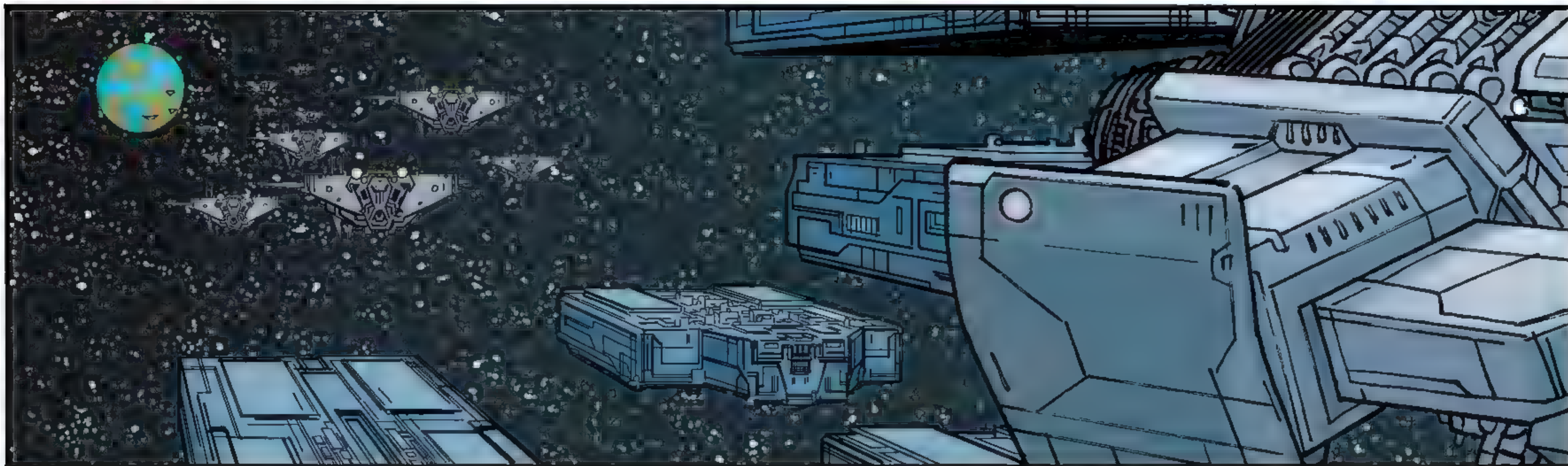
WE WILL
BE STRONGER
FROM THIS
BATTLE... IT HAS
TEMPERED
US.

IT IS NOT
YOUR PLACE TO
QUESTION MY
WILL OR MY
MOTIVES. IF YOU
FEEL SUCH PITY
FOR THE WEAK,
LET ME
KNOW...

...AND YOU
CAN JOIN
THEM.



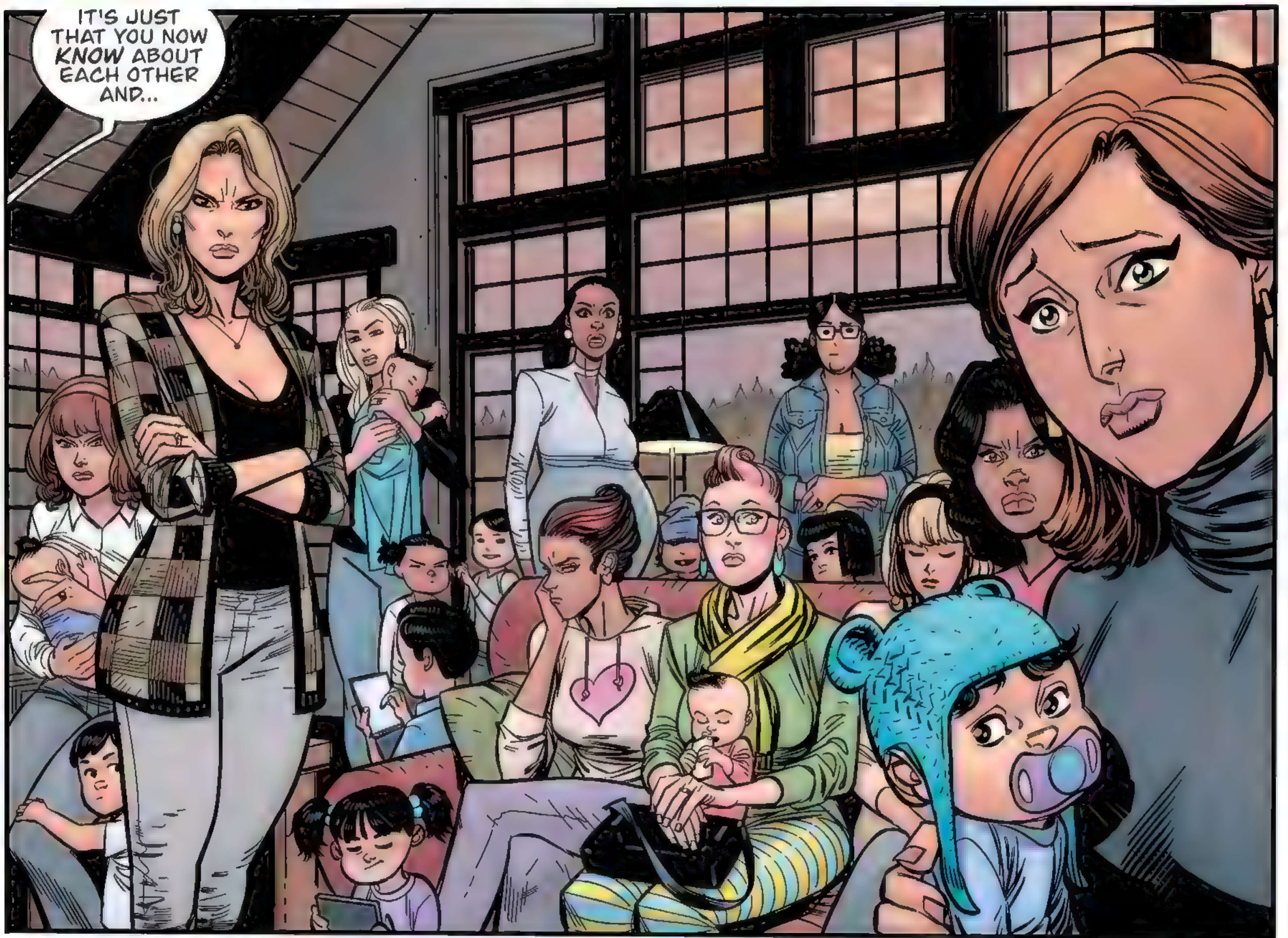


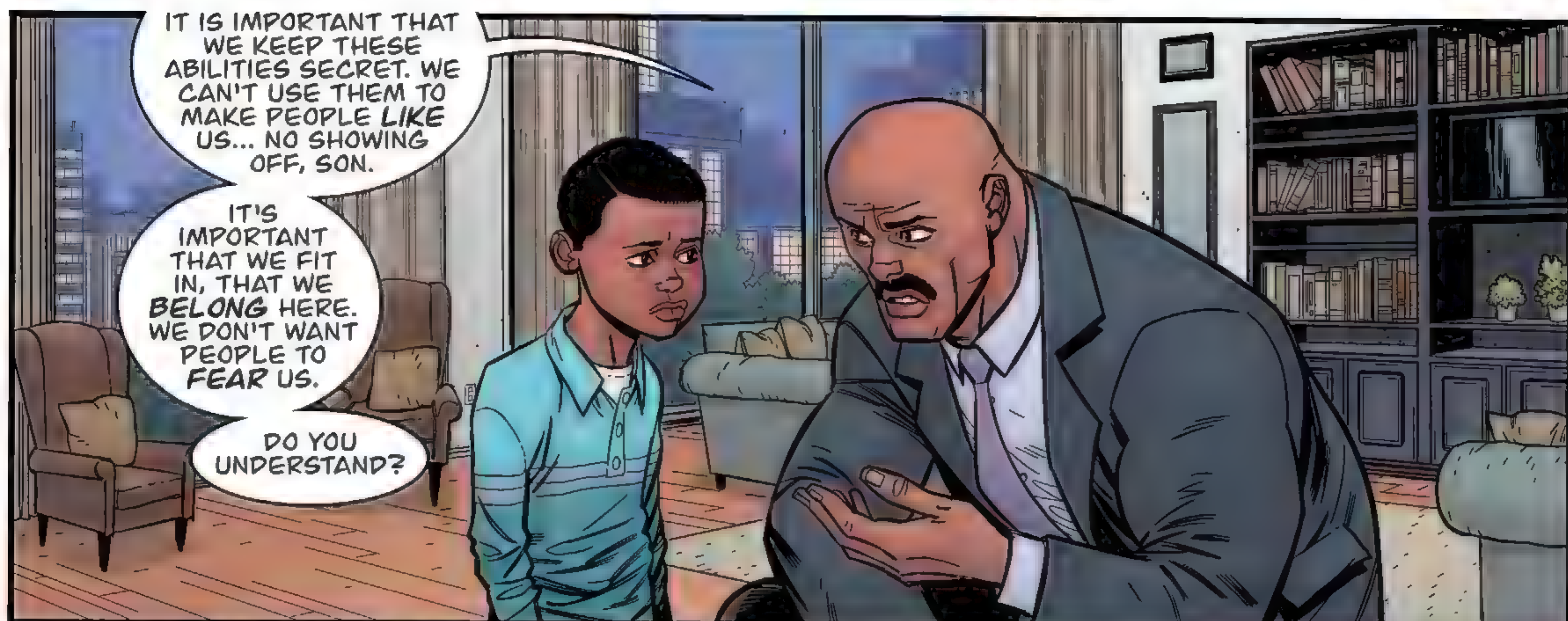


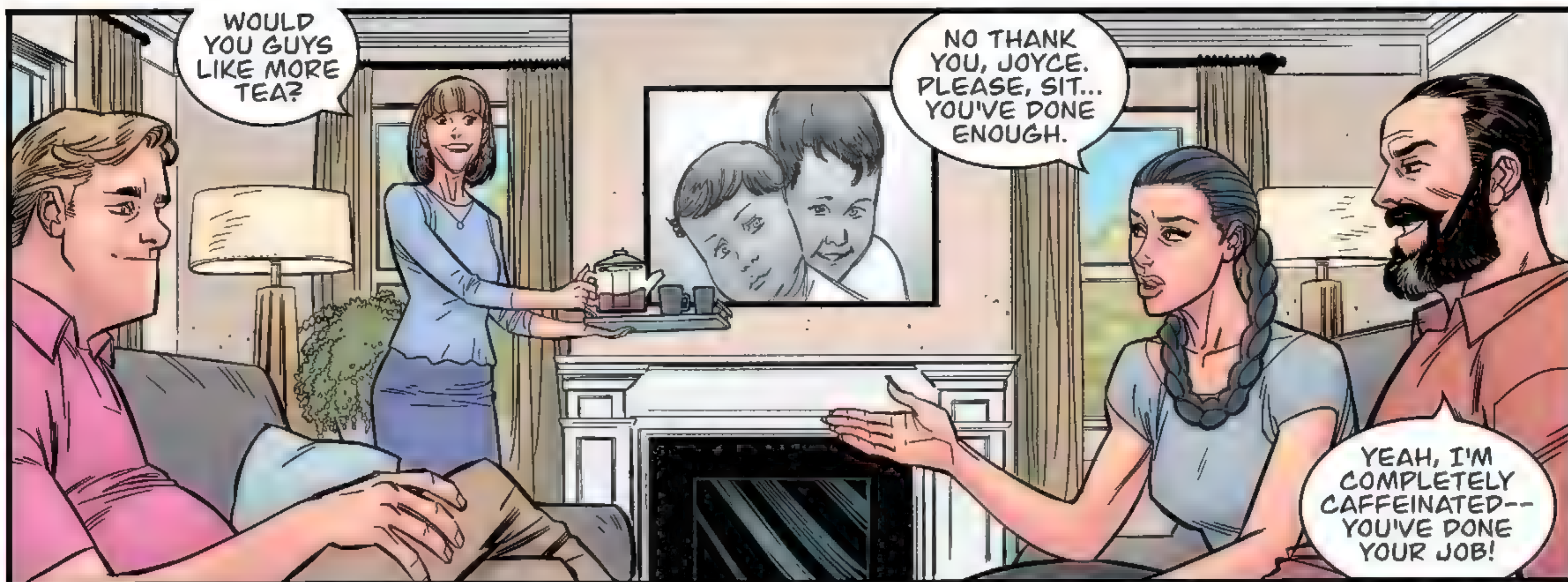


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WOULD YOU GUYS LIKE MORE TEA?

NO THANK YOU, JOYCE. PLEASE, SIT... YOU'VE DONE ENOUGH.

YEAH, I'M COMPLETELY CAFFEINATED-- YOU'VE DONE YOUR JOB!

SORRY, I'M A BIT OF A TEA ADDICT, MYSELF. I ALWAYS TRY TO PUSH IT ON OTHERS TO MAKE MYSELF FEEL BETTER ABOUT DRINKING SO MUCH.

WELL, THAT BACKFIRED!

THANKS FOR HAVING US OVER. WE'RE SO HAPPY TO BE MAKING NEW FRIENDS AT THE SCHOOL.

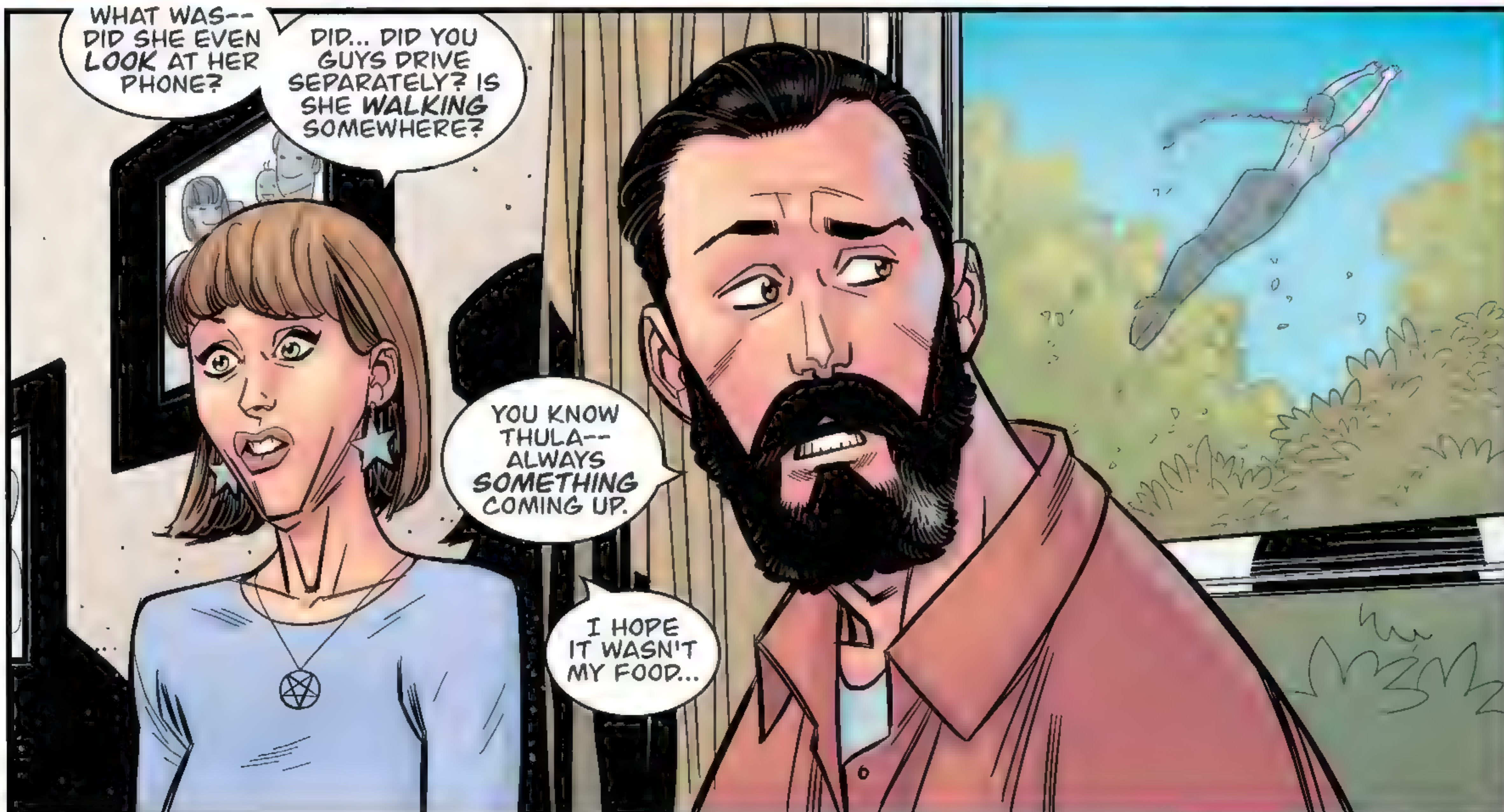
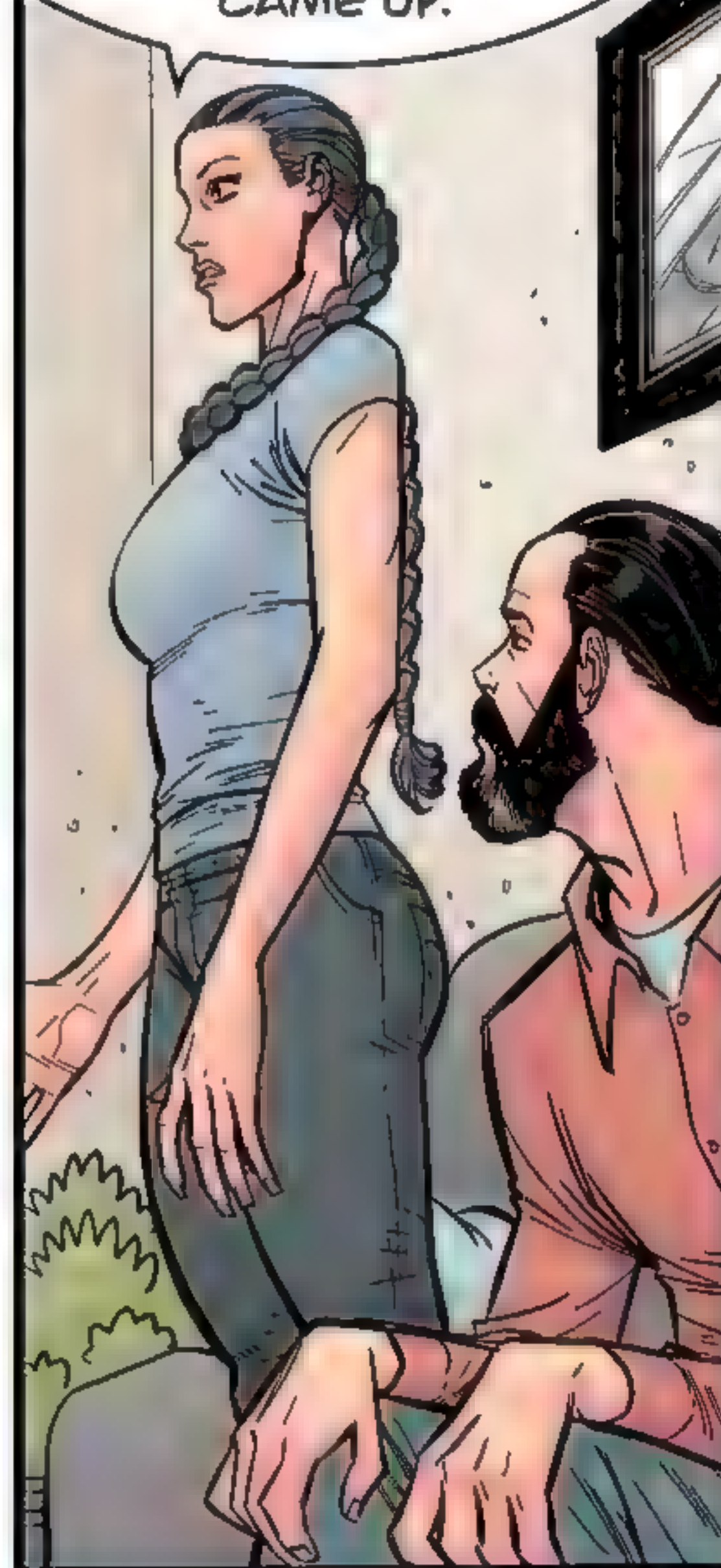
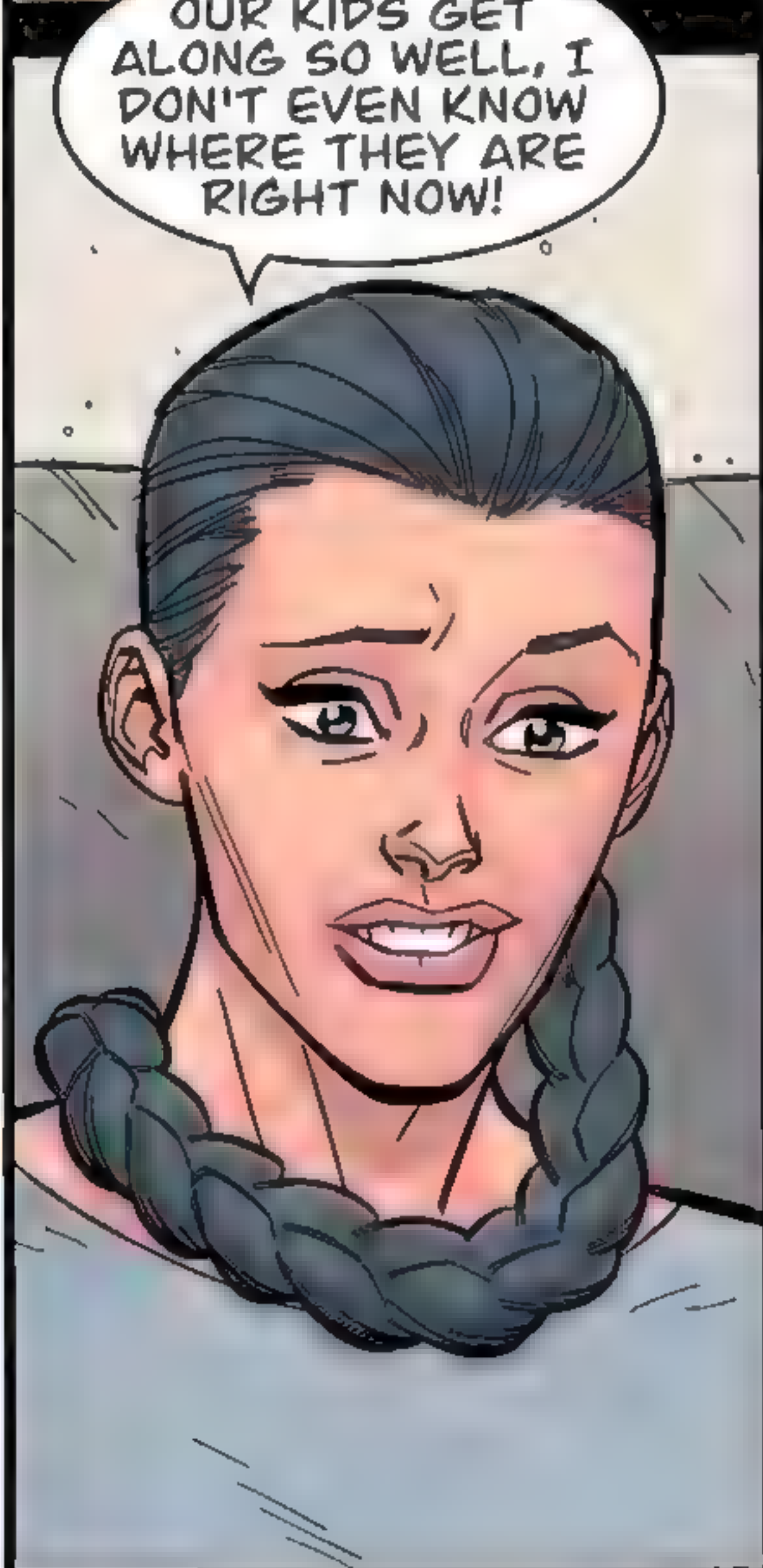
OUR KIDS GET ALONG SO WELL, I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHERE THEY ARE RIGHT NOW!

I'LL GO CHECK ON THEM.

UM...

WHAT IS IT, THULA?

I'M GOING TO HAVE TO GO--I'LL JUST... I'LL SEE YOU BACK AT THE HOUSE? I'M VERY SORRY, JOYCE. SOMETHING CAME UP.

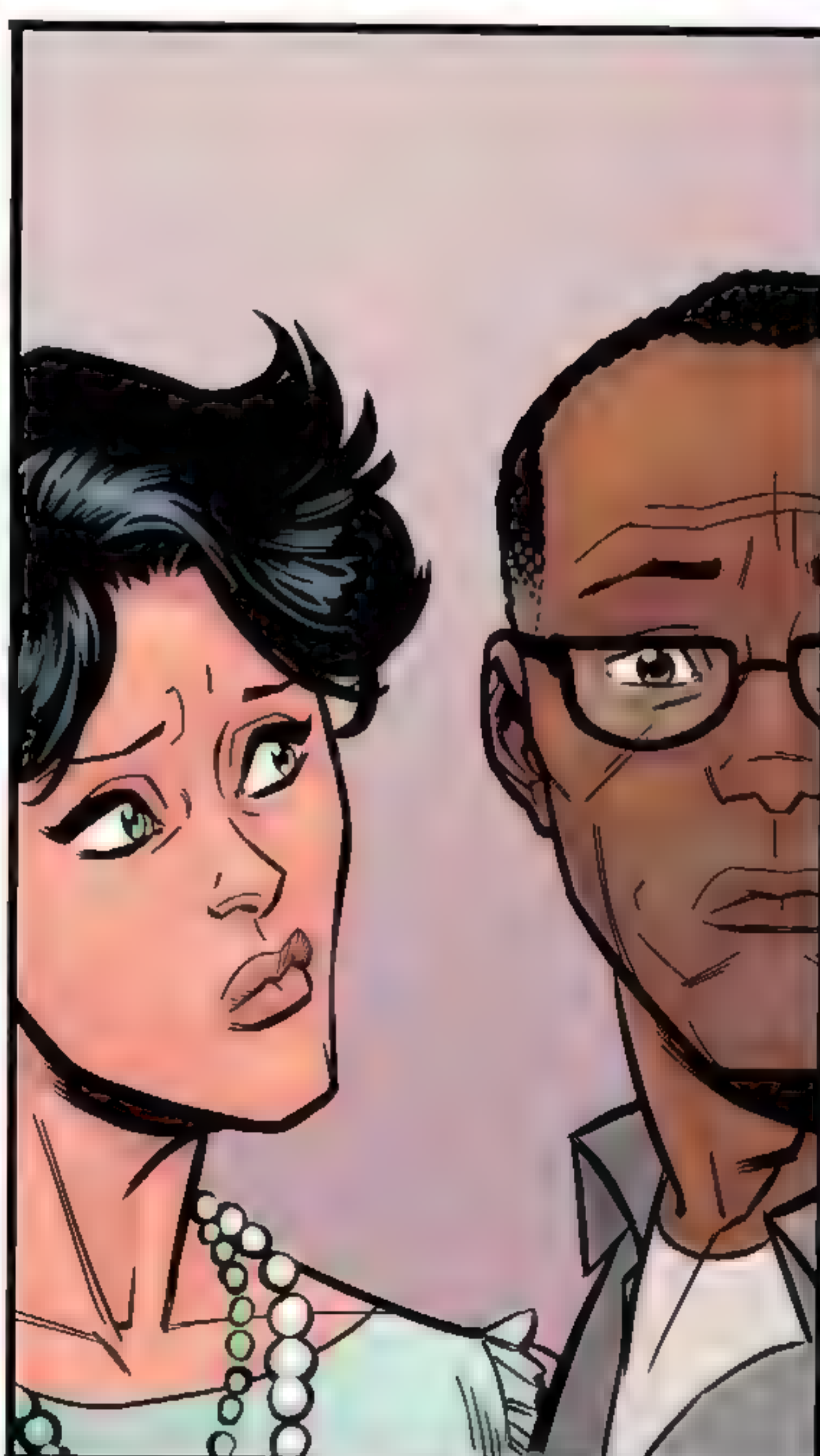
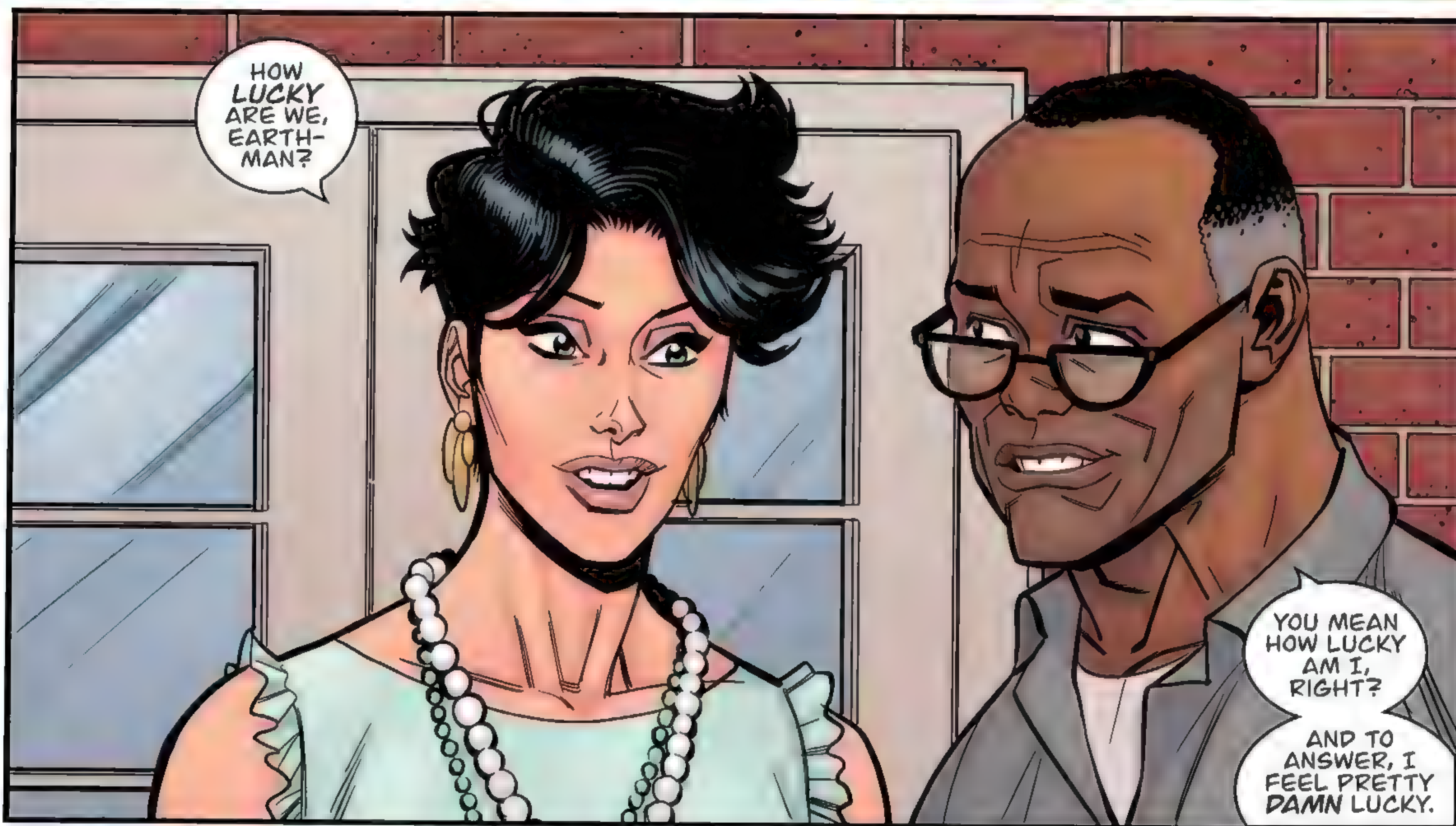
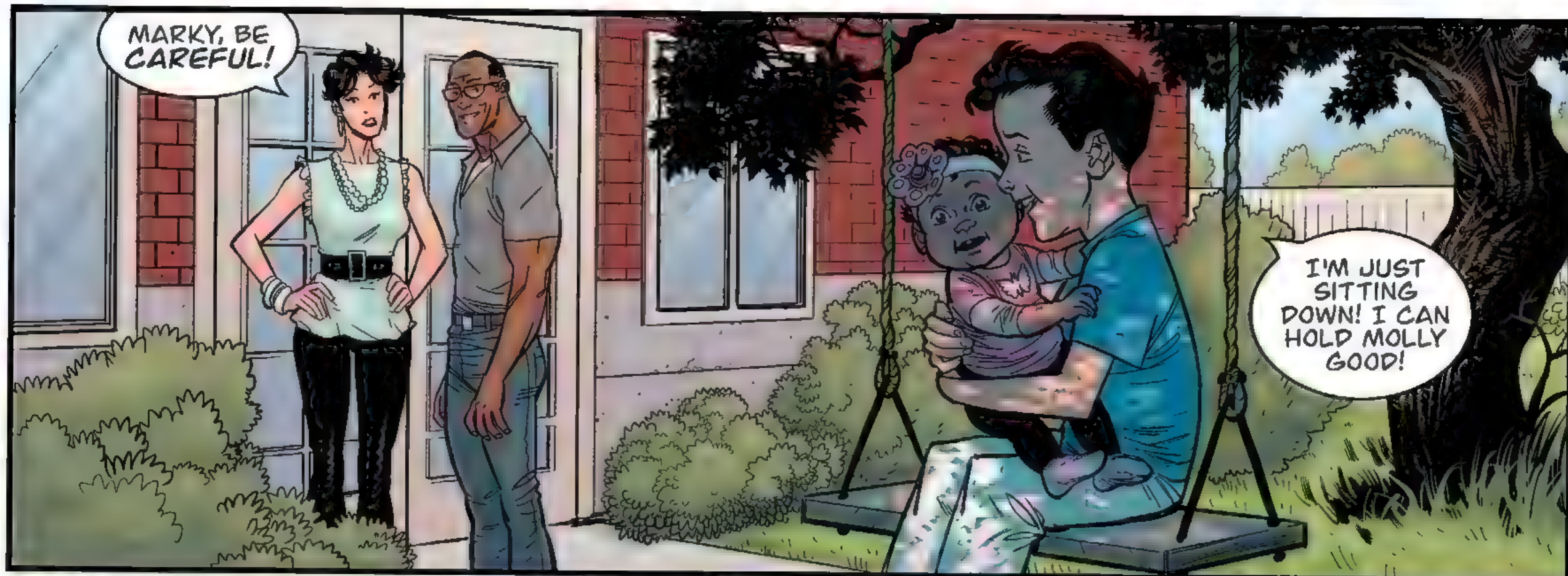


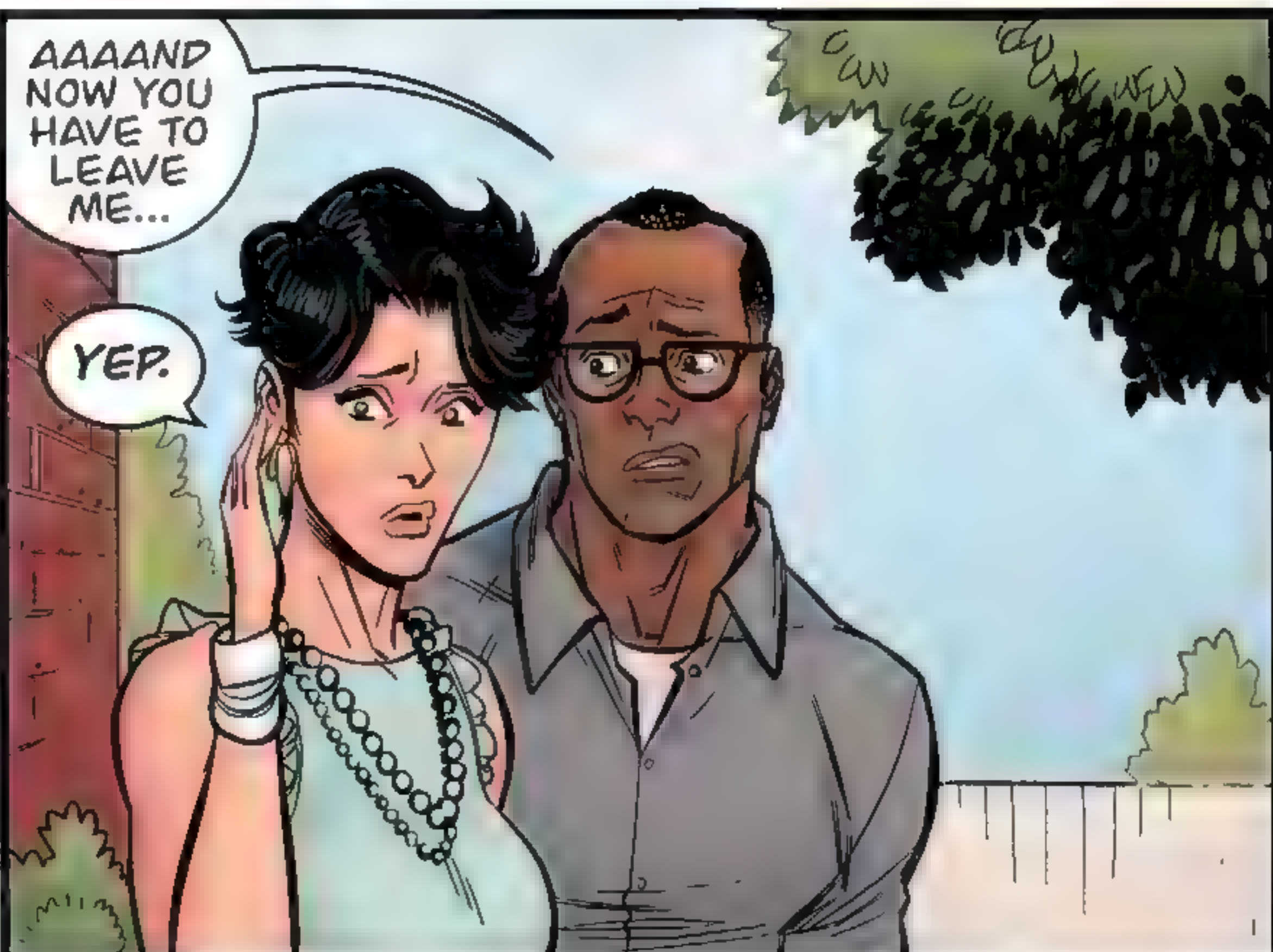
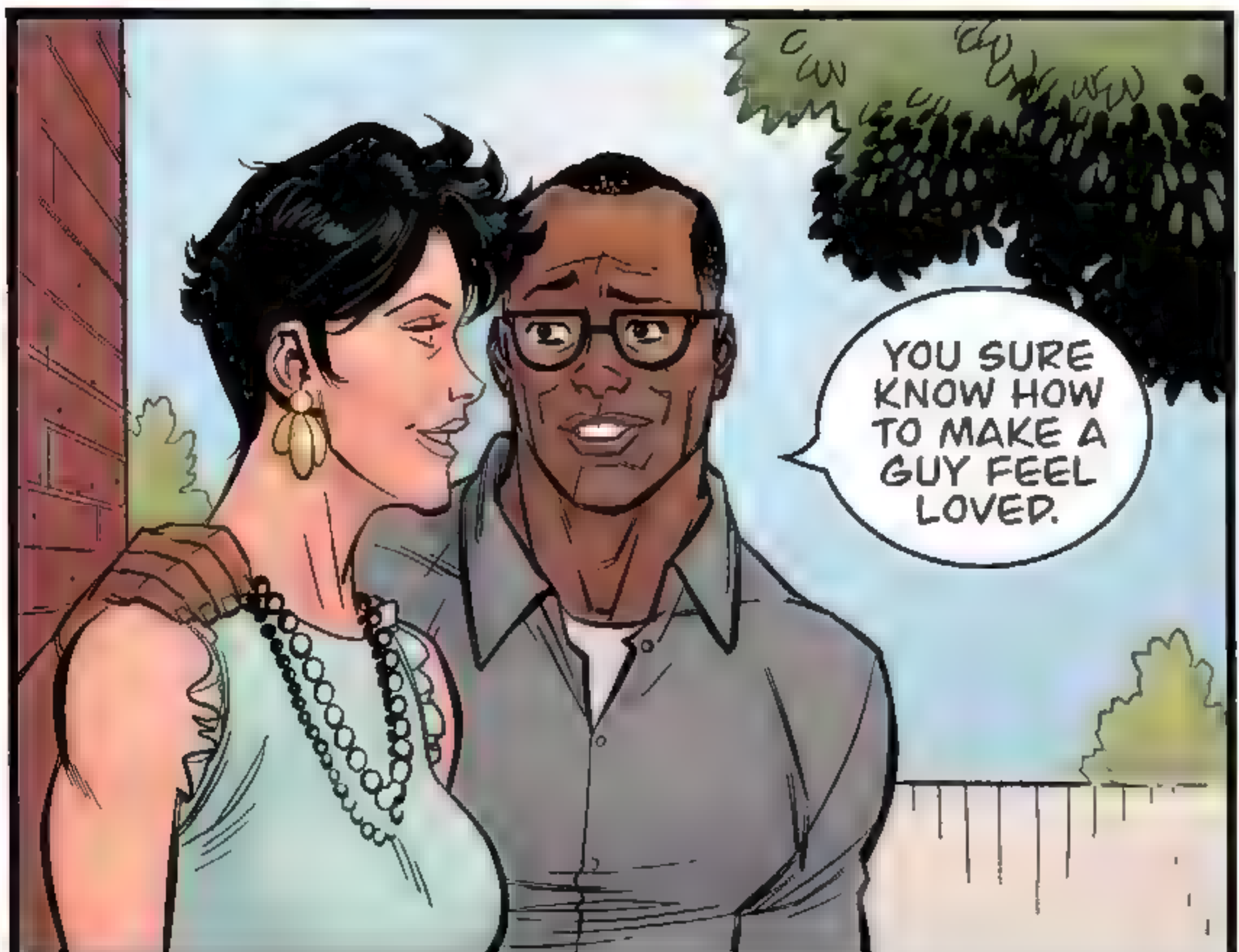
WHAT WAS-- DID SHE EVEN LOOK AT HER PHONE?

DID... DID YOU GUYS DRIVE SEPARATELY? IS SHE WALKING SOMEWHERE?

YOU KNOW THULA-- ALWAYS SOMETHING COMING UP.

I HOPE IT WASN'T MY FOOD...







THRAGG IS COMING, AND HE'S BRINGING HIS NEW VILTRUMITE ARMY. THEY GREATLY OUTNUMBER US... BUT THEY ARE NOT AS STRONG AS US... YET.

WE'VE LURED THEM CLOSER TO EARTH SO THAT YOU CAN ASSIST IN THE FIGHT. I KNOW THIS IS PUTTING ALL OF YOUR FAMILIES AT RISK, BUT THERE JUST WASN'T ANY OTHER WAY.

THIS WON'T BE AN EASY FIGHT--WE ALL KNOW HOW DEADLY THRAGG IS. I WANT TO MAKE IT CLEAR, I AM NOT ORDERING YOU TO ASSIST US.

I AM SIMPLY ASKING THAT YOU CONSIDER IT.



WE DON'T NEED TO CONSIDER IT. IF THRAGG THREATENS EARTH--YOU CAN COUNT ON US TO STOP HIM.

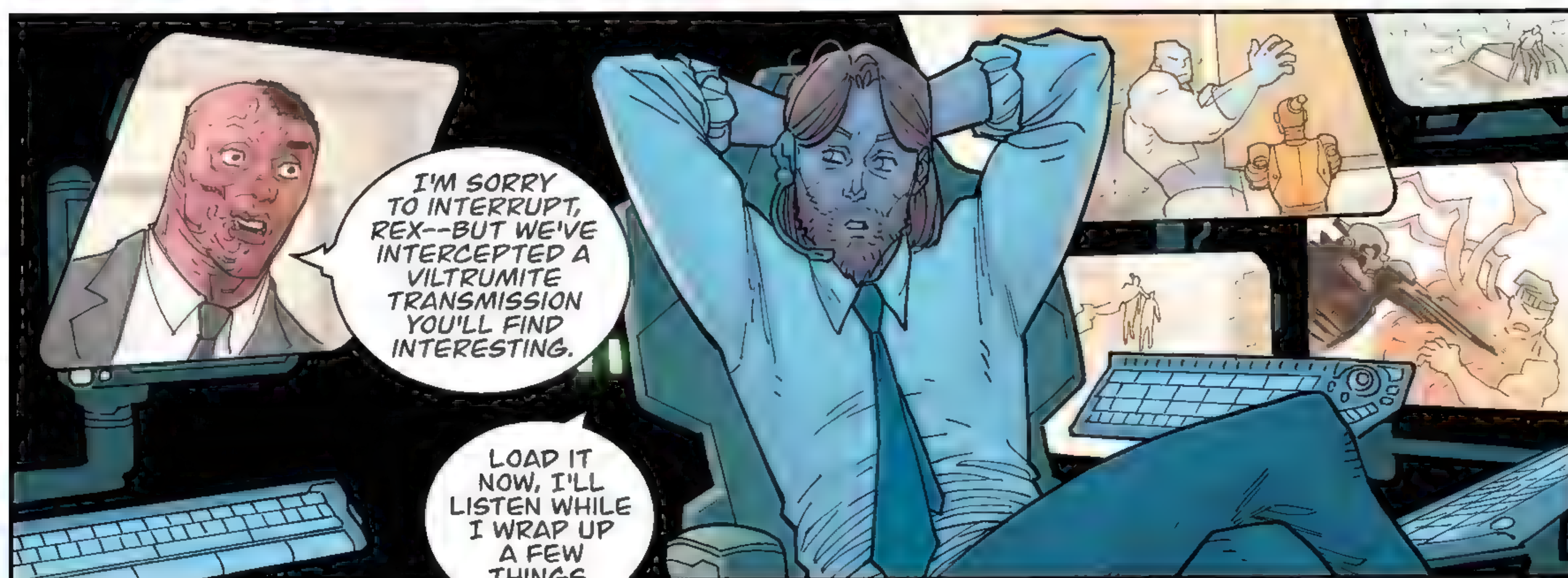
YES.

WE WILL MAKE PREPARATIONS FOR WAR--AT ONCE!



HOW DID YOU FIND US--YOU HAVE EYES EVERYWHERE?!

SO, YOU REALIZE THE FUTILITY OF OPPOSING ME.



I'M SORRY TO INTERRUPT, REX--BUT WE'VE INTERCEPTED A VILTRUMITE TRANSMISSION YOU'LL FIND INTERESTING.

LOAD IT NOW, I'LL LISTEN WHILE I WRAP UP A FEW THINGS.



I AM STILL NOT HAPPY WITH YOU. YOU FORCED MY HAND.

STOP LOOKING SO DAMN PLEASED WITH YOURSELF, SON.

DON'T I KIND OF ALWAYS DO THAT? ISN'T THAT OUR THING? YOU WANT TO DO THE RIGHT THING--I JUST TAKE AWAY THE CHOICE.

I'M SORRY, I CAN'T HELP IT. MY PLAN WORKED.

AND YOU DON'T YET KNOW THE FULL CONSEQUENCES OF THIS PLAN.

I KNOW THAT. I DO.

I JUST HONESTLY THINK IT'S A WIN IN AND OF ITSELF TO SEE VILTRUMITES... CARING FOR THEIR FAMILIES ON EARTH.

THERE'S STILL A LOT LEFT TO NAVIGATE. WE HAVEN'T WON JUST YET.

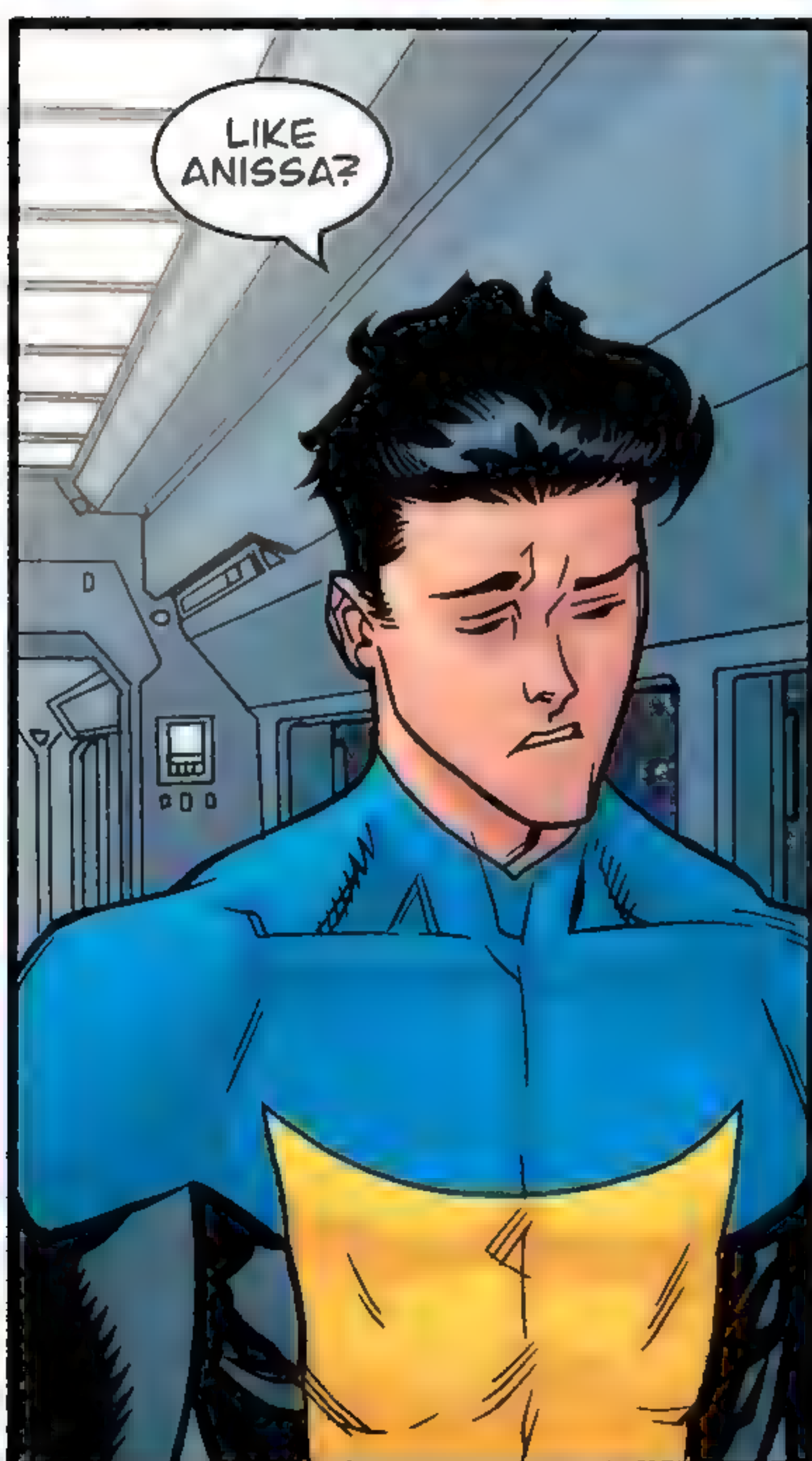
I KNOW, I KNOW.

IT'S JUST... I DON'T KNOW, REASSURING TO SEE IT TAKING HOLD SO QUICKLY.

IT'S NOT EXACTLY A NEW PHENOMENON.

I WILL ADMIT, TO SEE THE CHANGES OUR TIME ON EARTH HAS BROUGHT EVEN TO THE HARDEST VILTRUMITES AMONG US... IT IS REMARKABLE.

SOME OF THEM--SEEM ALMOST COMPLETELY DIFFERENT.



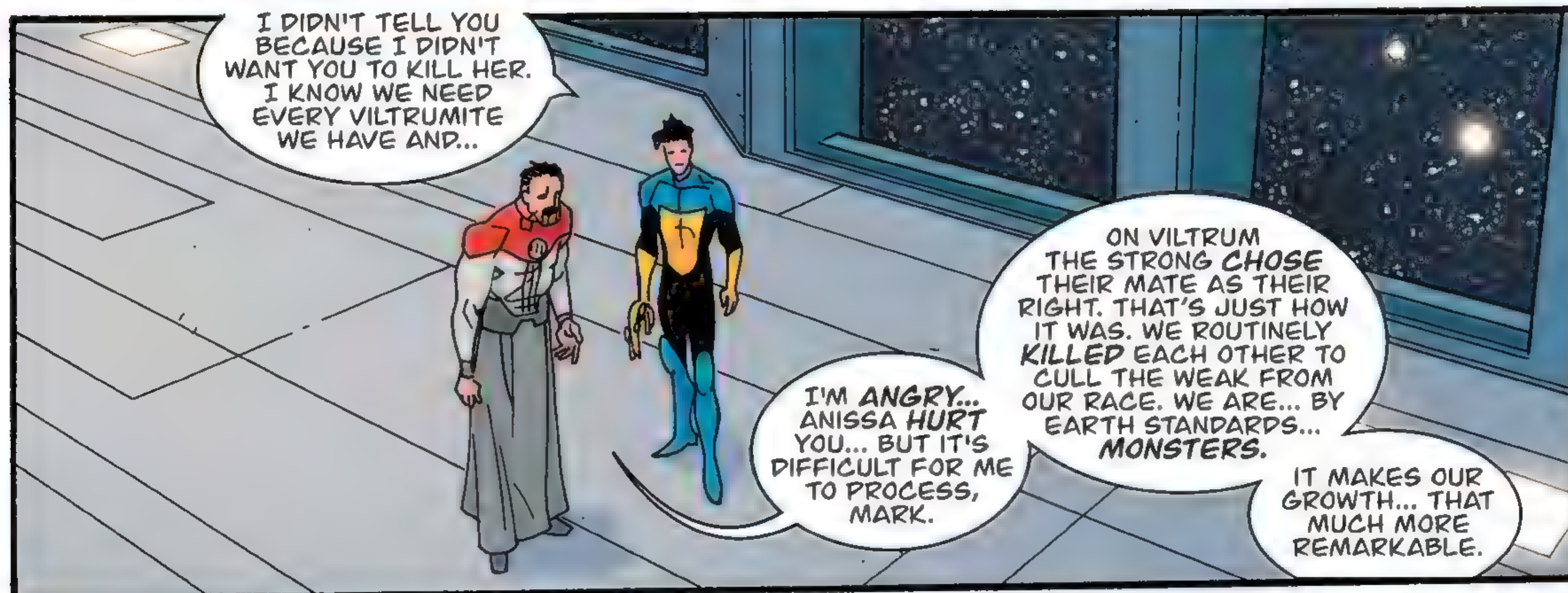
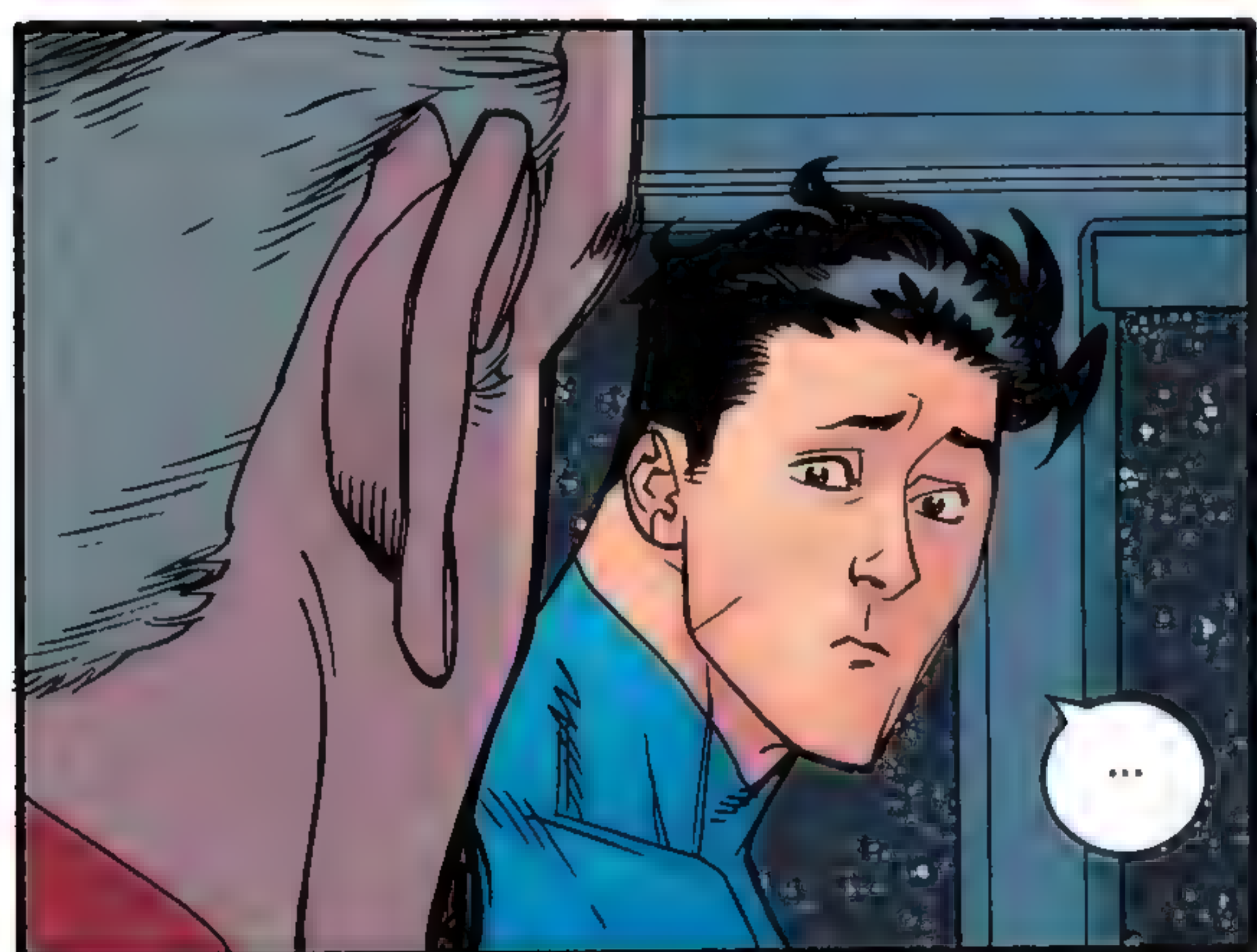
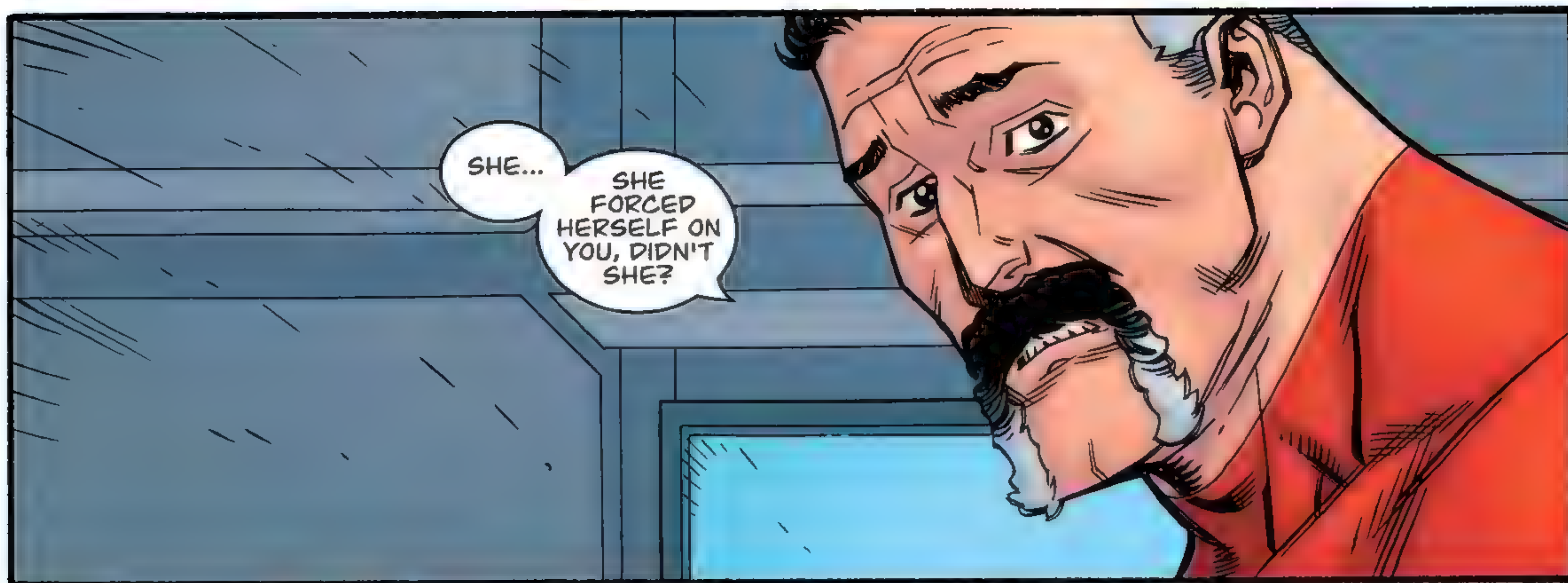
LIKE ANISSA?

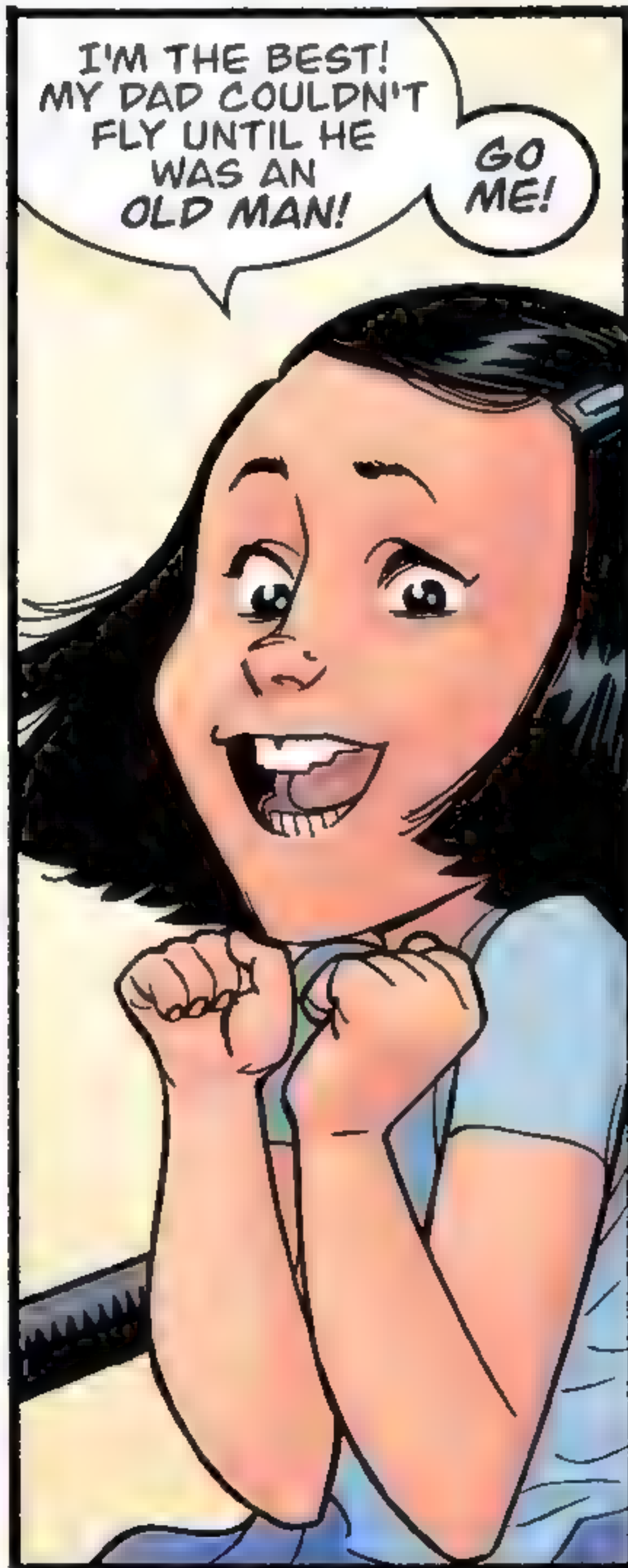
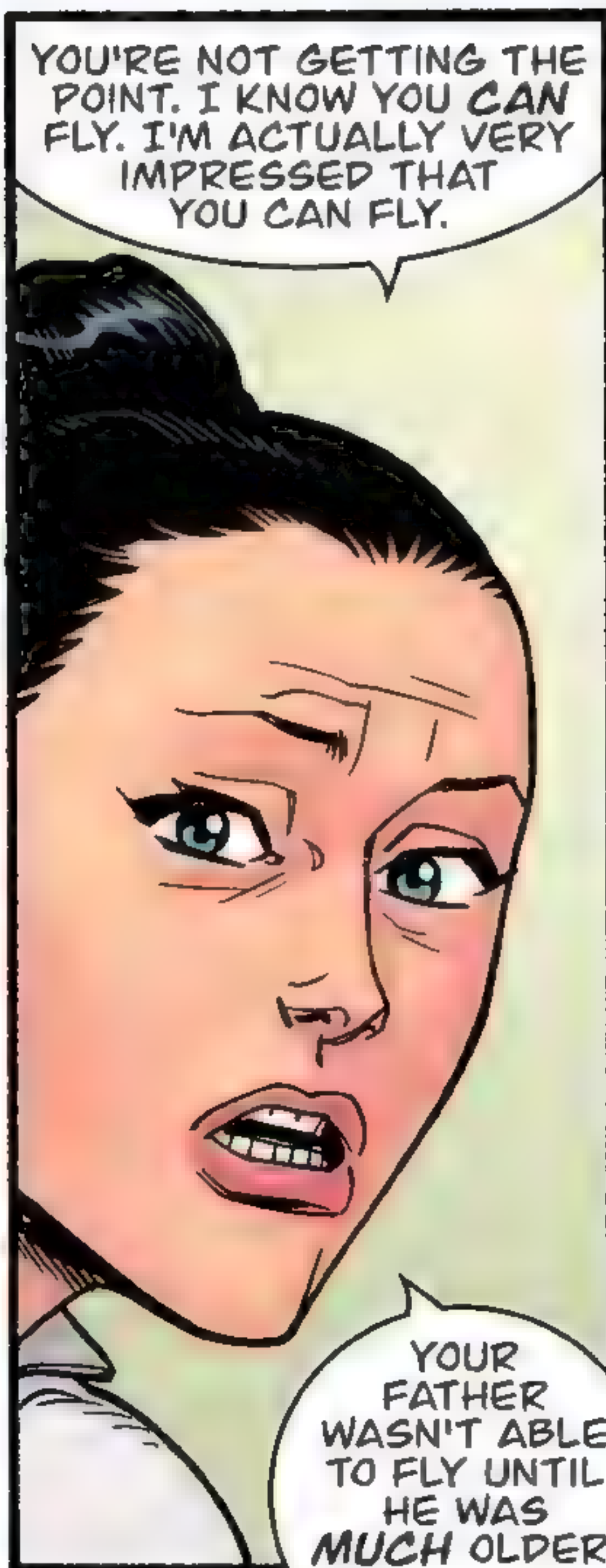
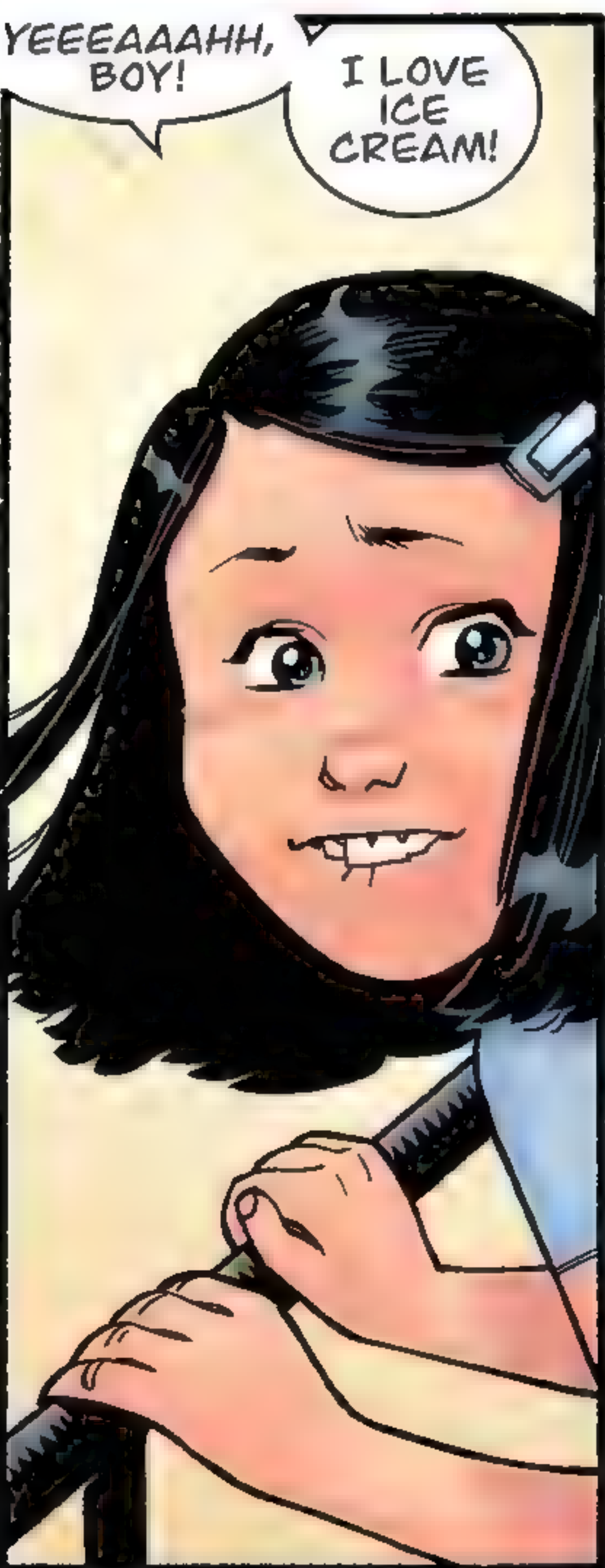
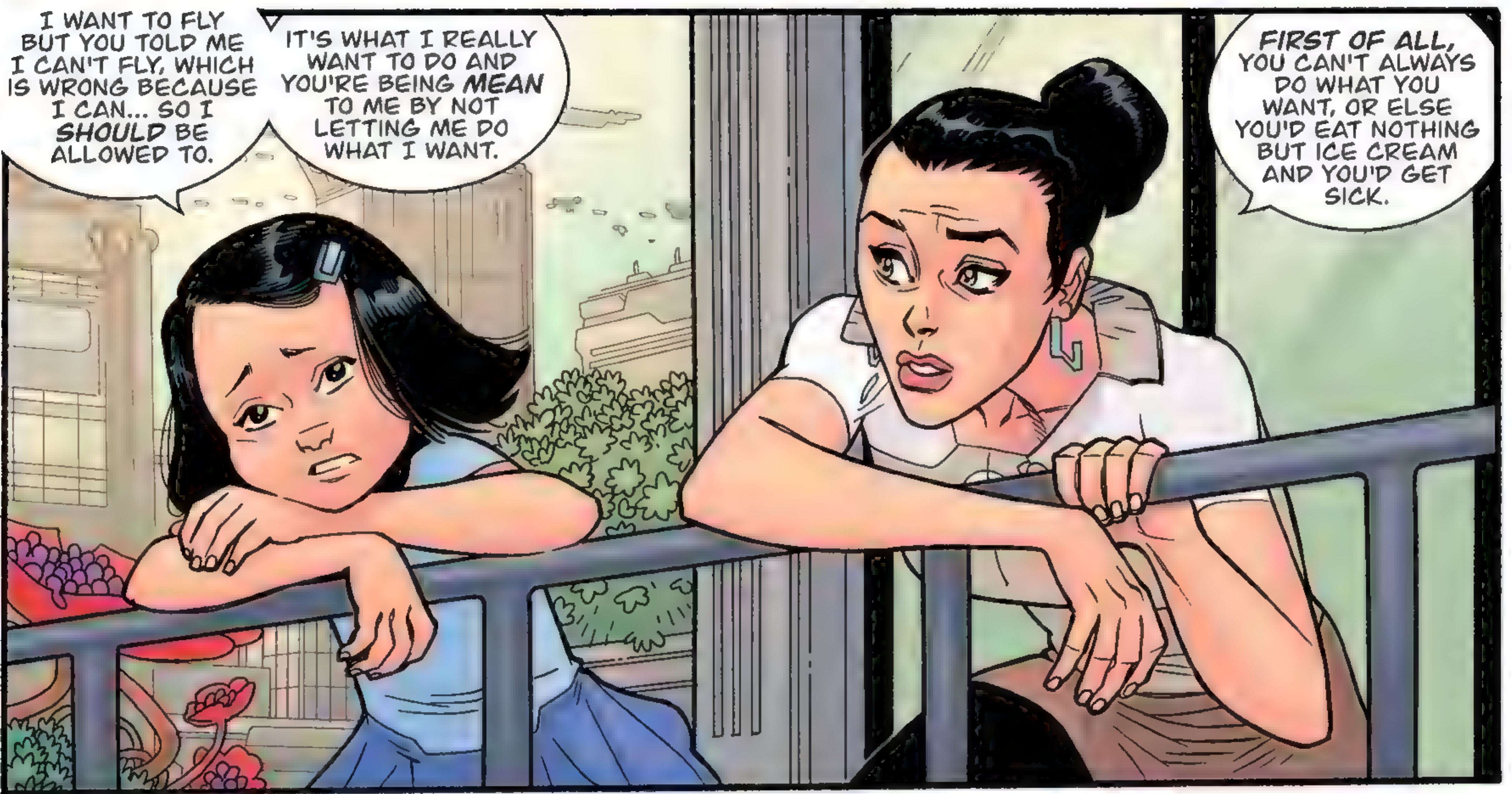


MARK-- WHAT IS IT BETWEEN YOU TWO?



...

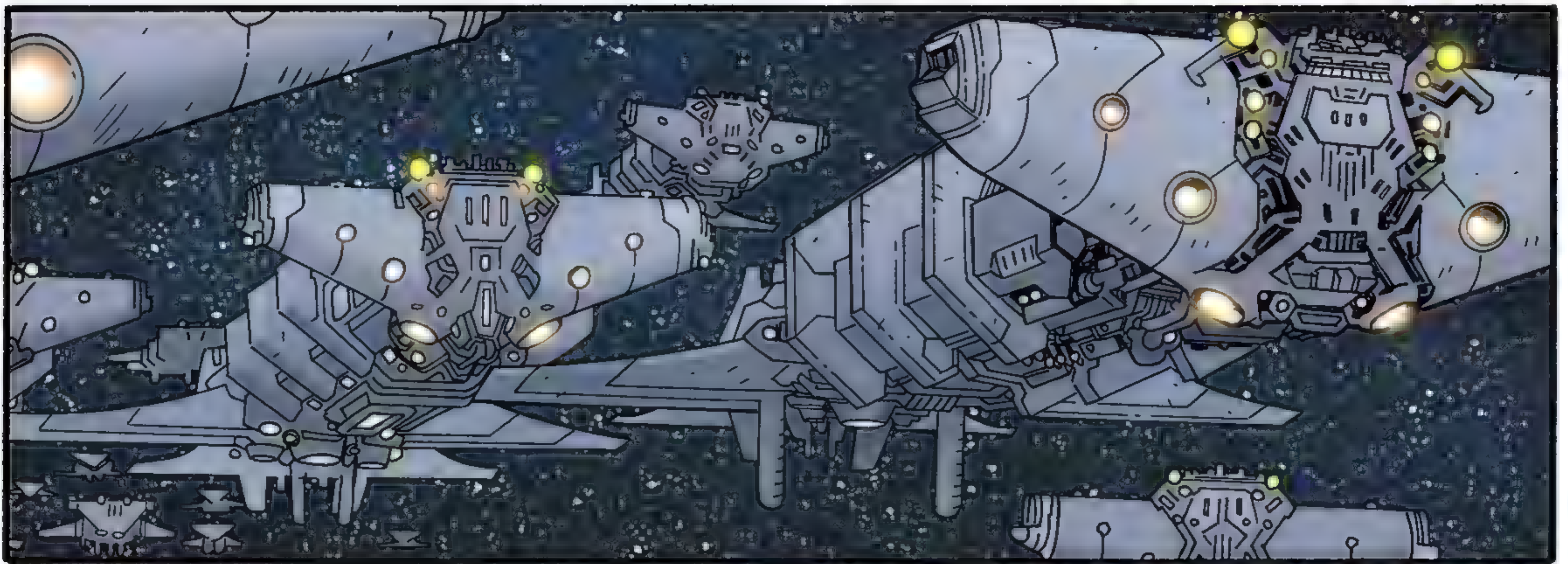






TERRA,
GET US
BACK TO THE
BALCONY
RIGHT
NOW!

I CAN'T!



YOU'RE GOING TO BE OKAY. I TALKED TO THE DOCTORS, AND THEY SAID YOU'RE HEALING UP NICELY. YOU'LL BE IN FIGHTING SHAPE IN NO TIME.



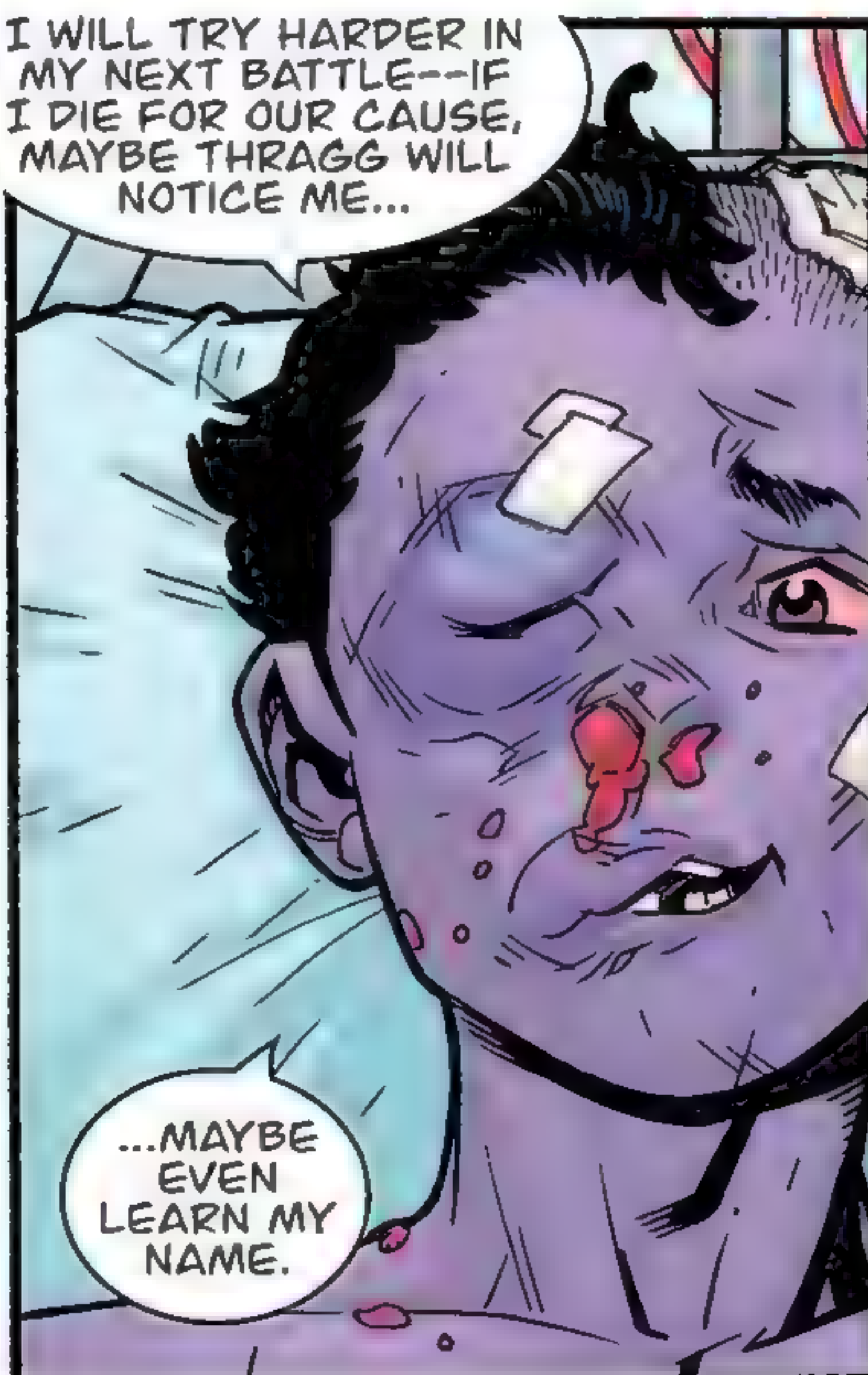
I'M SORRY, URSAAL. I'M SO SORRY I DIDN'T DIE.



WHAT? WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

WHY WOULD YOU SAY THAT?

I WILL TRY HARDER IN MY NEXT BATTLE--IF I DIE FOR OUR CAUSE, MAYBE THRAGG WILL NOTICE ME...

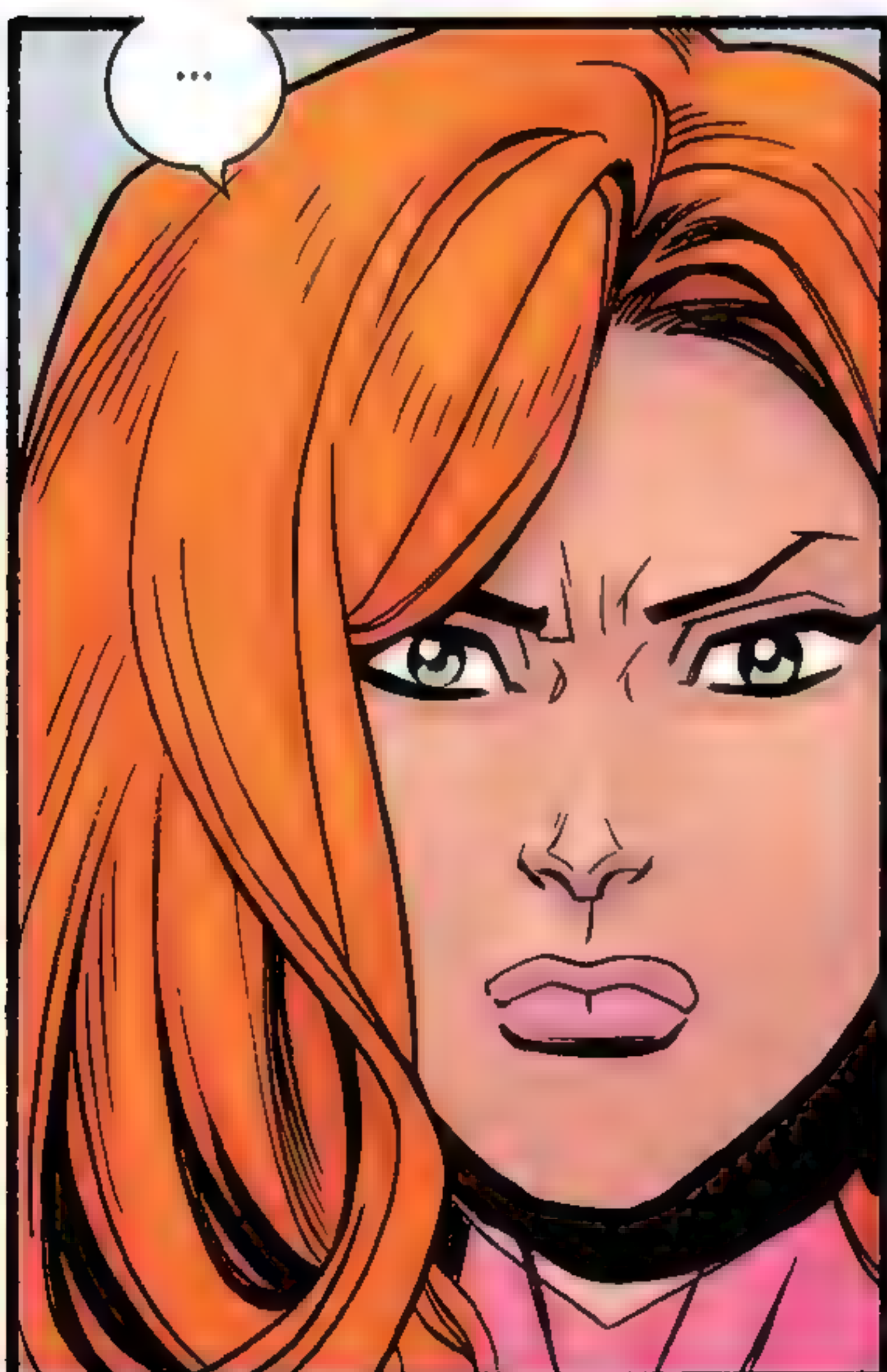


...MAYBE EVEN LEARN MY NAME.

OUR FATHER LOVES US ALL. YOU HAVE TO KNOW THIS. WE WERE CREATED FOR A GRAND PURPOSE--TO RESTORE THE EMPIRE TO ITS FORMER GLORY. YOU DON'T NEED TO DIE TO EARN HIS FAVOR, YOUNG ONE.



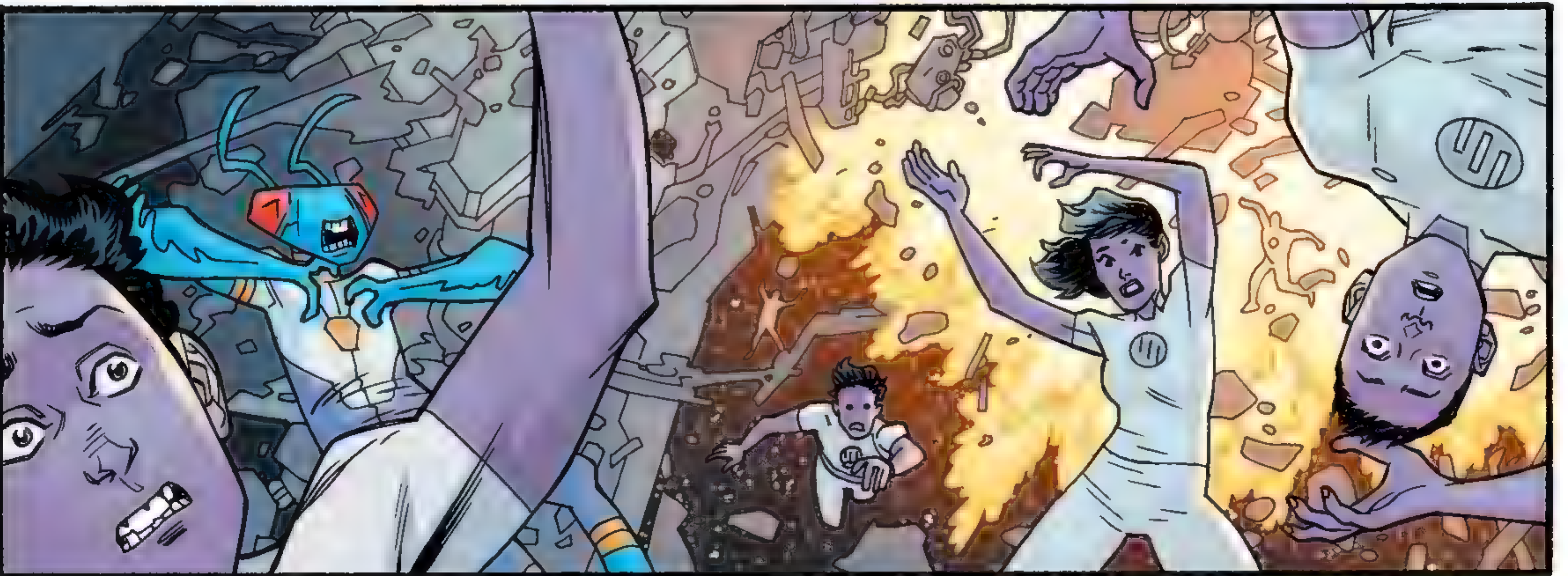
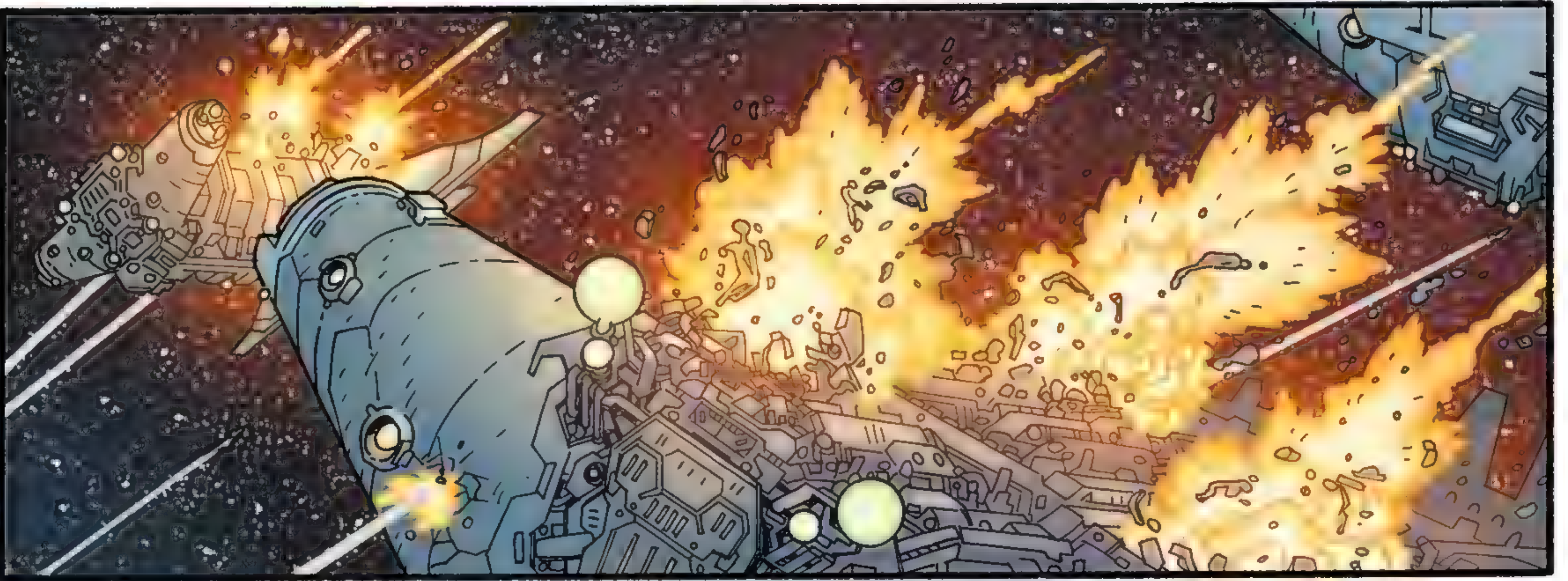
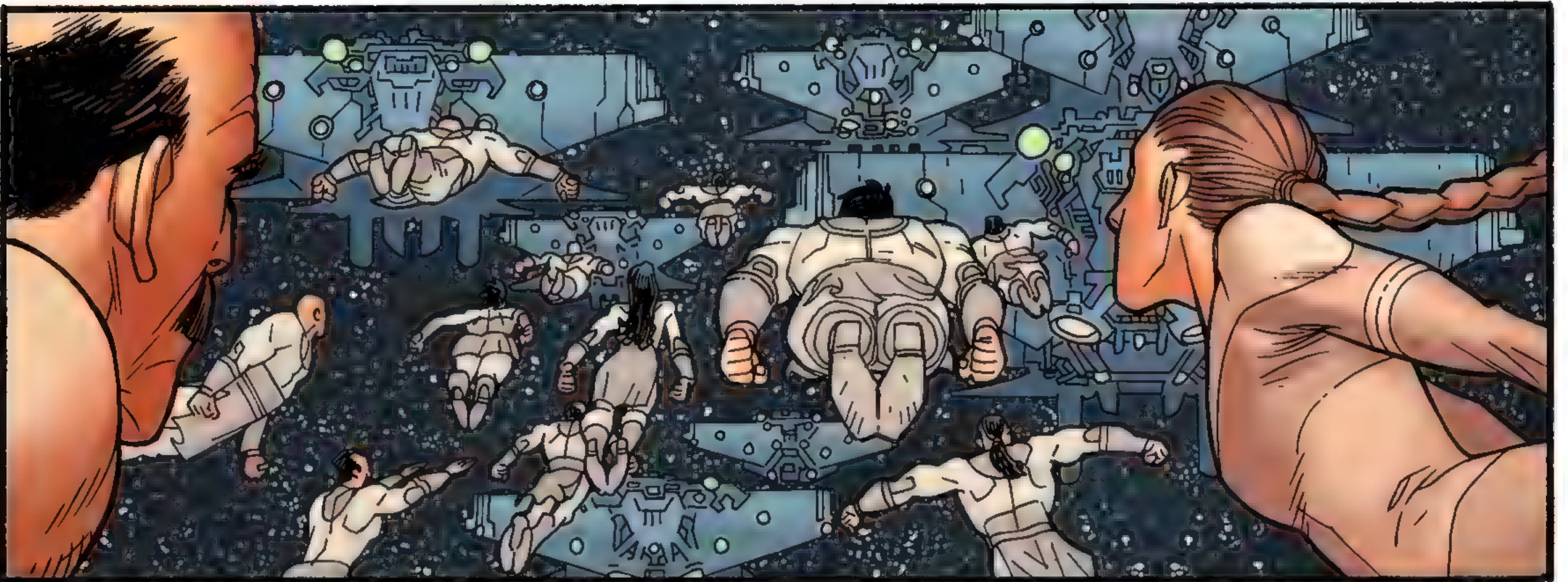
YOU NEED TO LIVE.



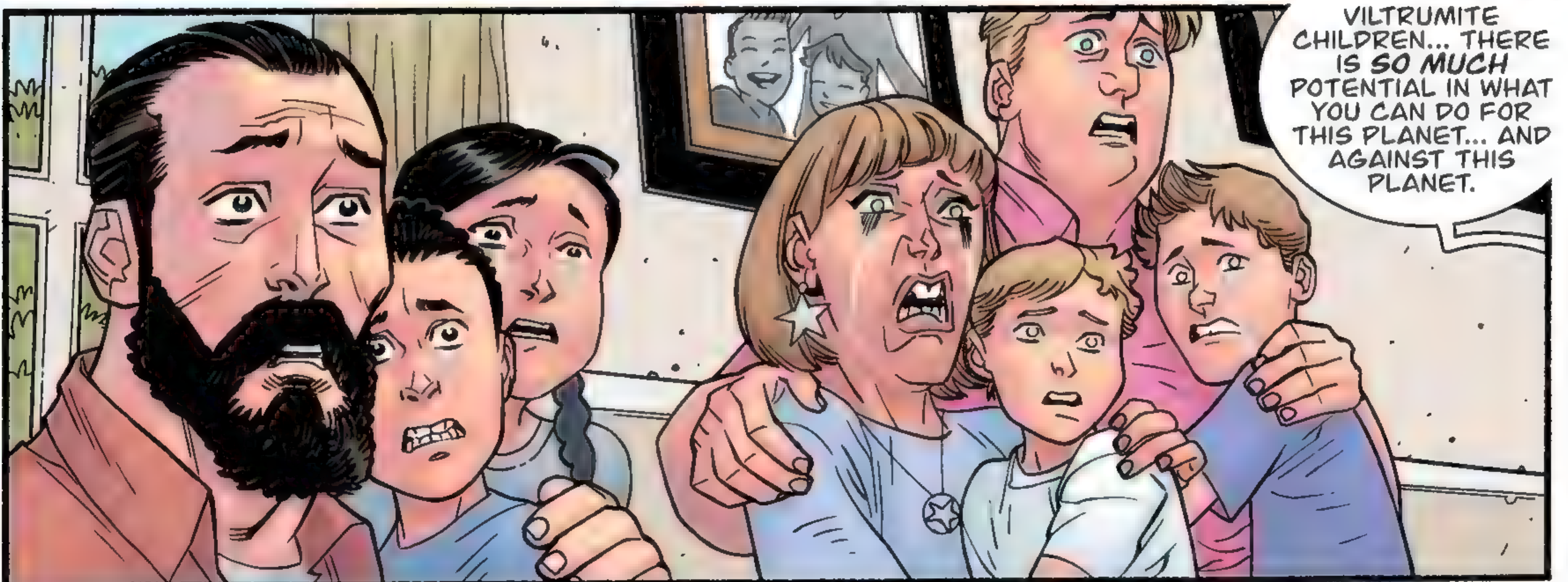
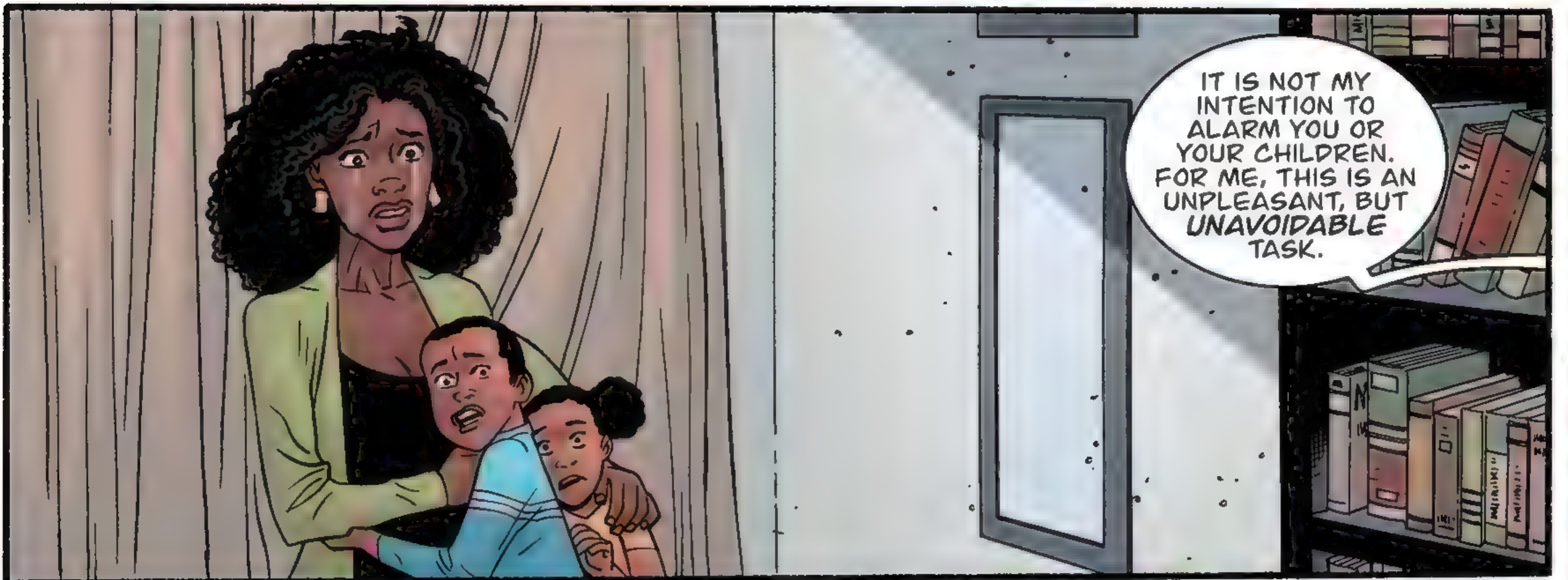
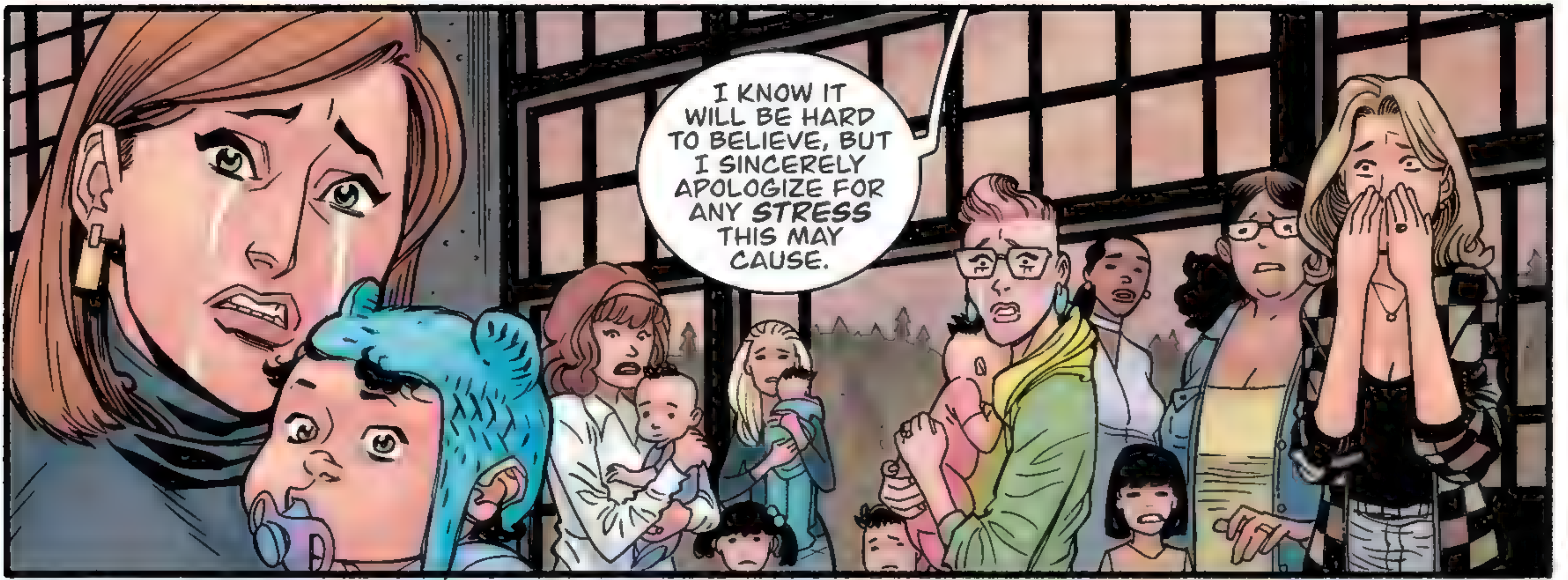


"--IT'S SO THEY
CAN'T SEE OUR
ADDITIONAL FORCES
UNTIL IT'S
TOO LATE."









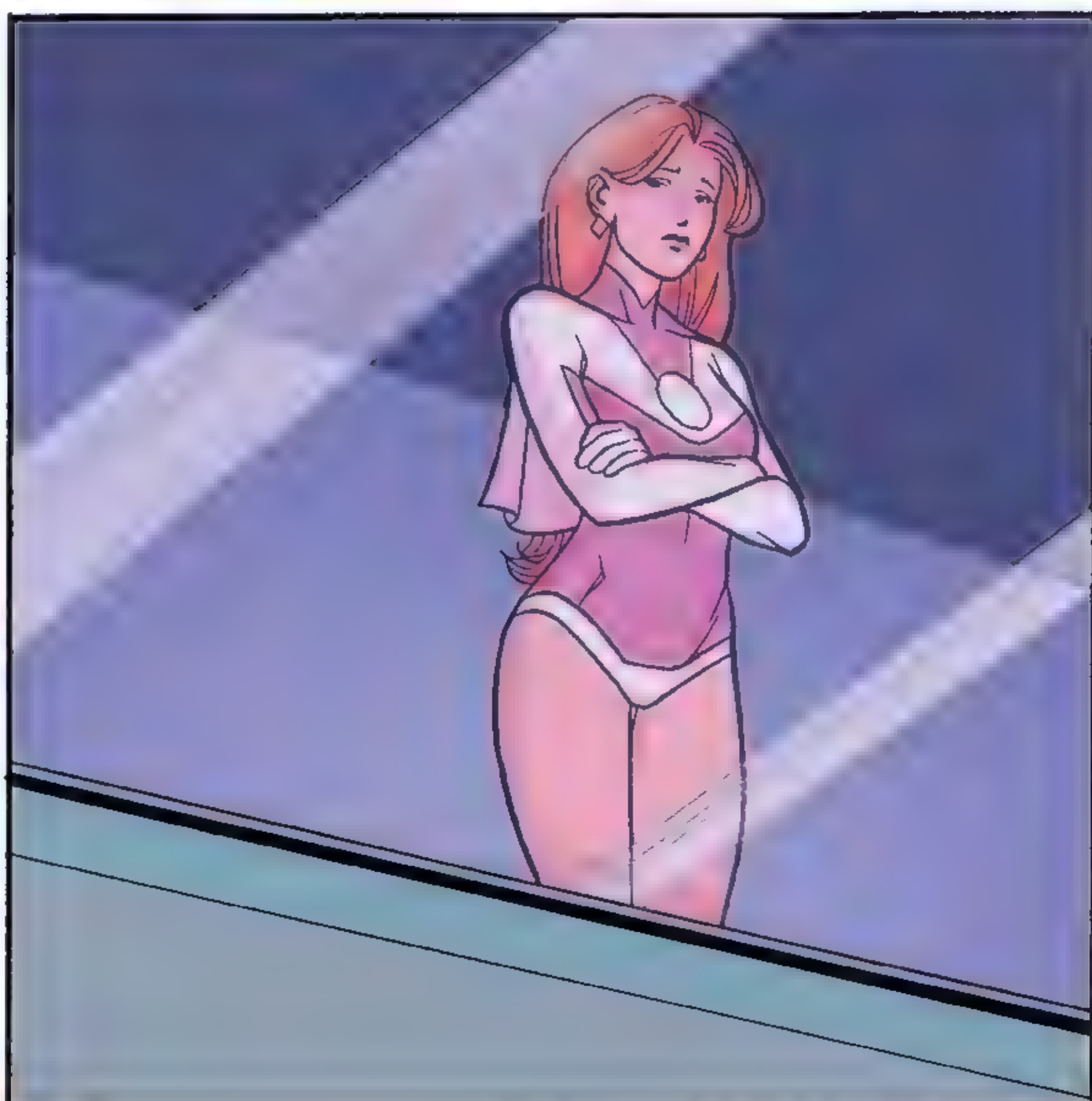
...IT'S FOR
YOUR OWN
GOOD.

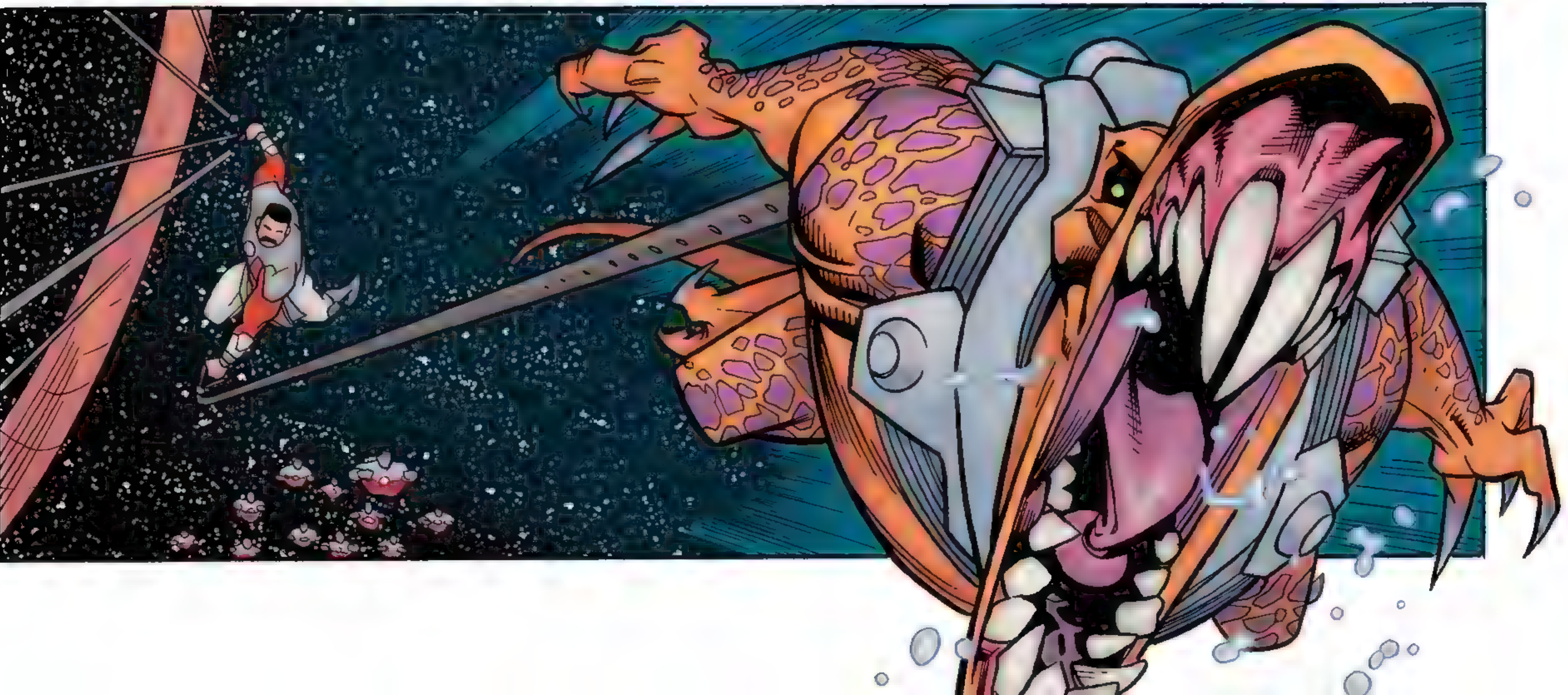
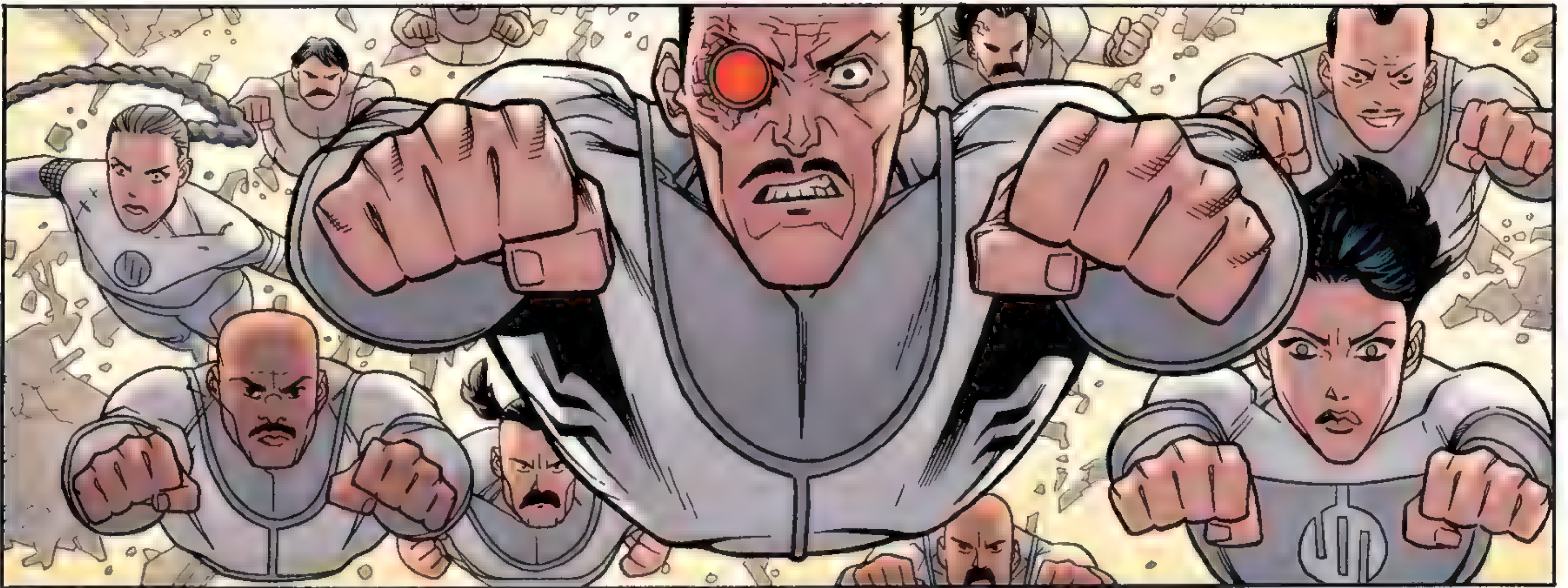




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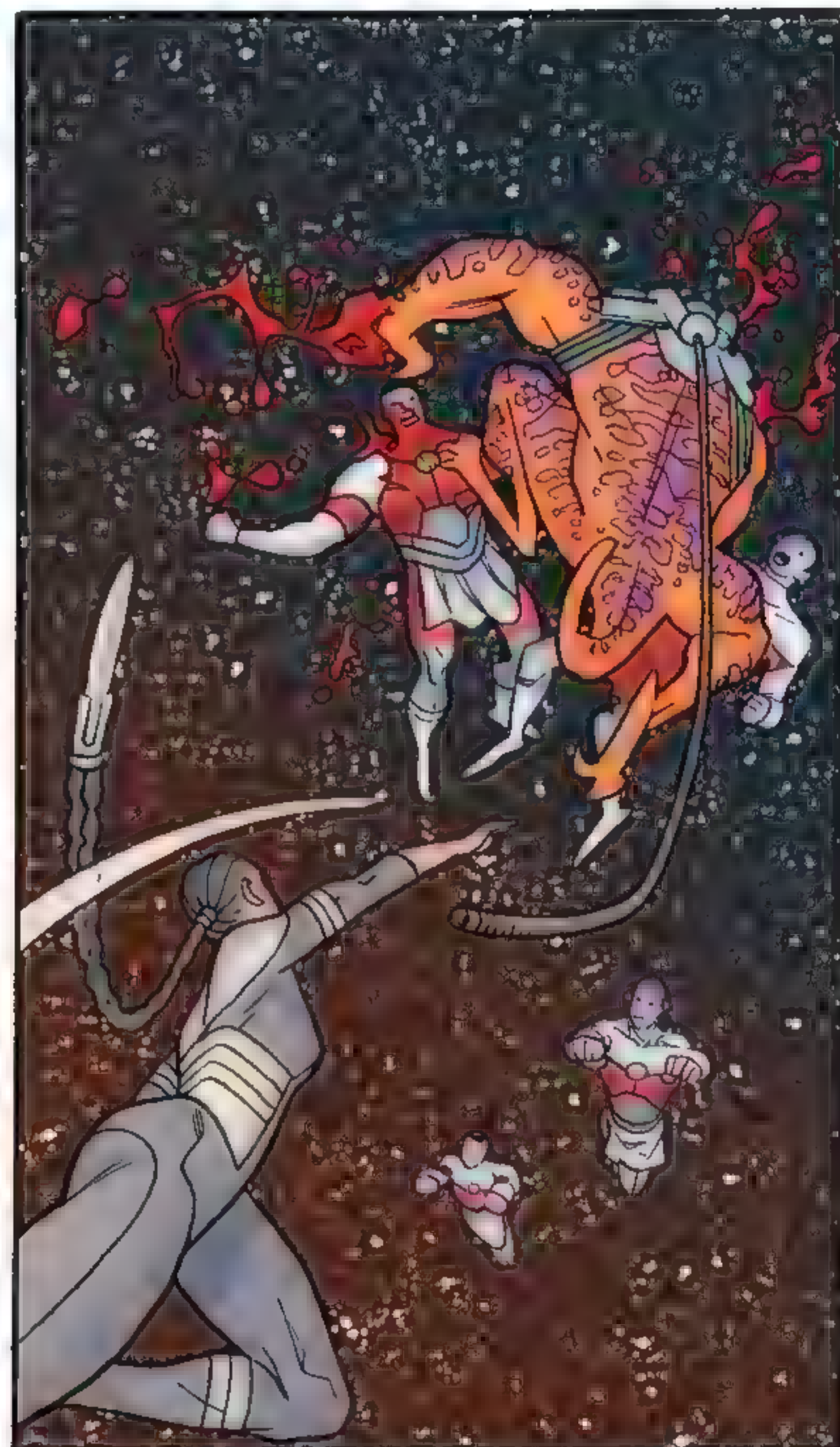
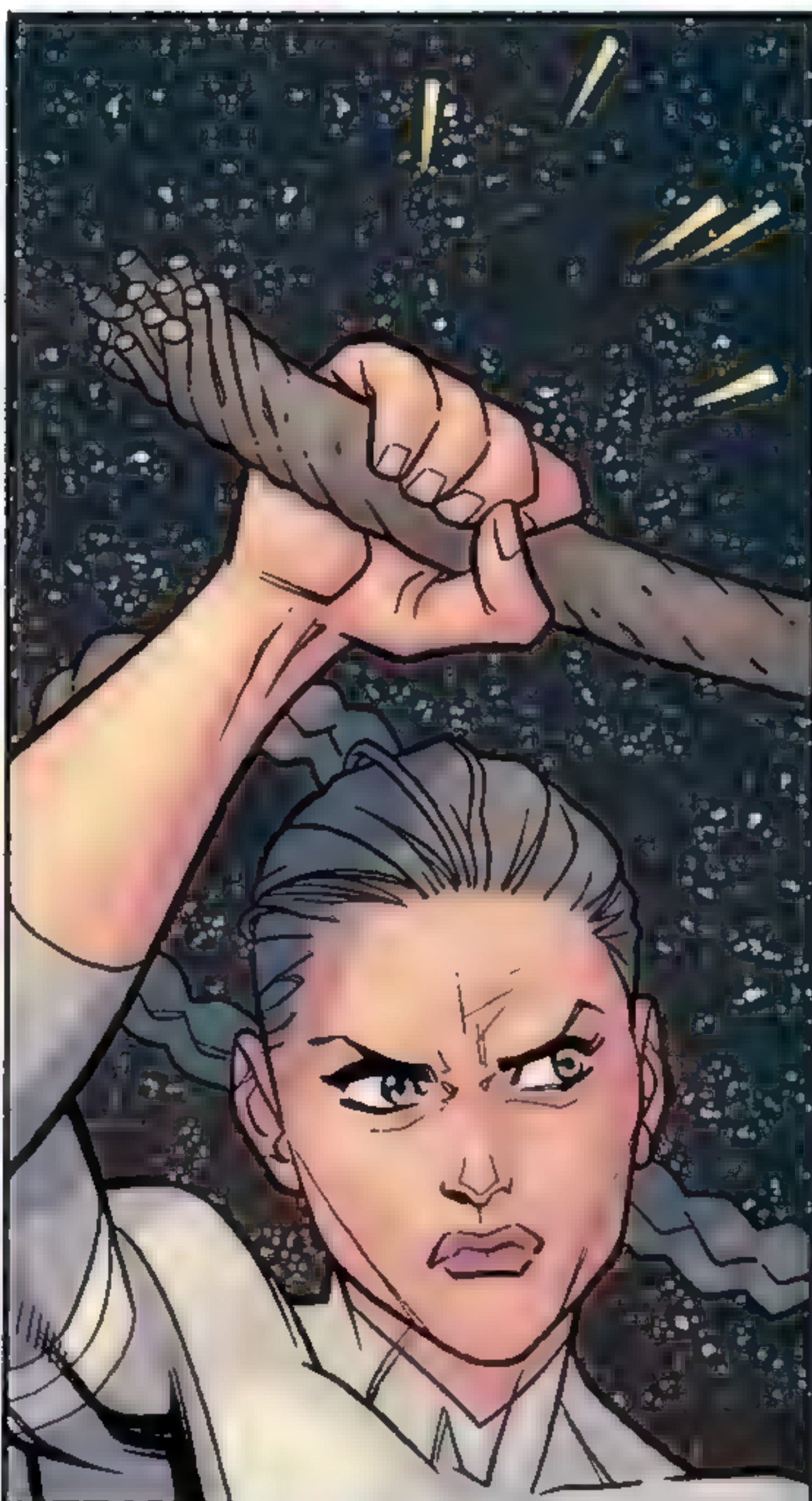




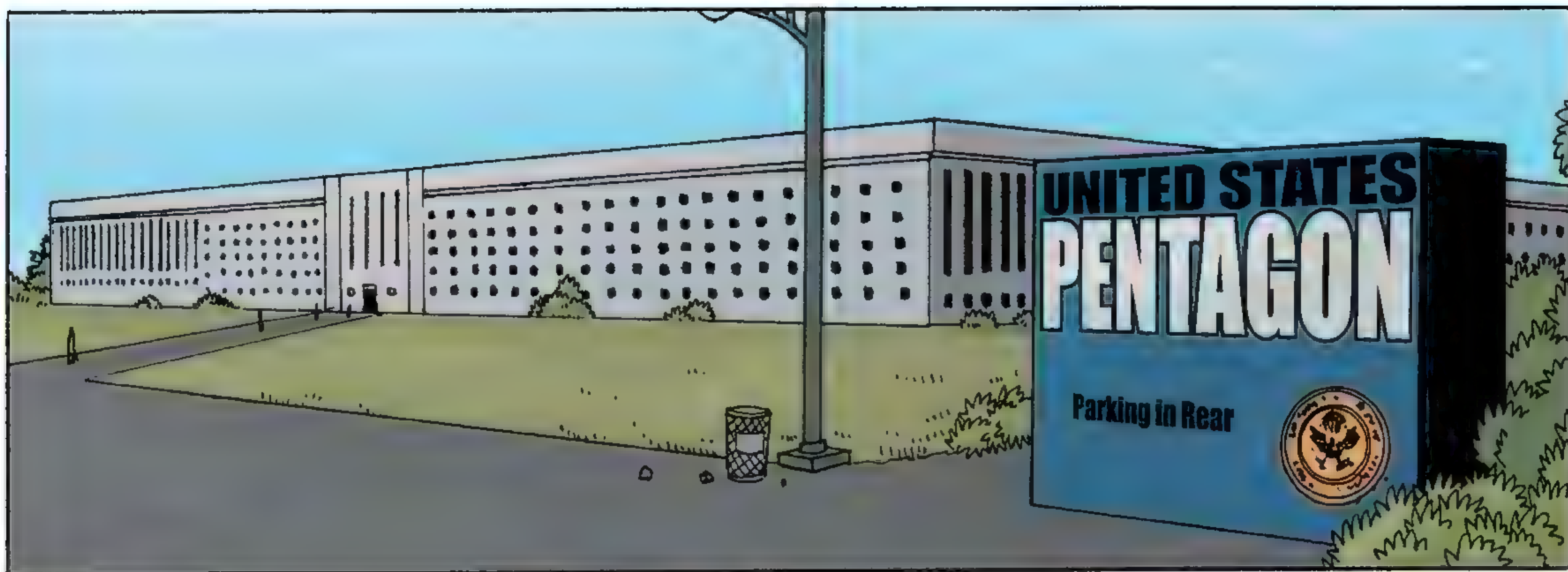


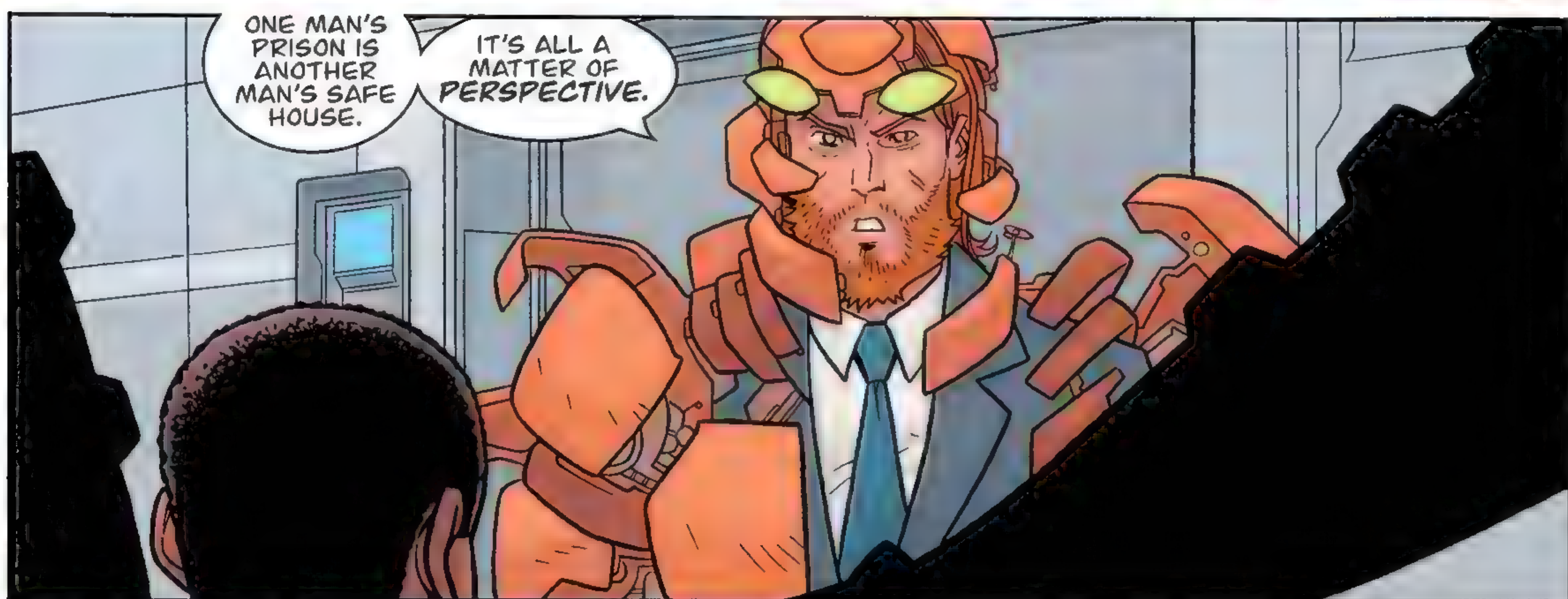
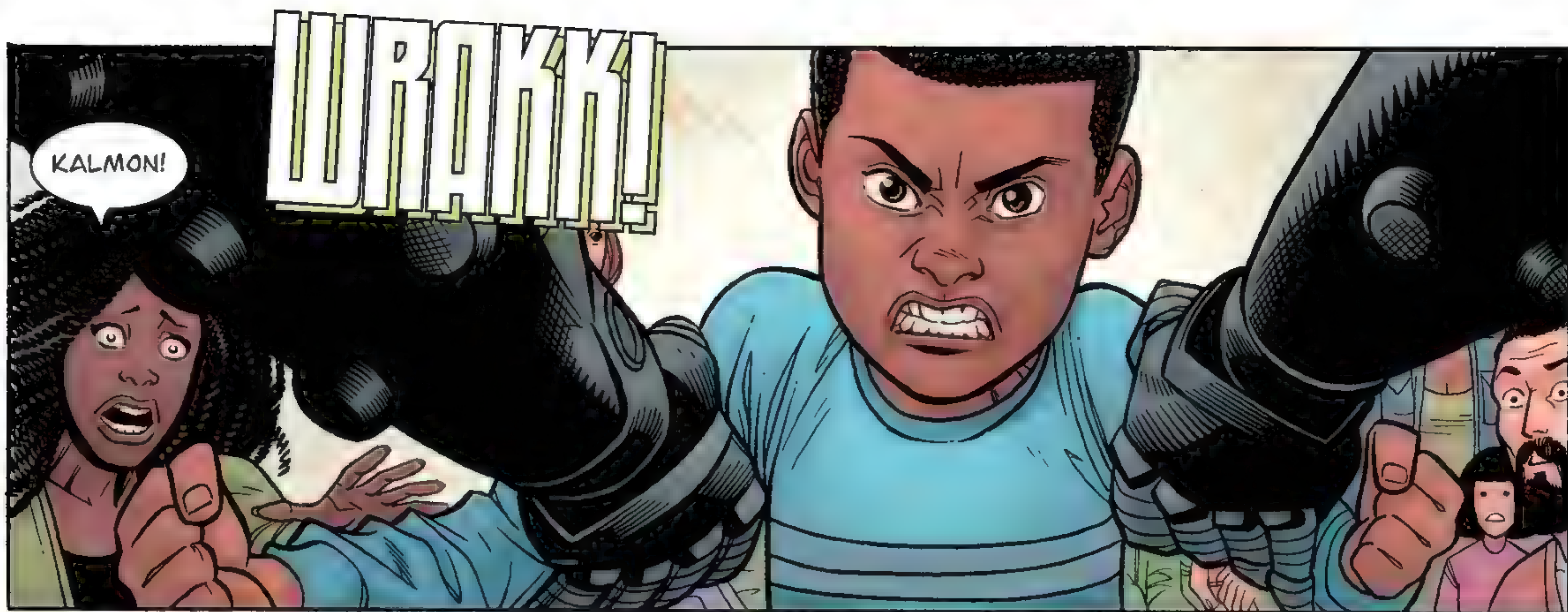


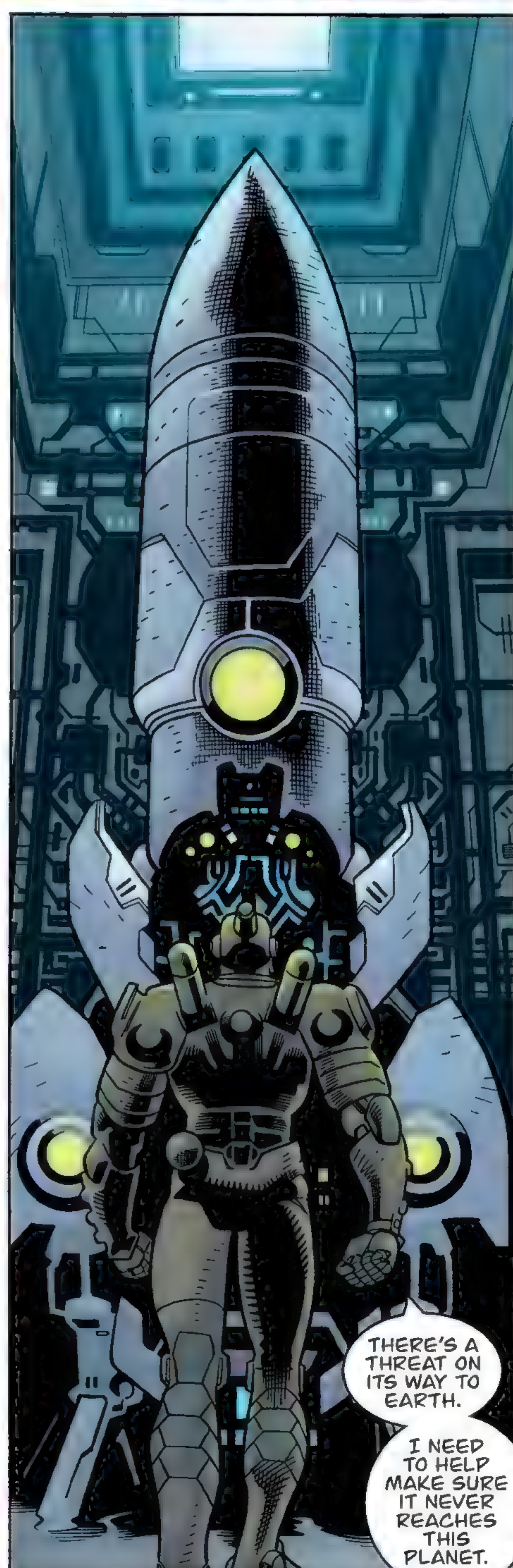






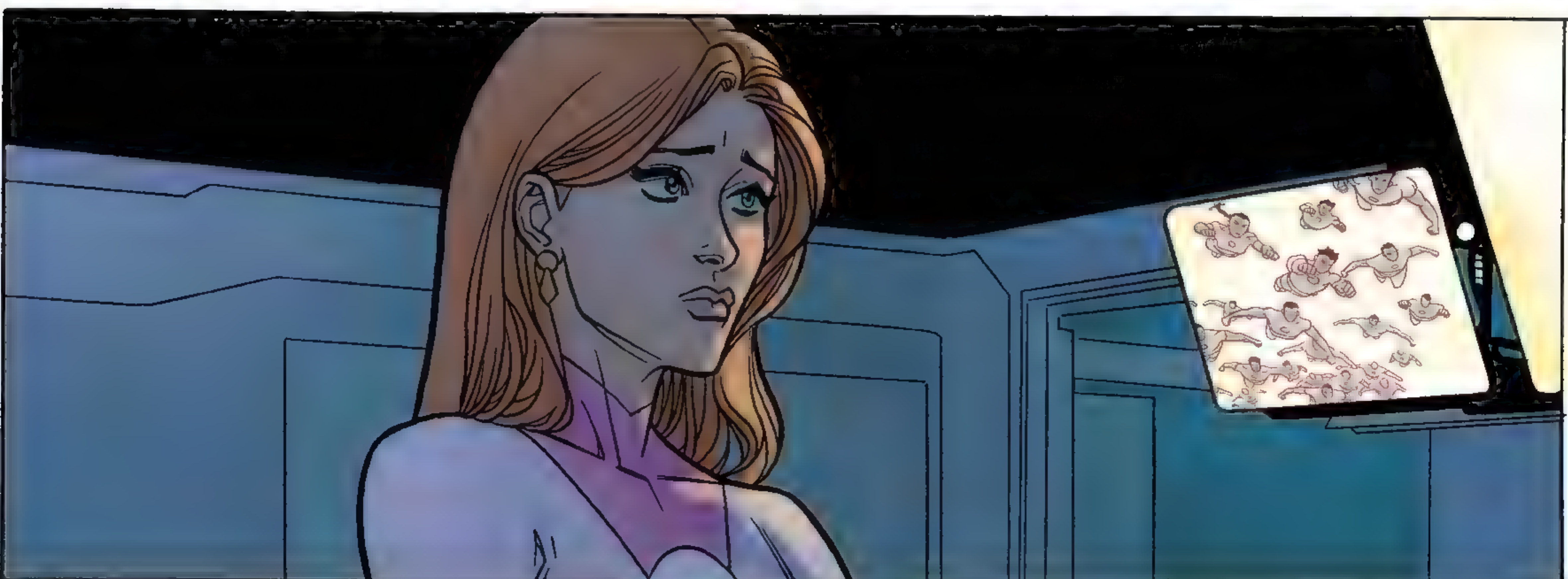
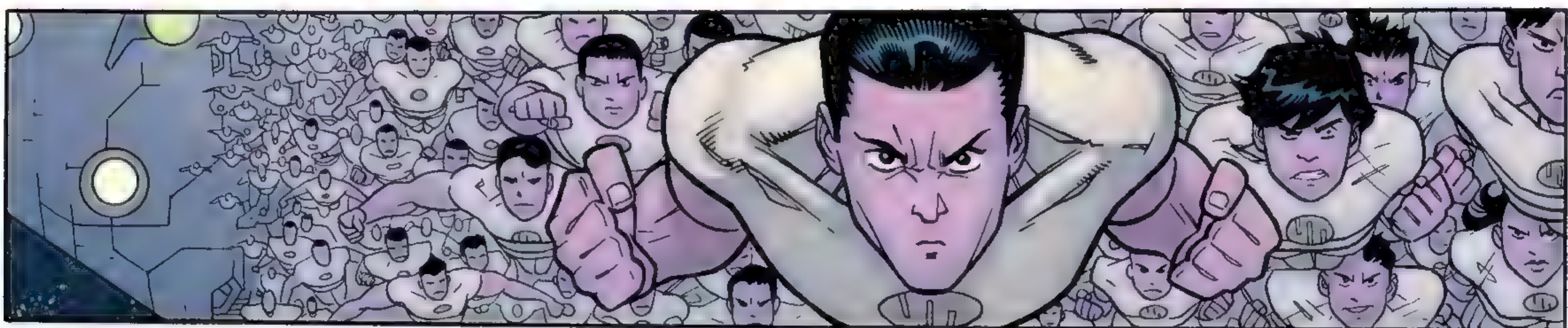
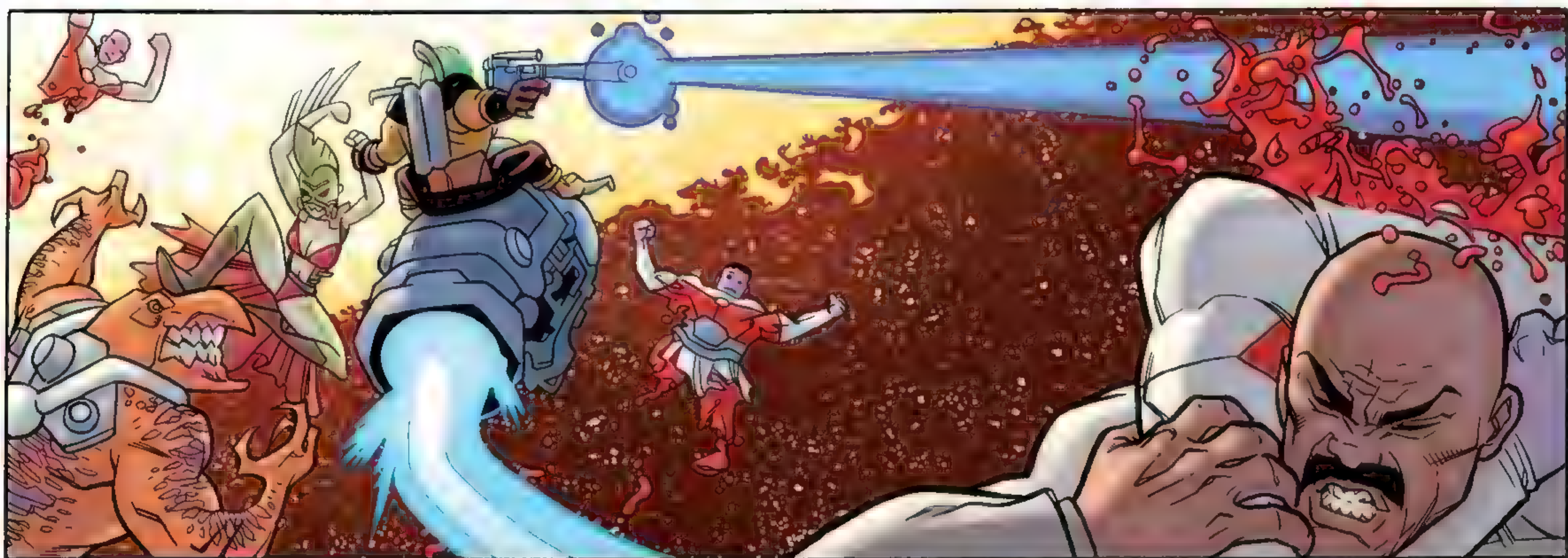
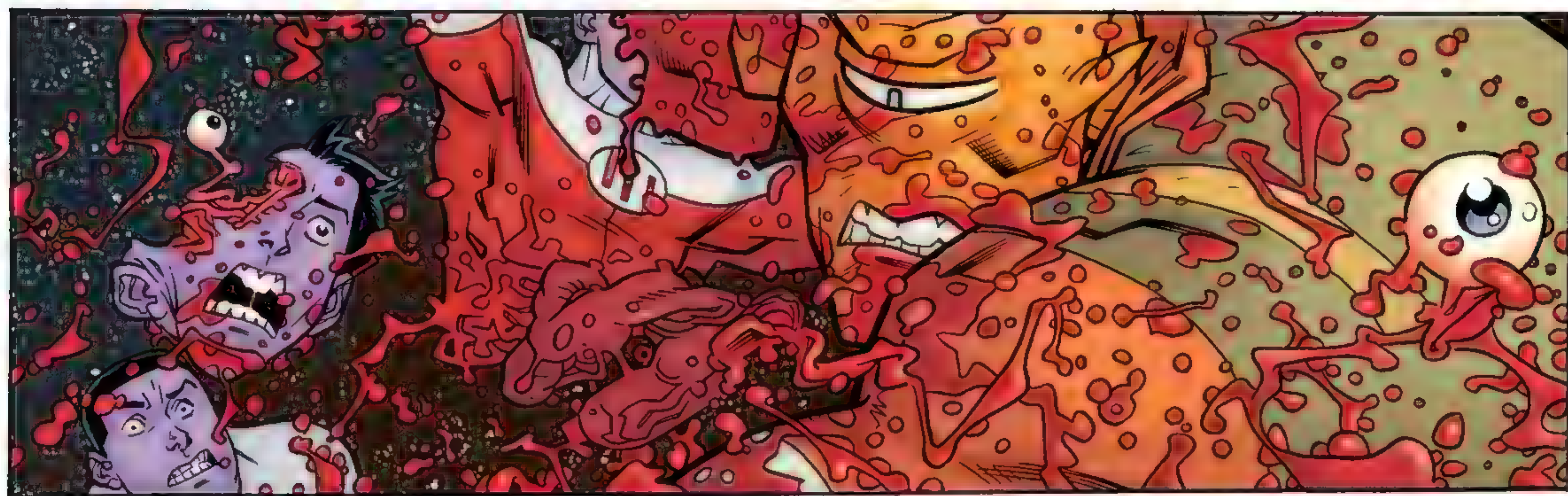


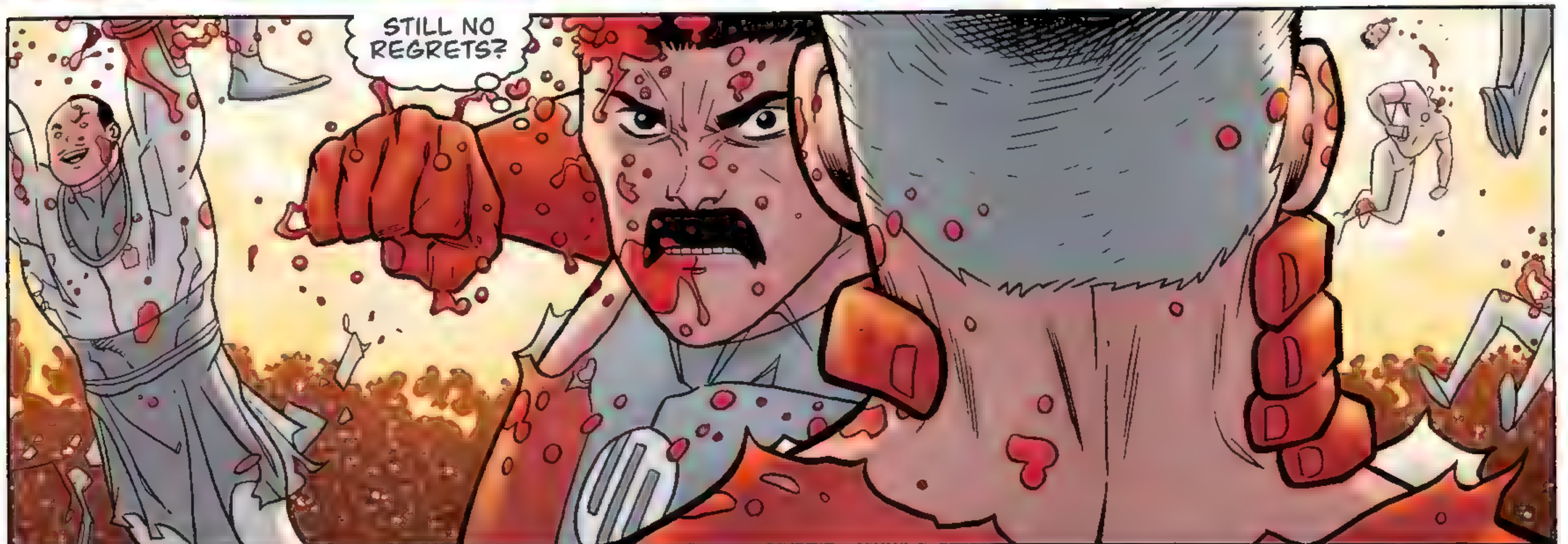


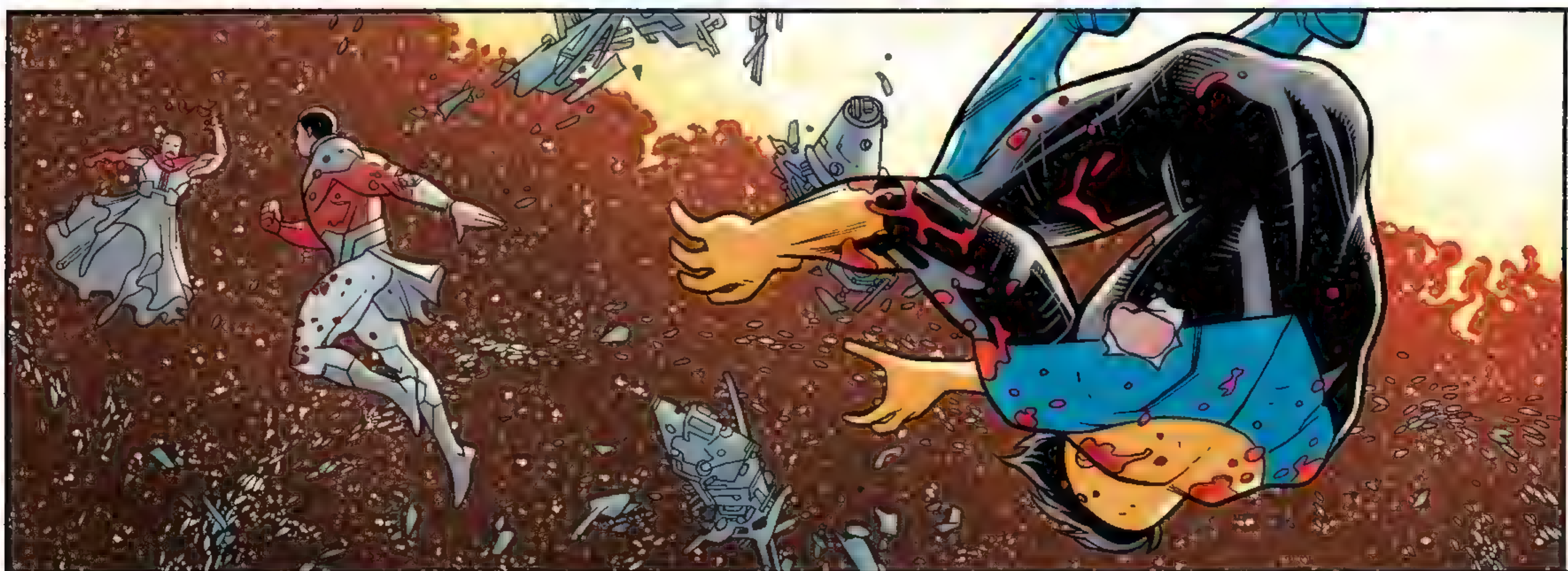


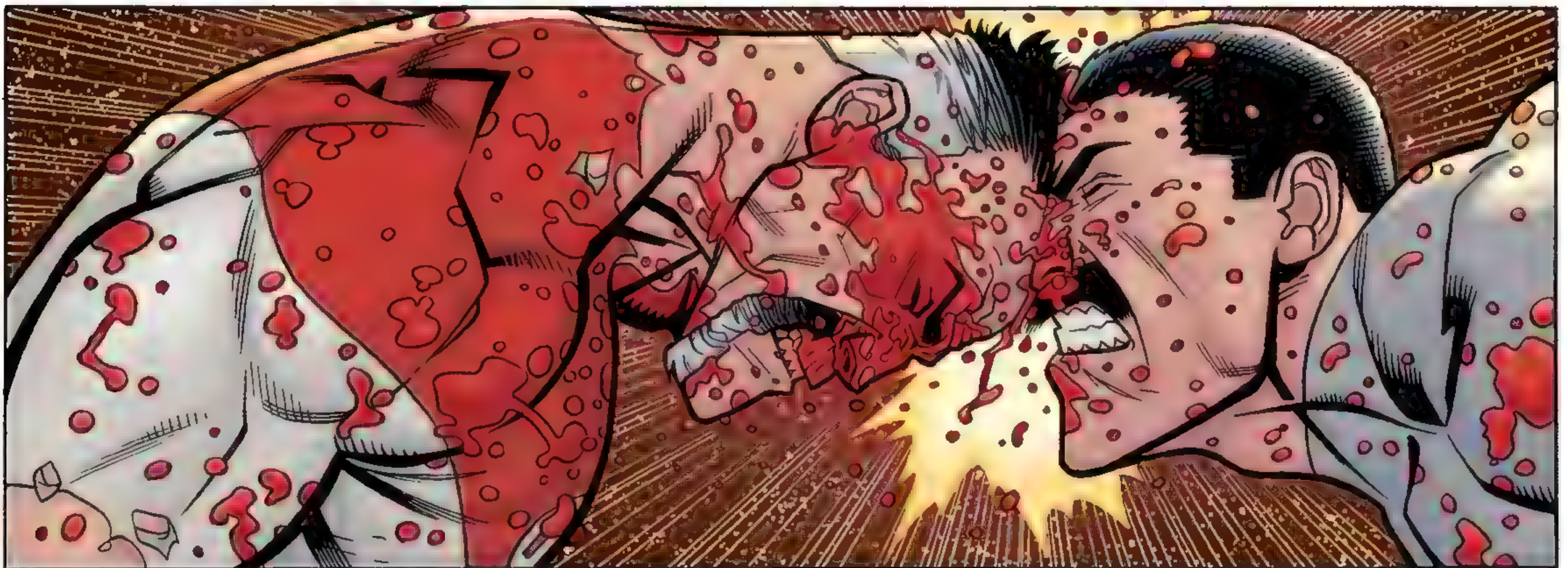
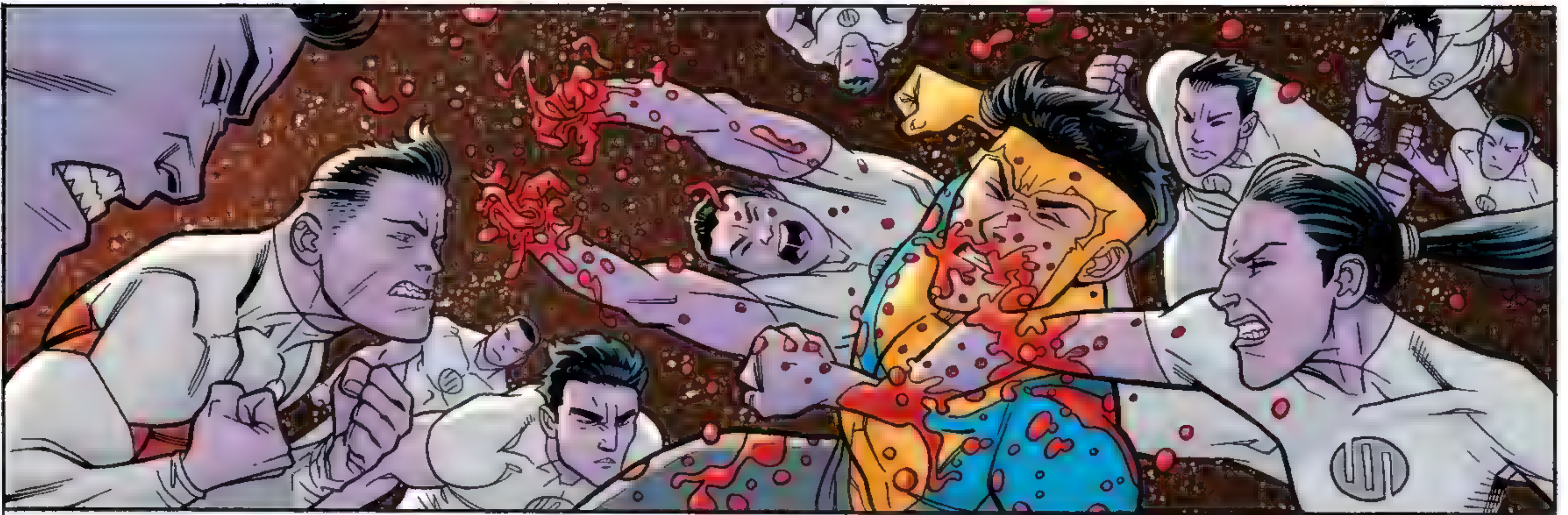




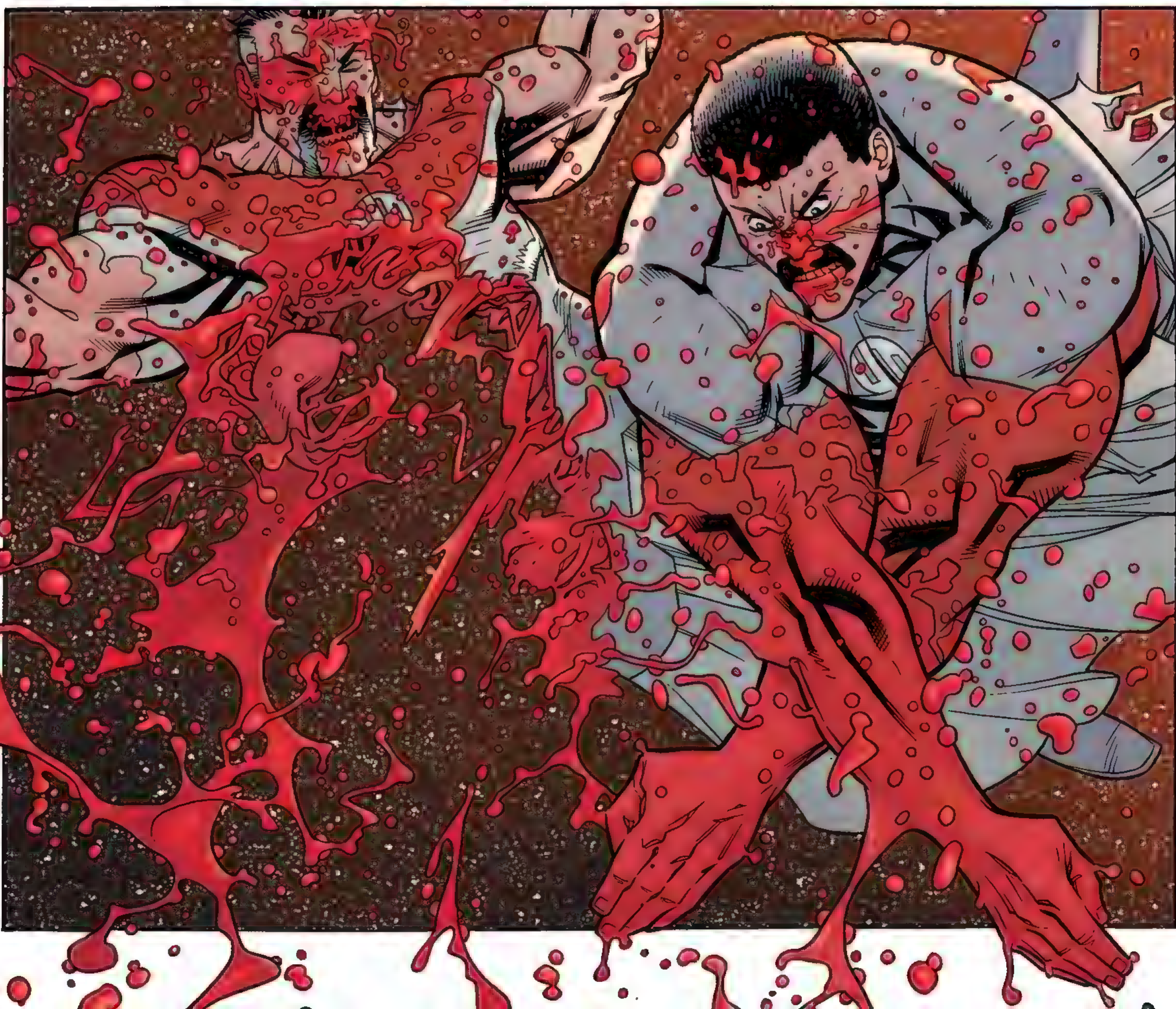










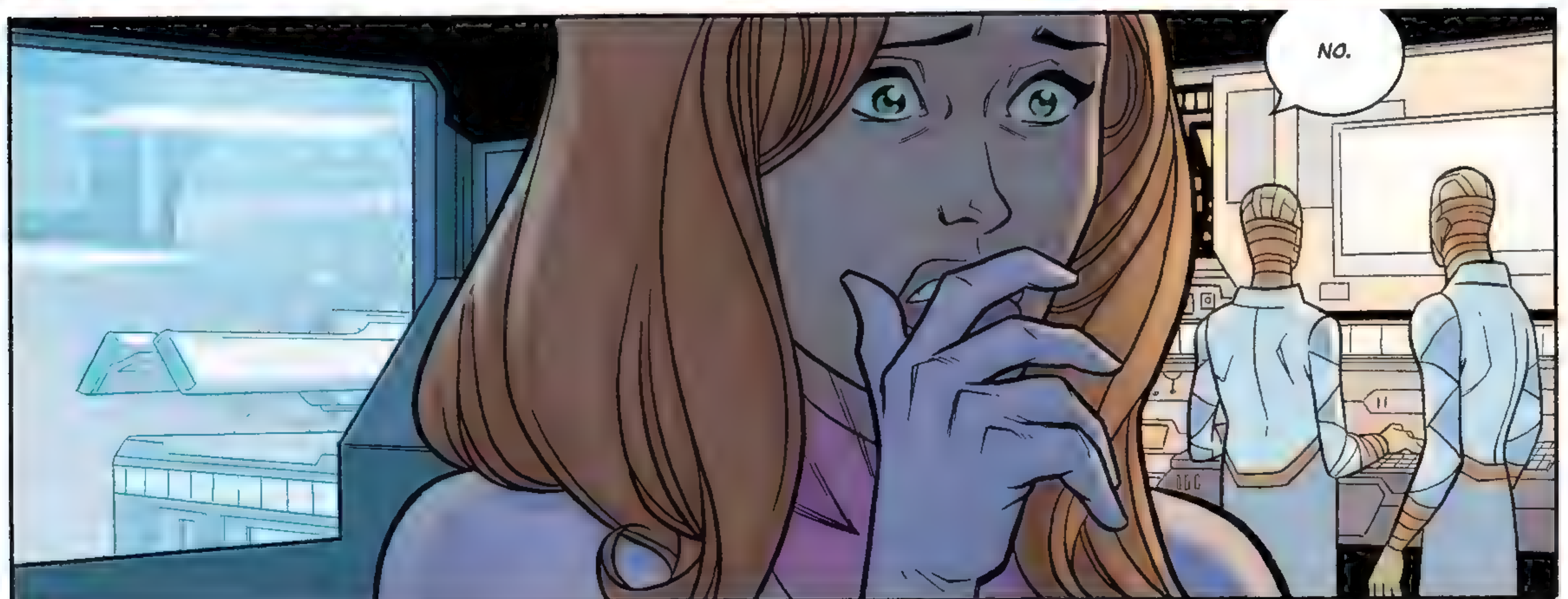
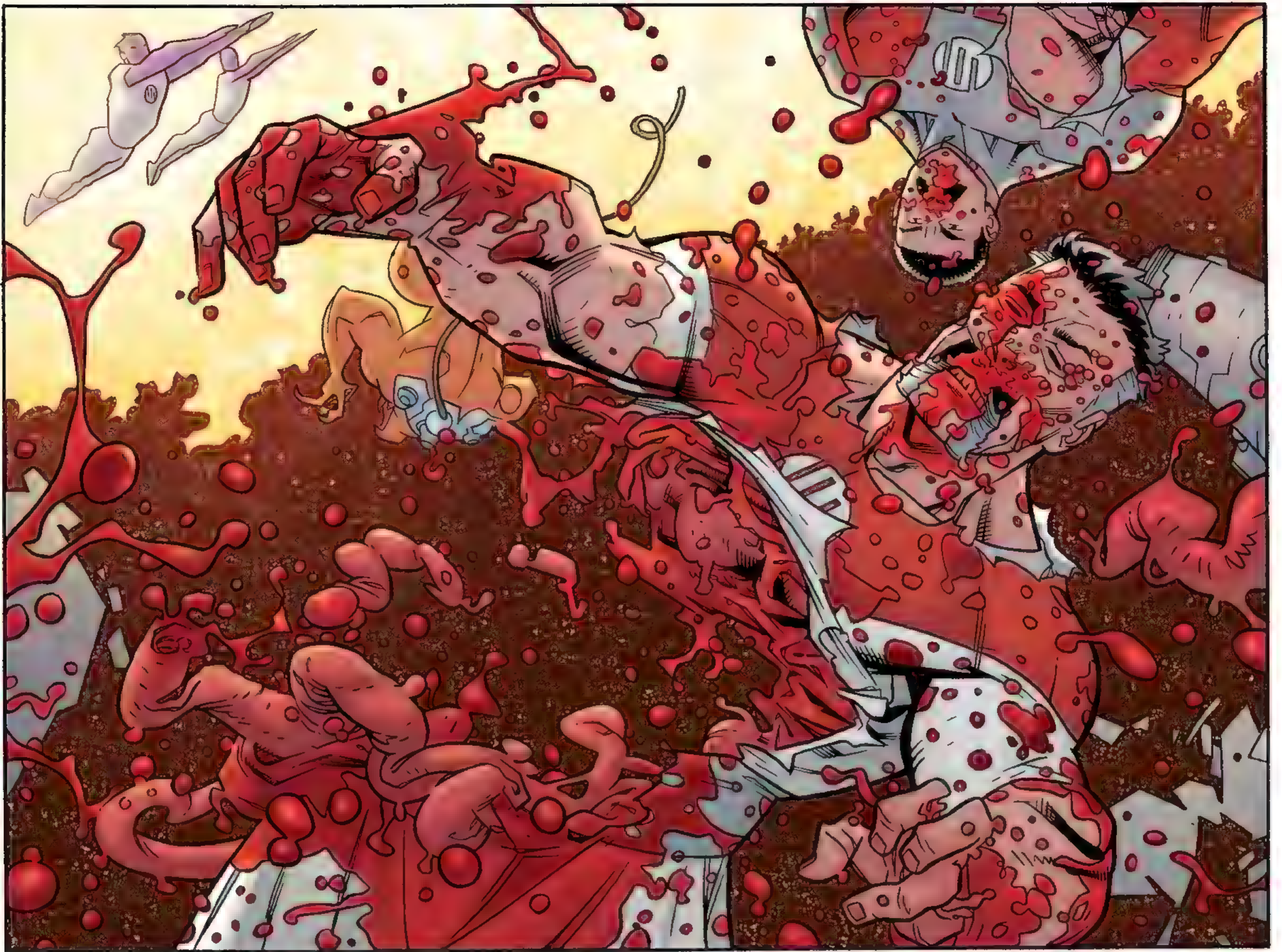


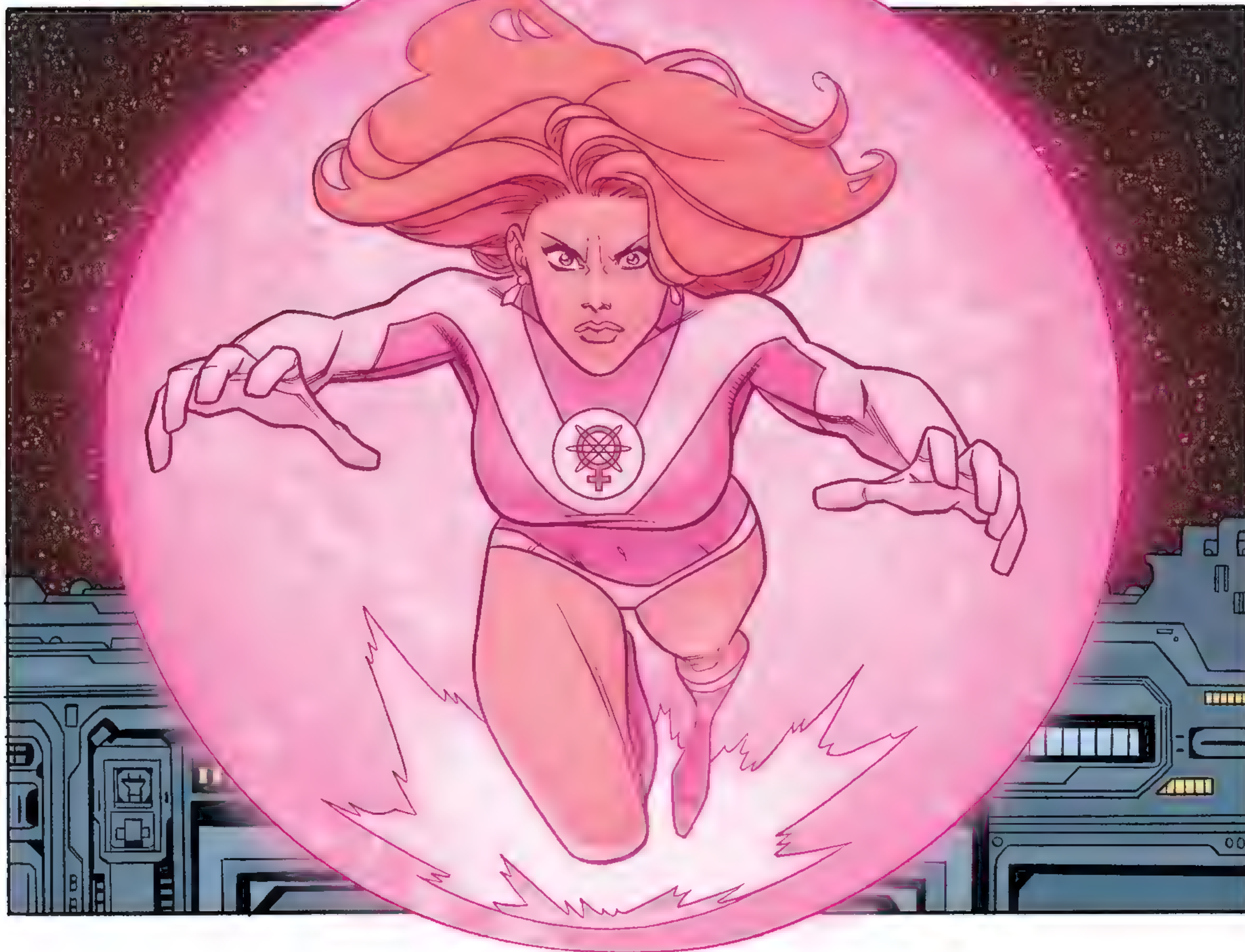
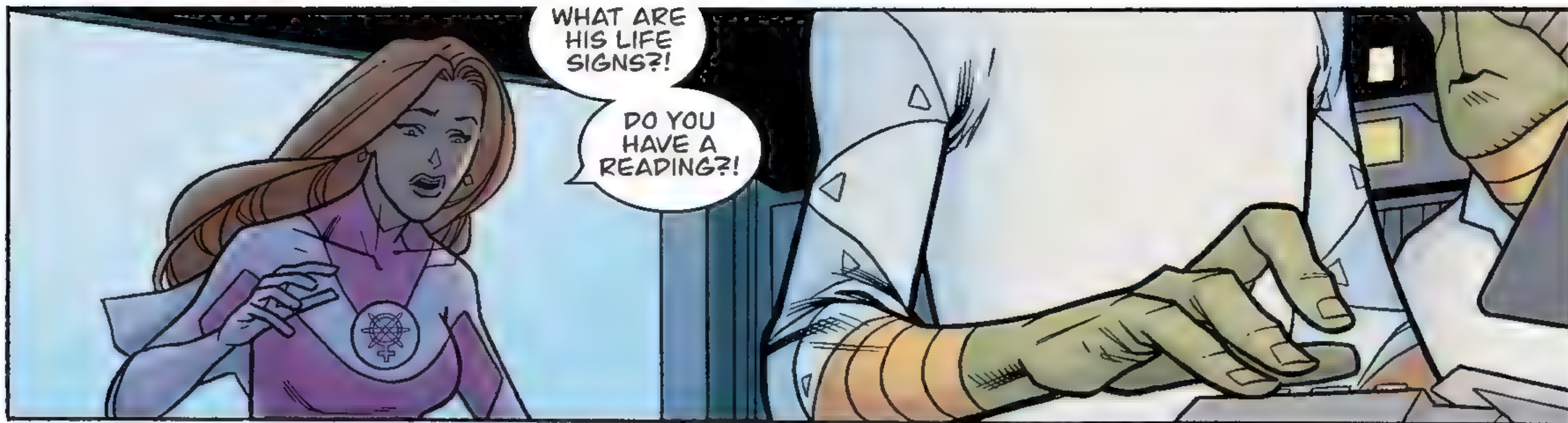


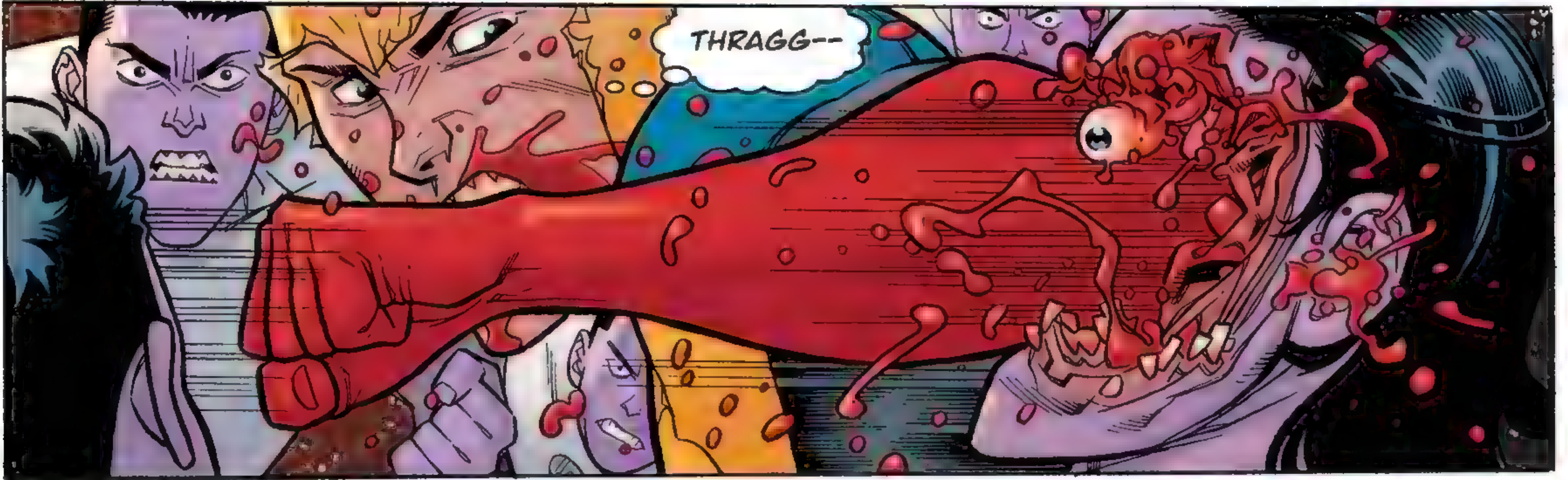
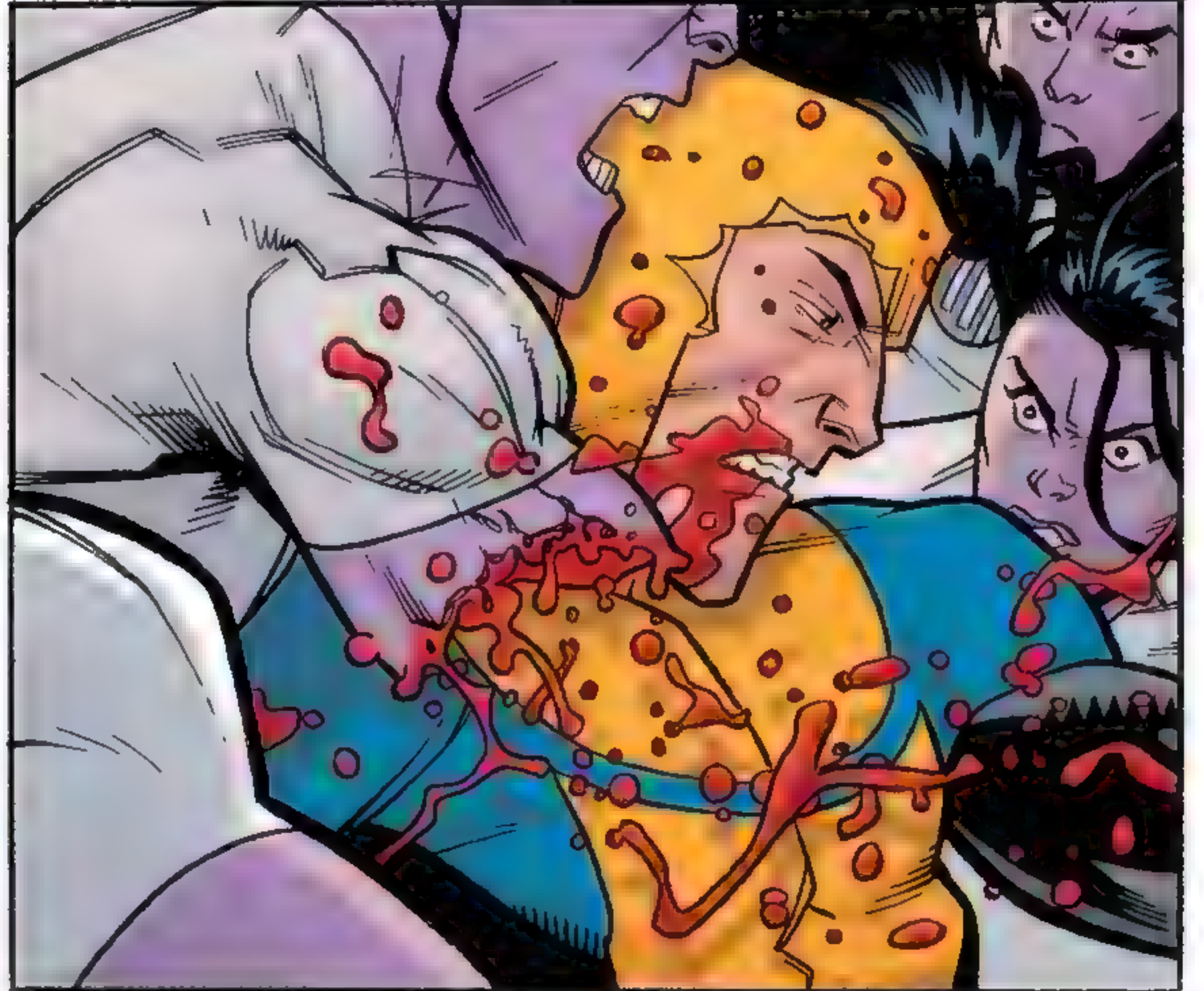
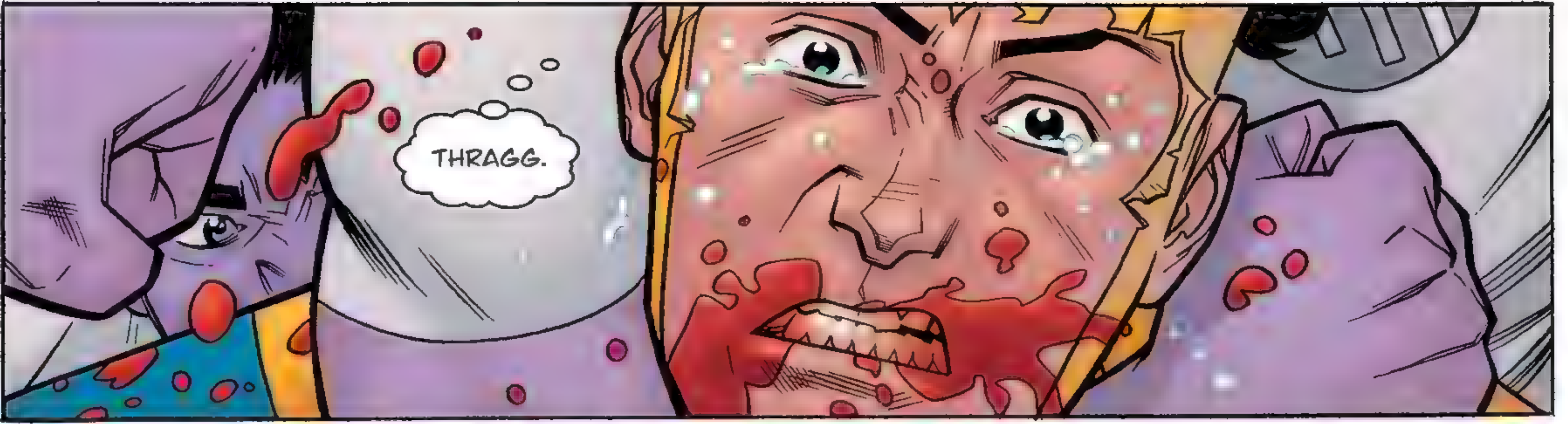


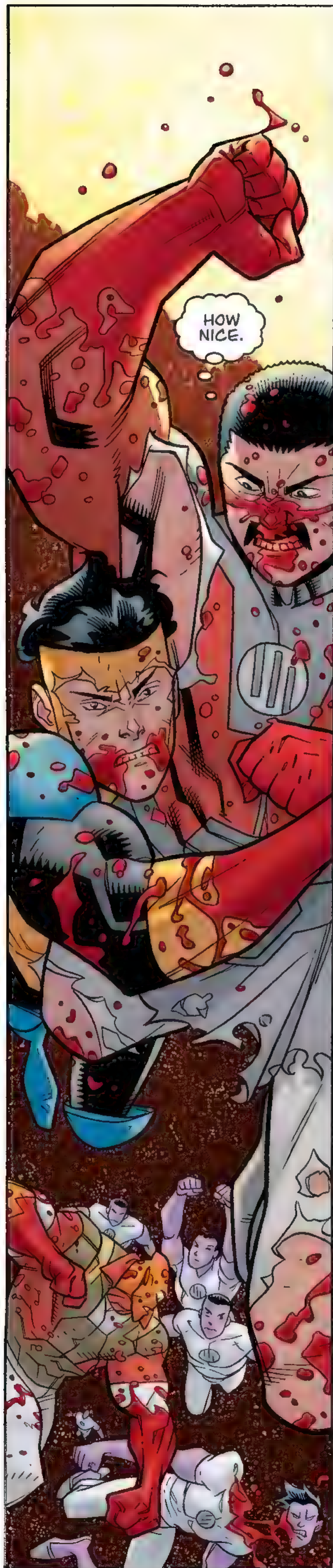
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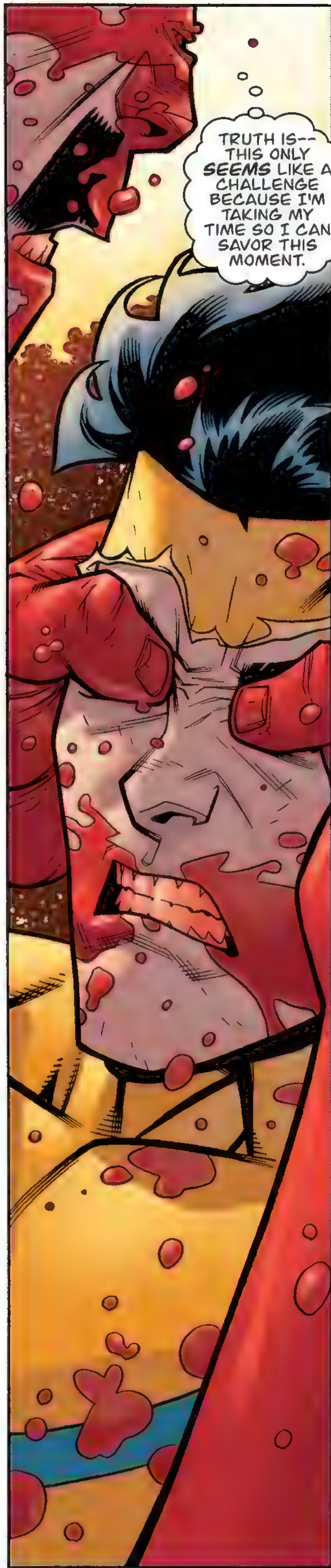




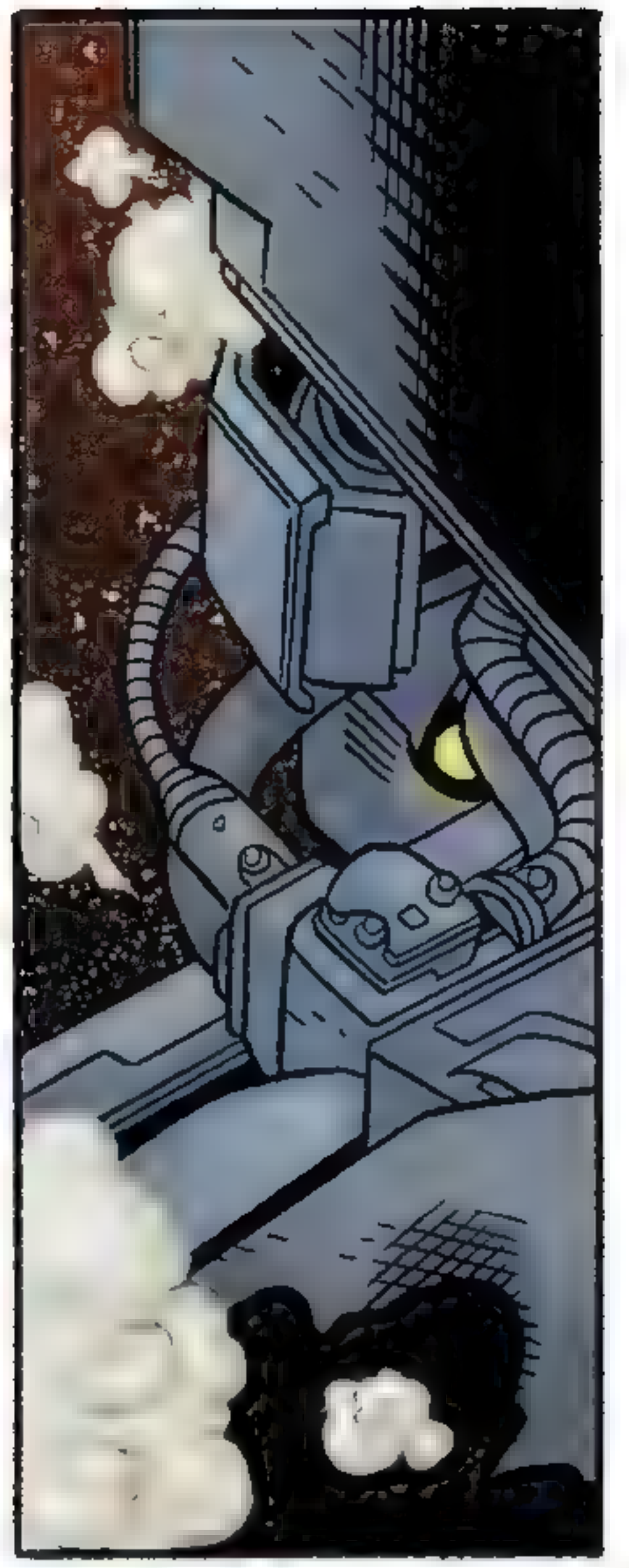
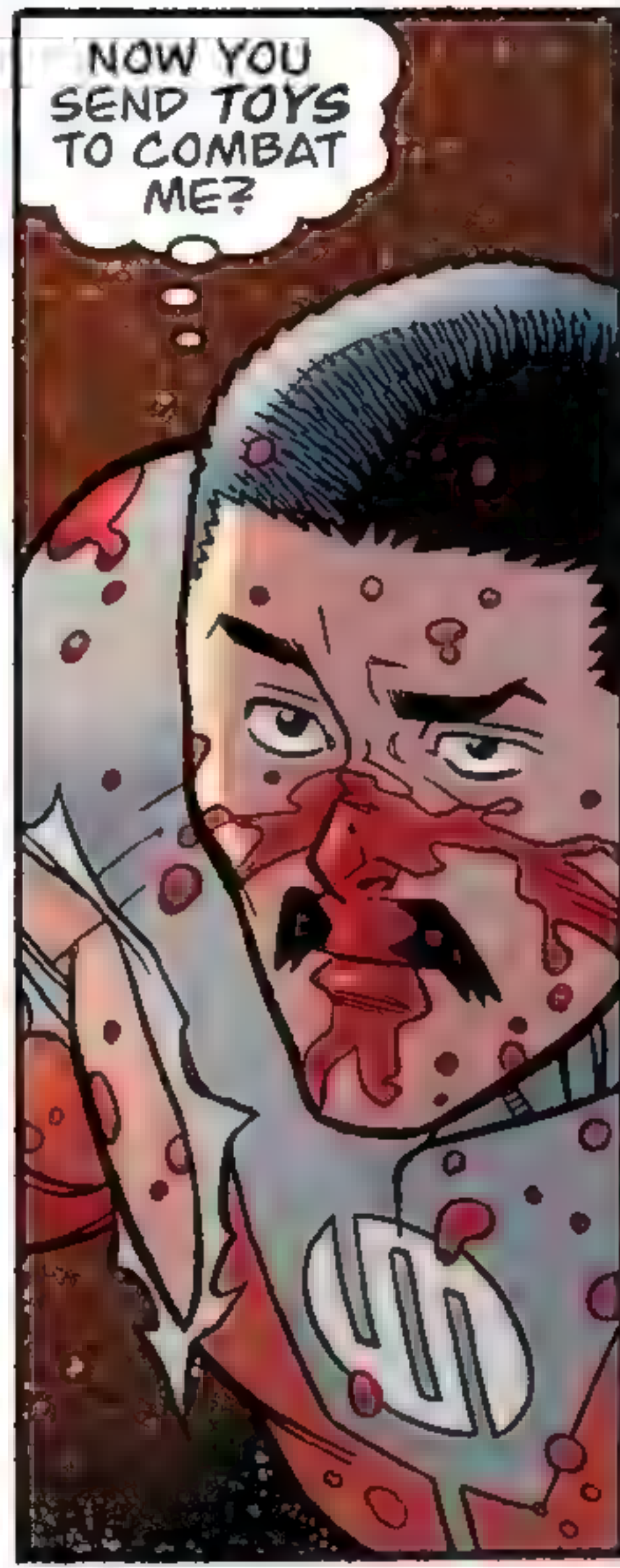
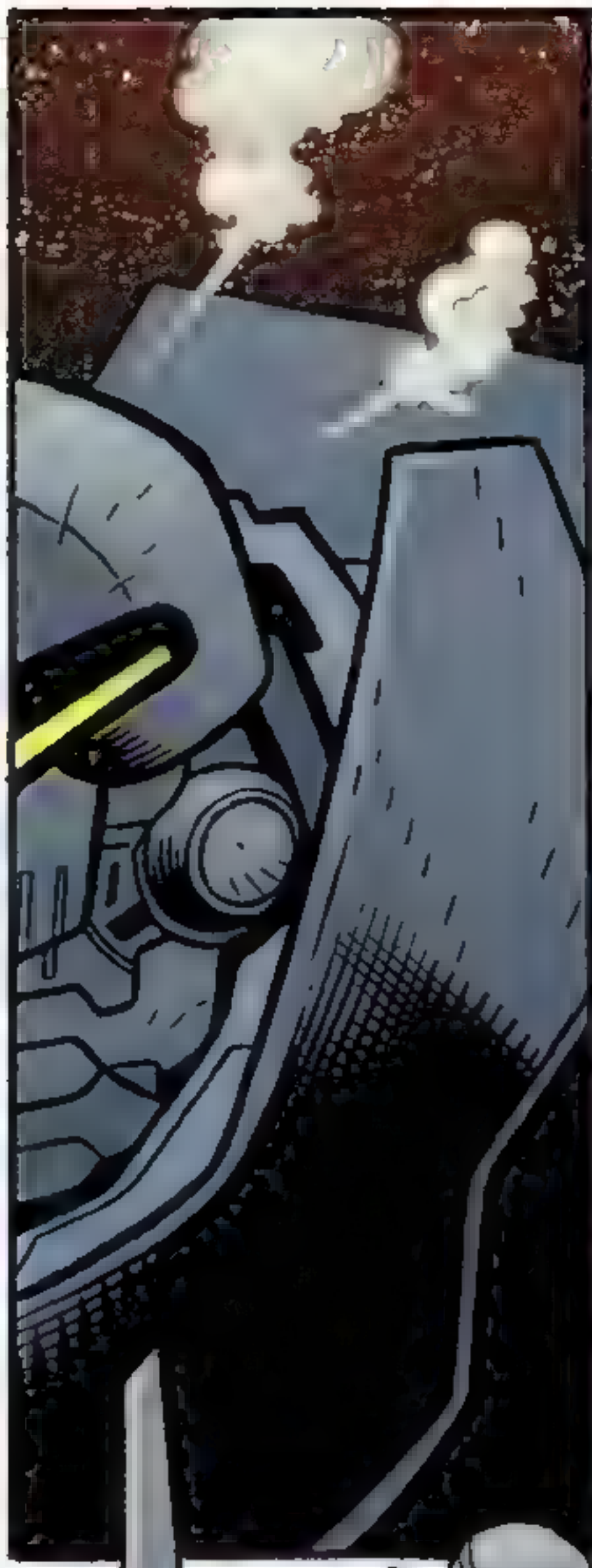


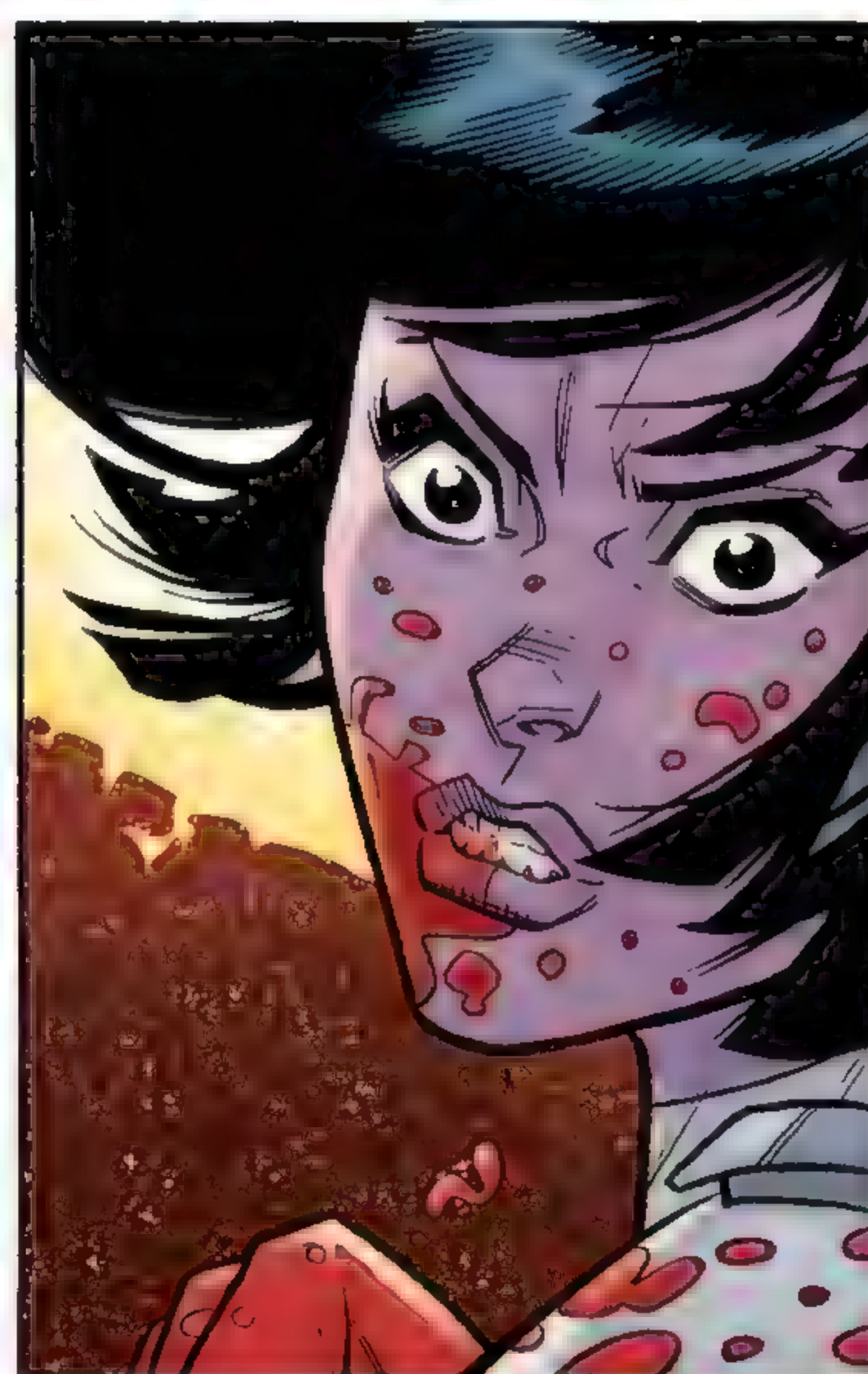


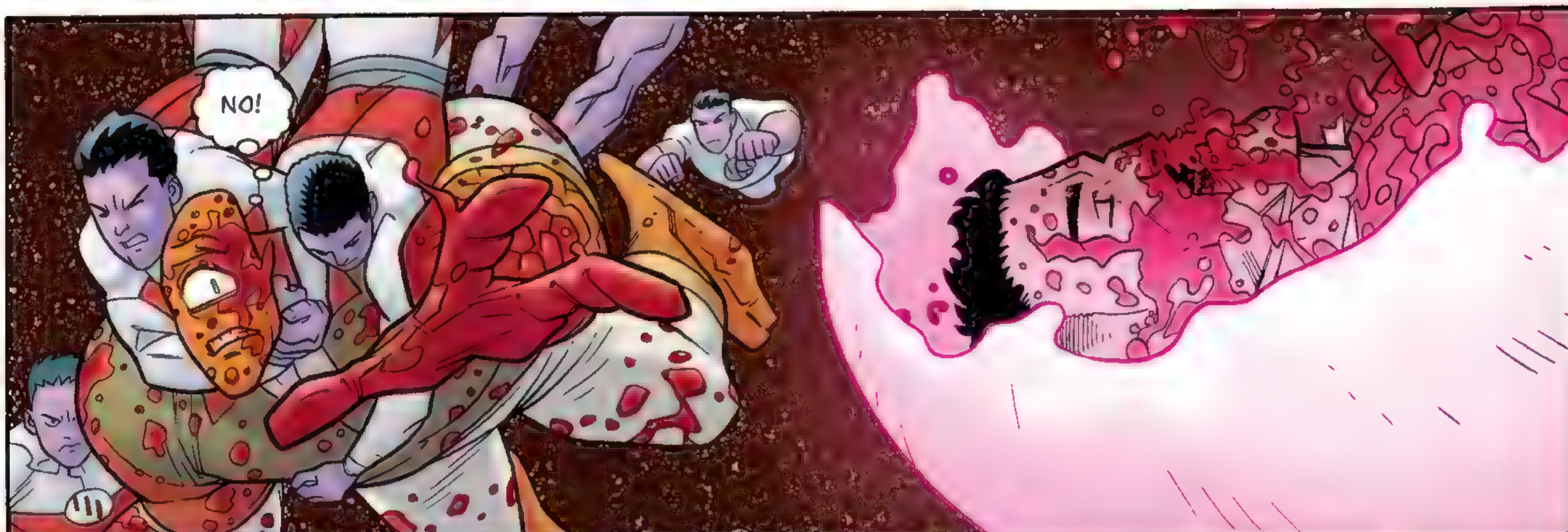


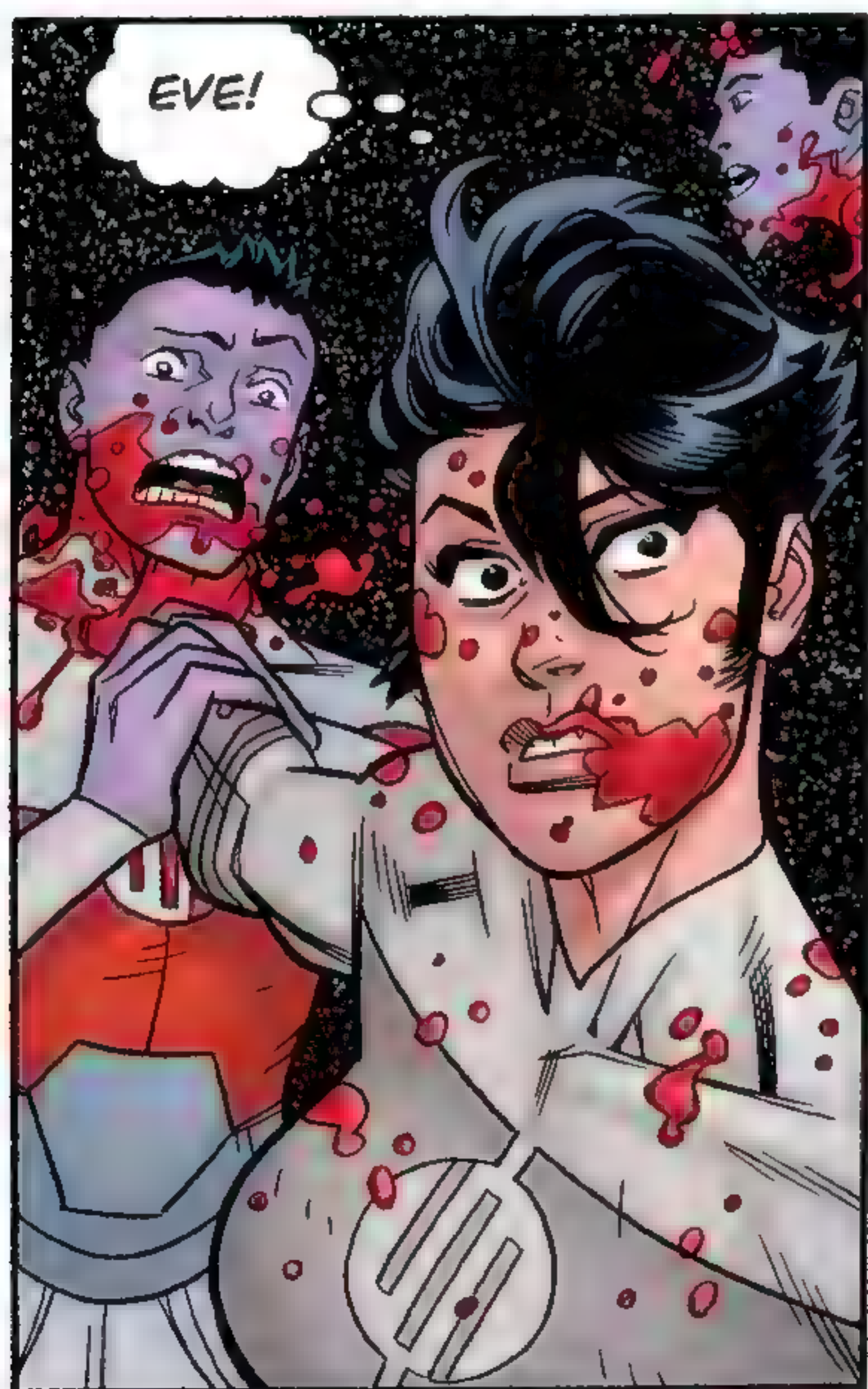


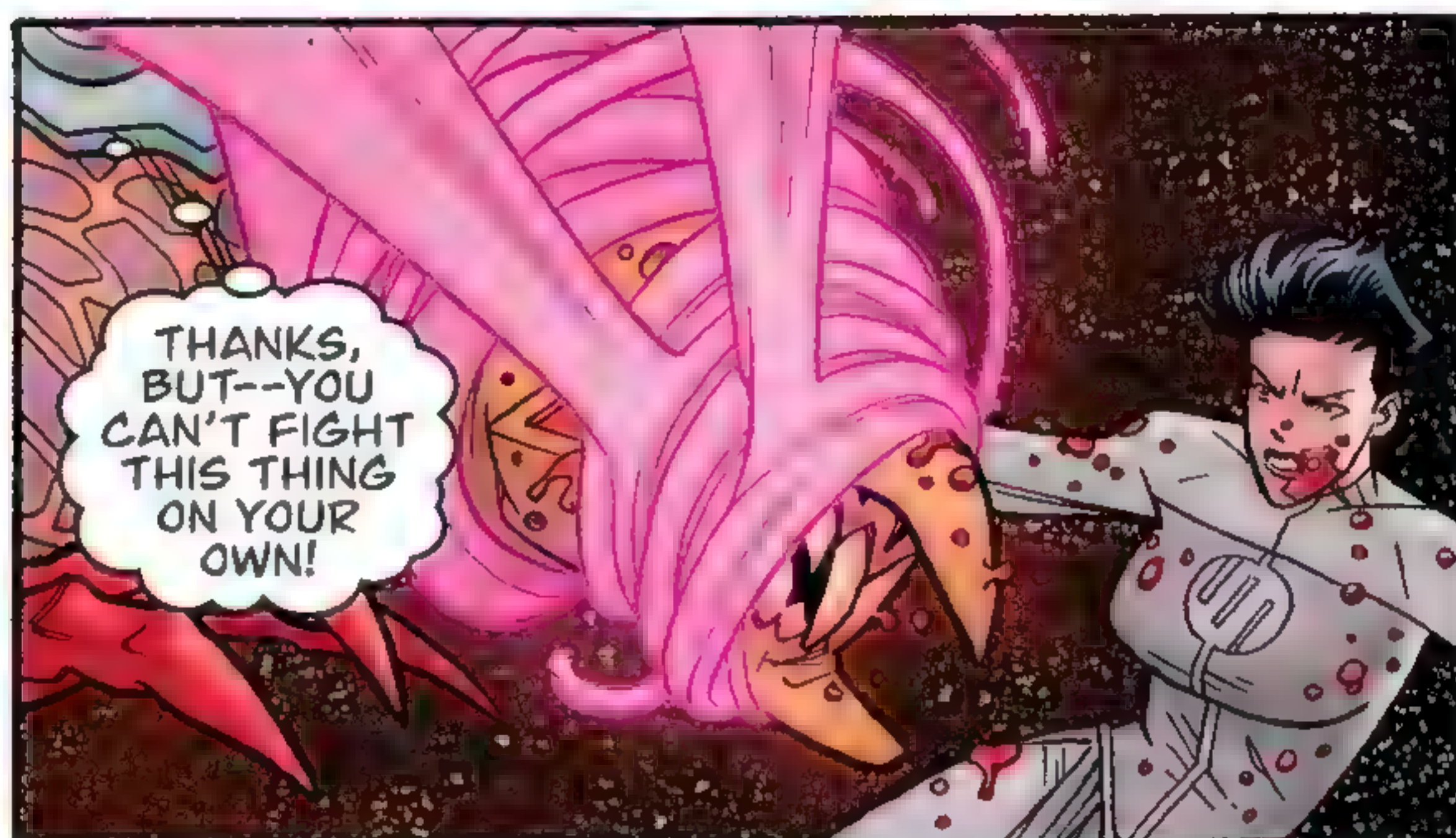
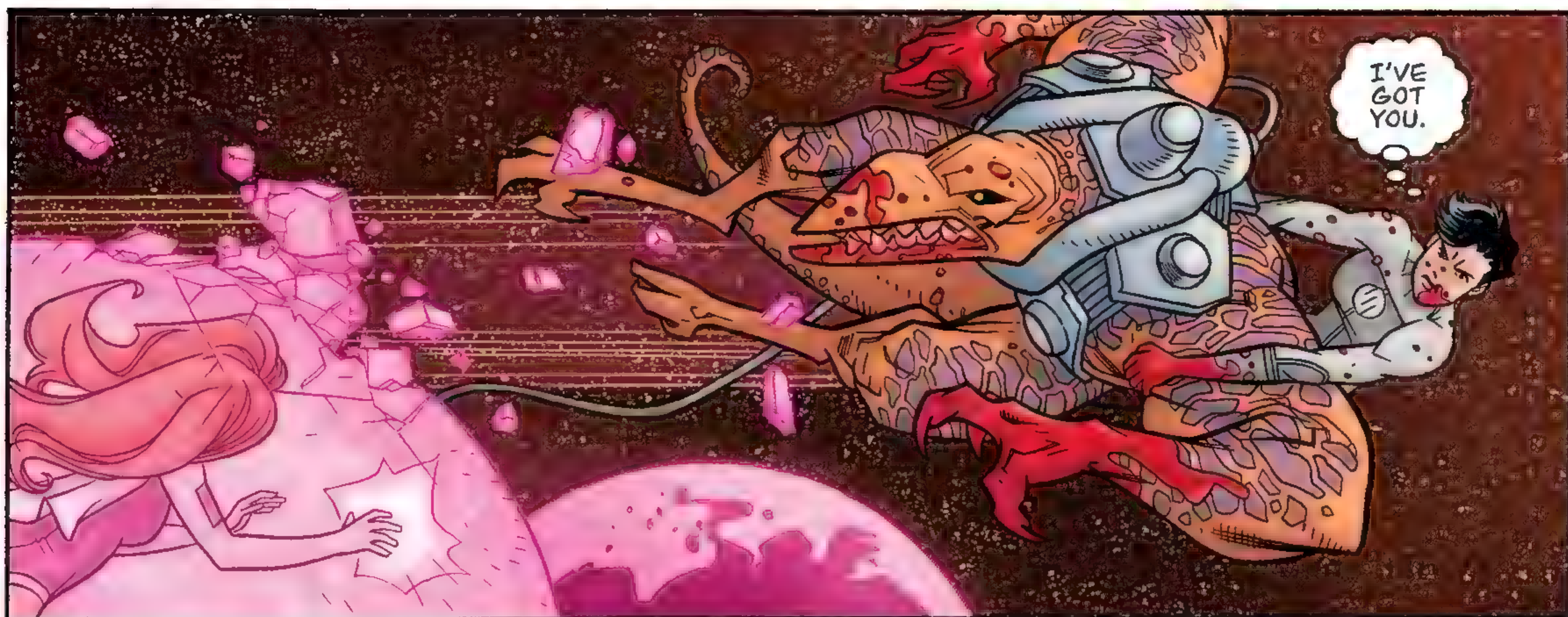


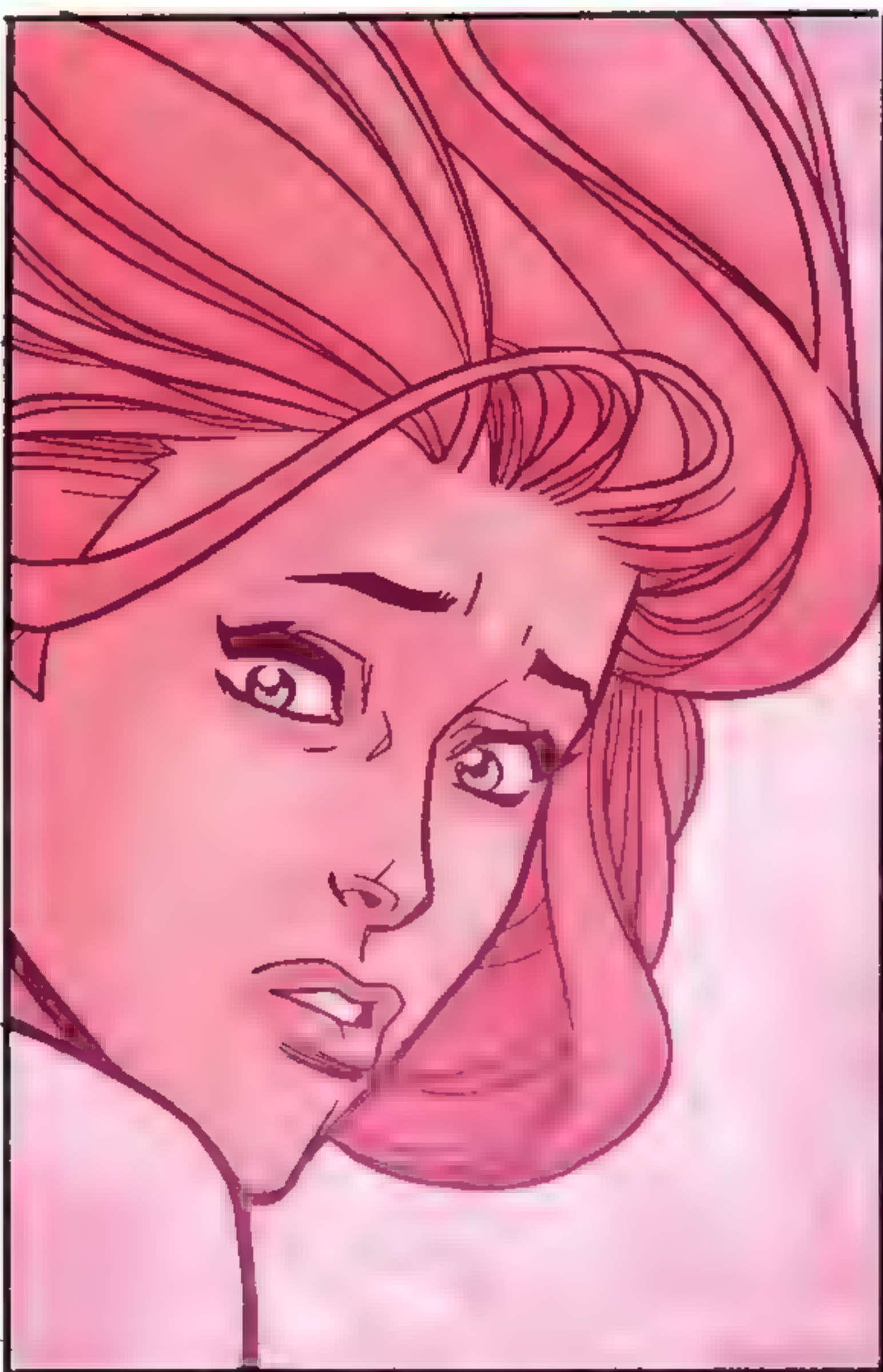
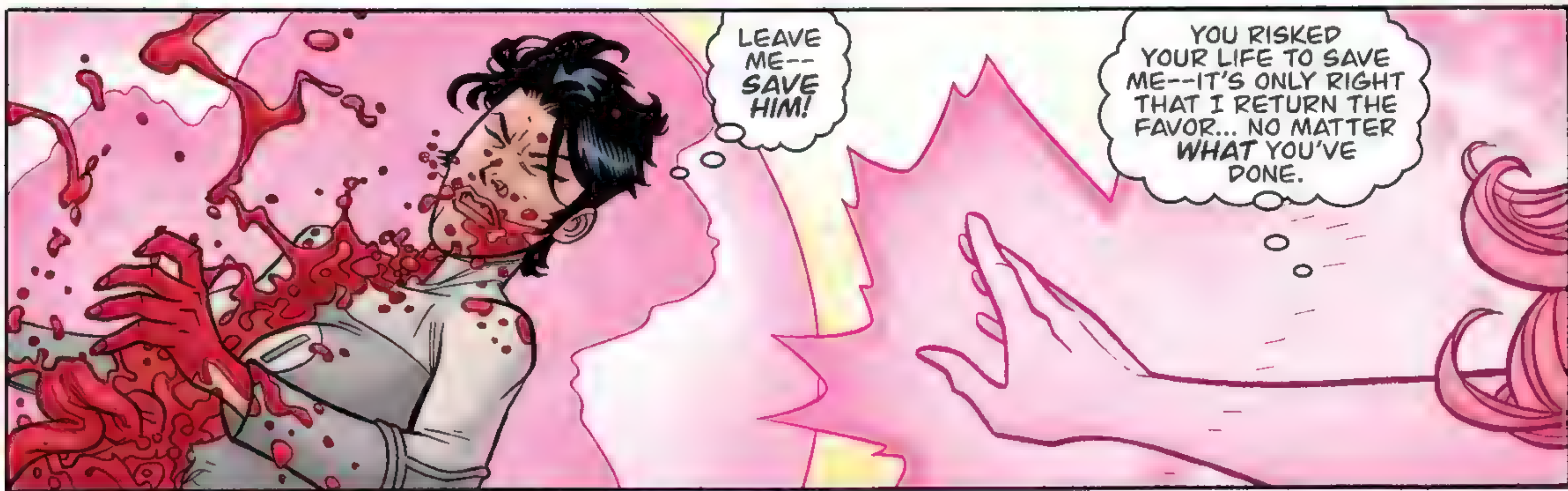














YOU'RE A MADMAN!
YOU WERE CHARGED
WITH SAFEGUARDING
OUR PEOPLE--
ENSURING OUR VERY
EXISTENCE!

DON'T YOU
SEE WHAT
YOU'RE DOING
COULD BRING
AN END TO
US ALL?



YOU WERE
THE ONE WHO
INTERFERED
WITH OUR
PLANS.

YOU KILLED MY
BROTHER--YOU KILLED
MY FATHER! AND WHAT
YOU'RE DOING--
SPREADING YOUR PEOPLE
THIN, CONQUERING
WORLDS, THAT'S WHAT
CAUSED OUR NEAR
EXTINCTION IN THE
FIRST PLACE!



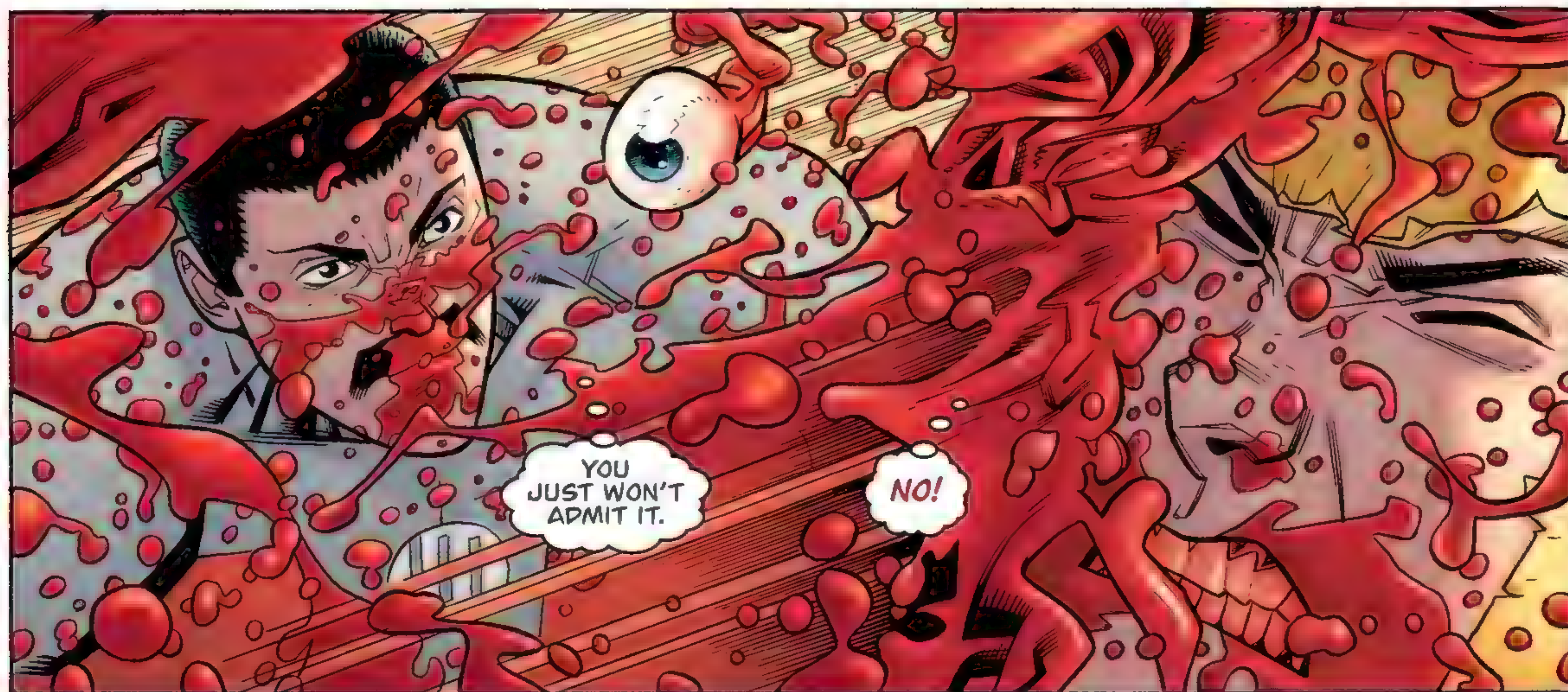
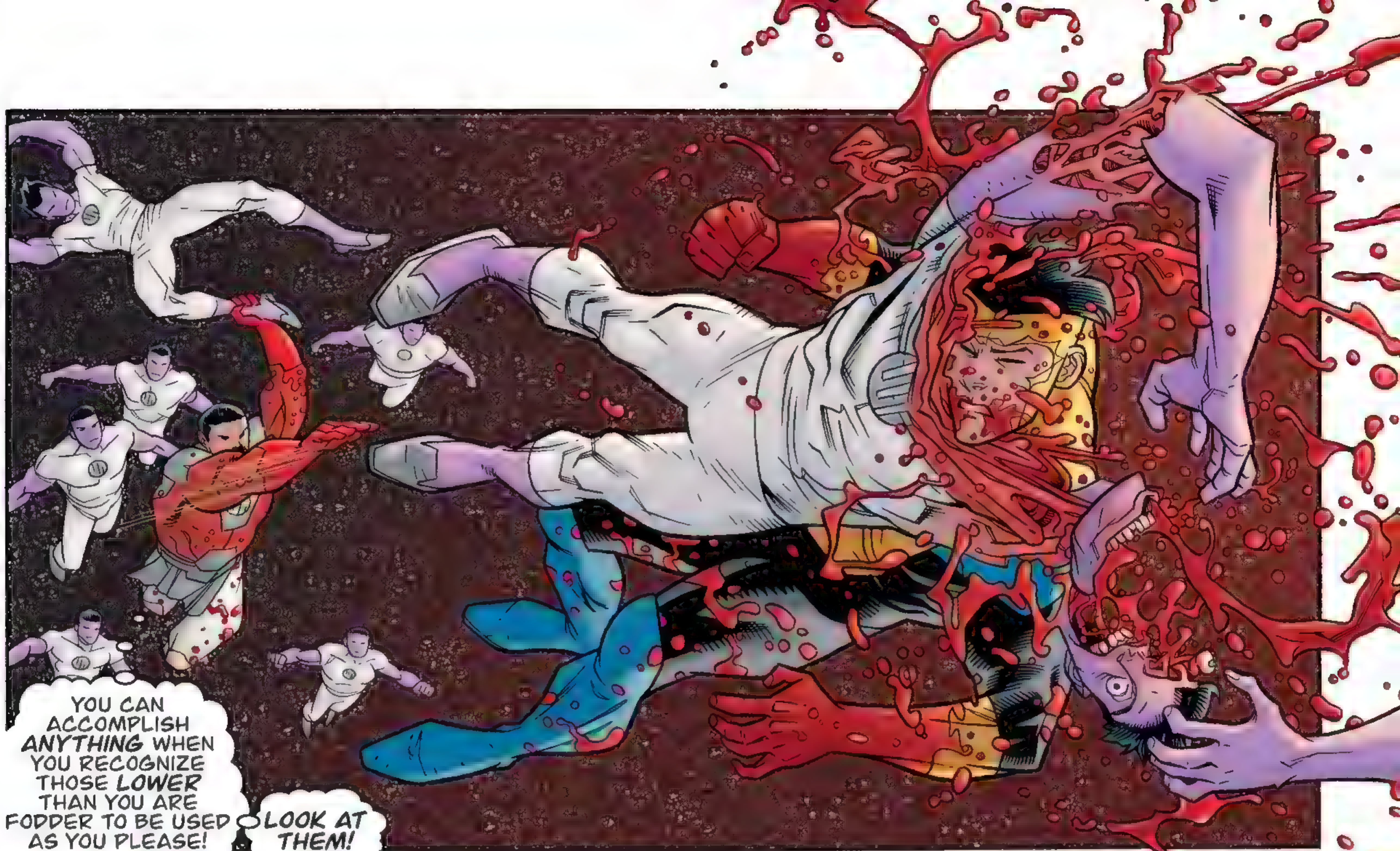
AFTER THE
PUREBRED
VILTRUMITES
TURNED ON ME--
I GAVE UP ALL
HOPE OF
RESTORING OUR
PEOPLE.

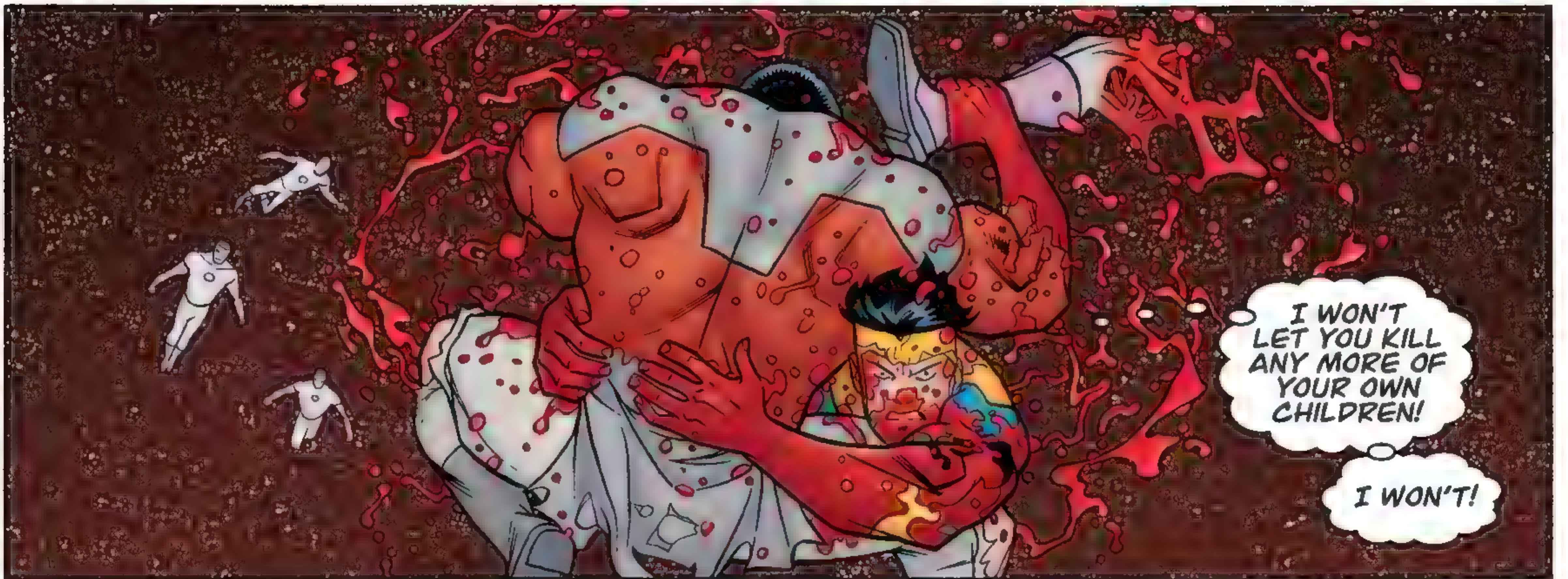
AS FAR AS THESE
HALF-BREEDS GO--
I CAN MAKE AN
ENDLESS SUPPLY. MY
VILTRUMITES ARE
DISPOSABLE.

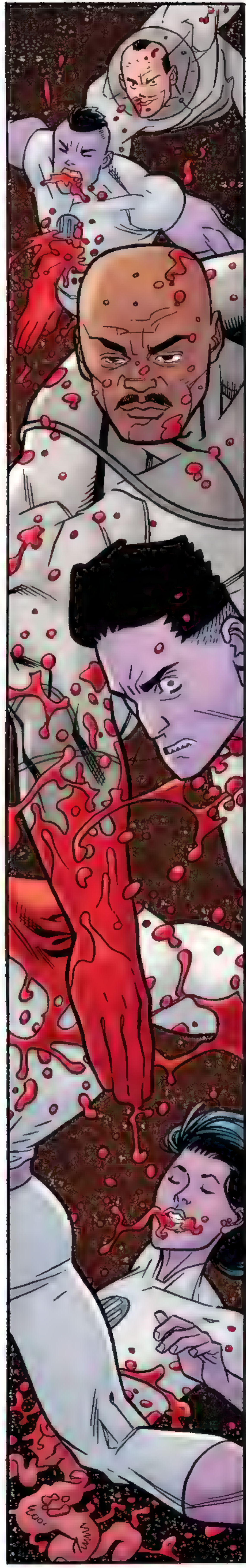
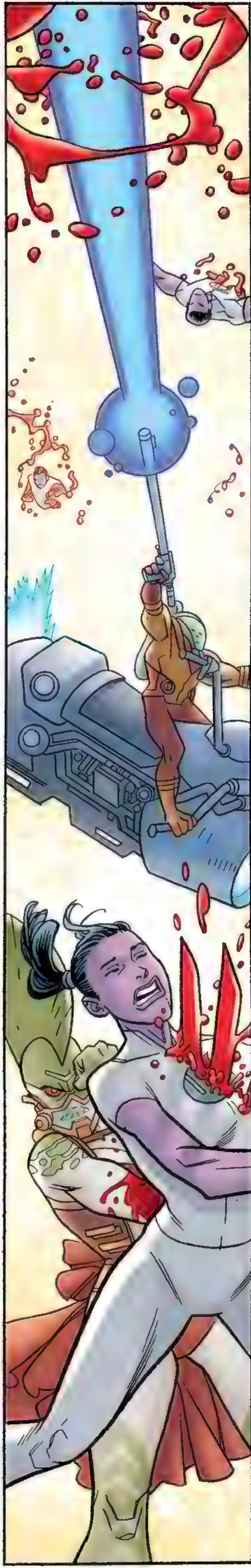


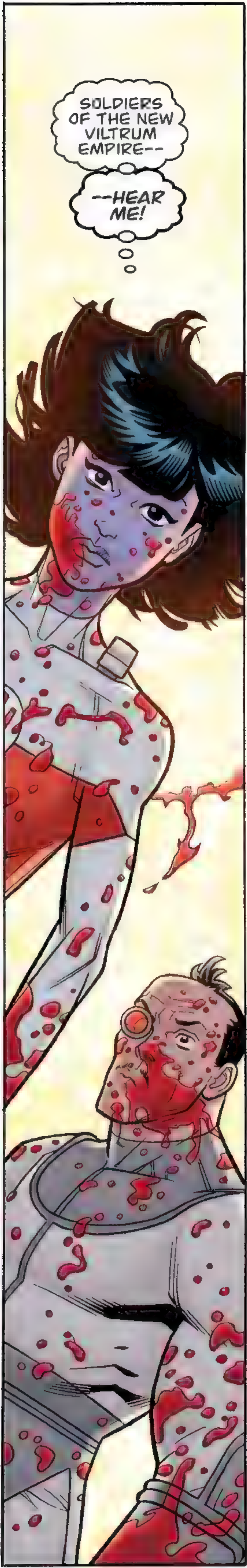
AND THUS--
OUR REIGN
WILL NEVER
END.

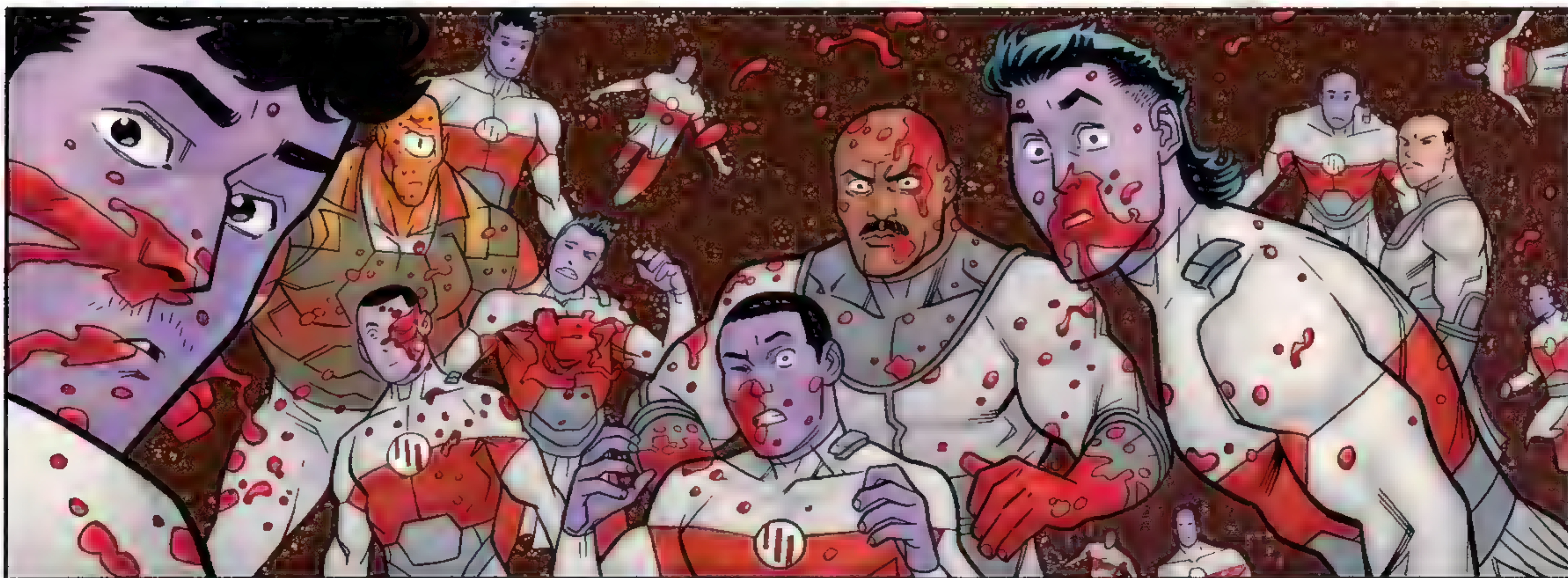
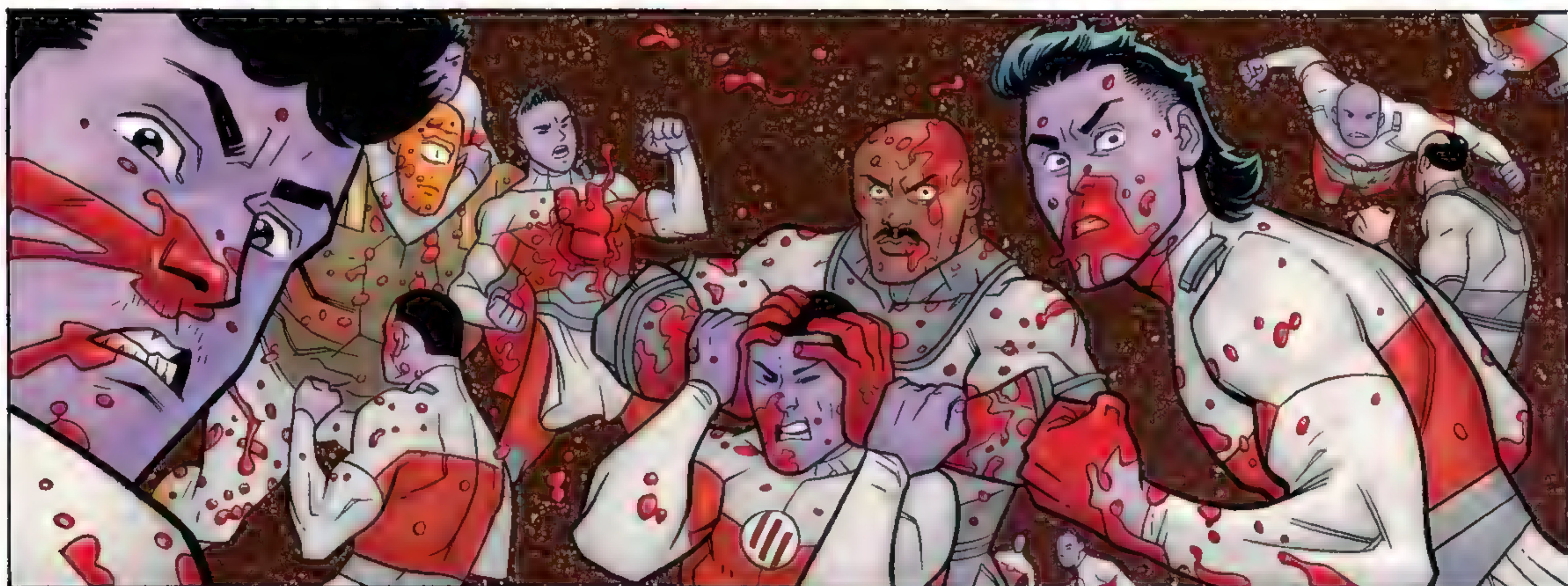
CHILDREN--
TO ME!

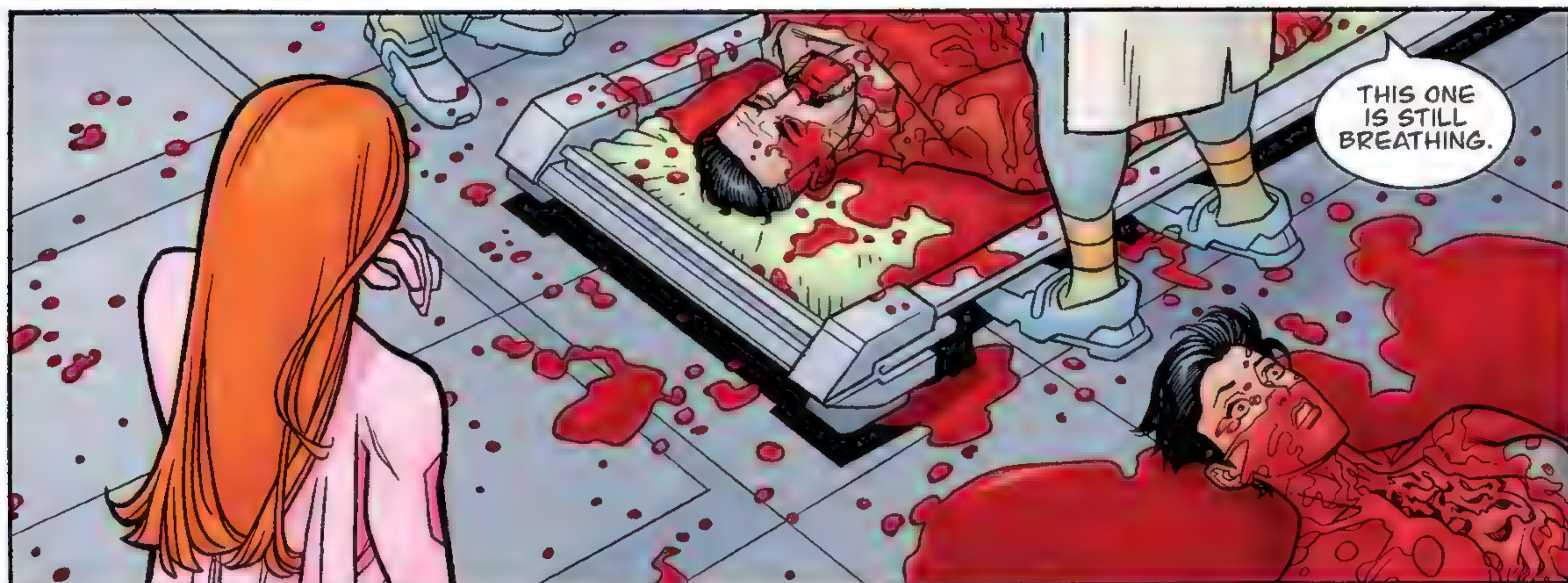
















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WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO ACCOMPLISH, THEN?!

IF THE VILTRUM EMPIRE IS DEAD-- IF YOU DON'T SEE ANY HOPE FOR OUR PEOPLE--WHY BUILD THE ARMY?! WHY CONQUER PLANETS?!

WHAT'S THE POINT OF IT ALL?



ISN'T IT OBVIOUS?

REVENGE.



YOU AND YOUR FATHER... CHOSEN, GIFTED WITH THE BLOOD OF ARGALL, DESTINED TO RULE THE EMPIRE... AFTER I DEVOTED MY ENTIRE LIFE TO SAFEGUARDING IT!

I'M SUPPOSED TO BOW TO THE SCUM WHO OBLITERATED OUR HOME PLANET?!

I'M EXPECTED TO STEP ASIDE WHILE YOU ASSUME COMMAND?!



NO.

I'LL SEE YOUR TRAITOROUS BLOODLINE ERASED FROM HISTORY!

I'LL--



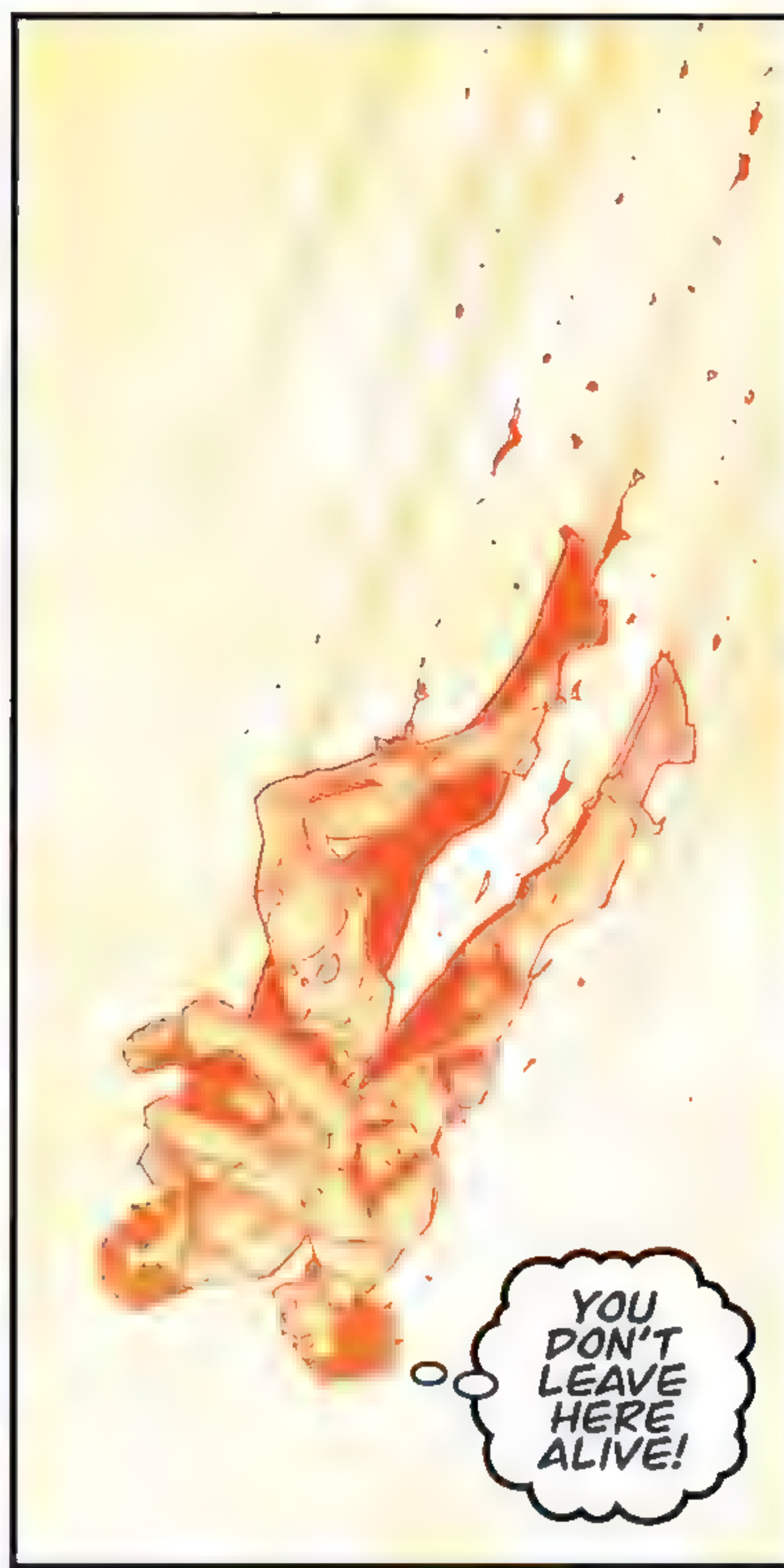


I'LL LEAVE YOU TO BURN IF THAT'S WHAT YOU WISH. I HAVE MANY MORE OF THOSE YOU CARE ABOUT I'D LIKE TO KILL BEFORE THIS IS OVER.

I CAN'T ALLOW MY INFERIOR OFFSPRING TO HAVE ALL THE FUN.



NO!



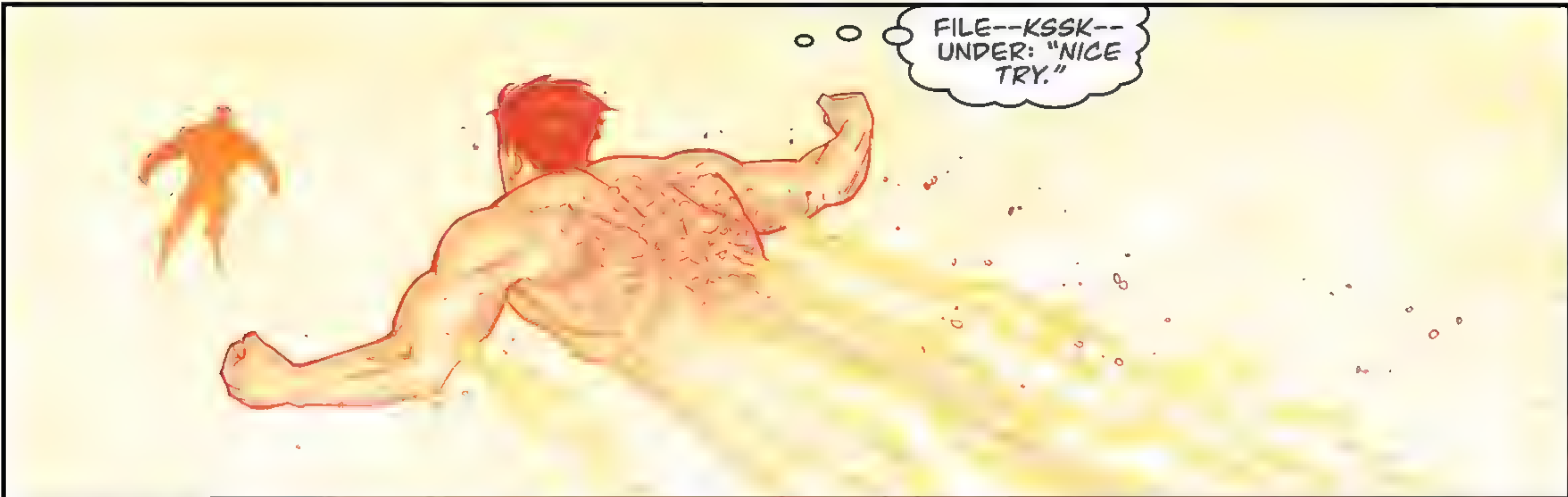
YOU DON'T LEAVE HERE ALIVE!



EVEN IF KILLING YOU KILLS ME--- I WON'T GIVE UP!

I ALWAYS WELCOME A CHALLENGE.









I WISH YOU
COULD HEAR
ME.

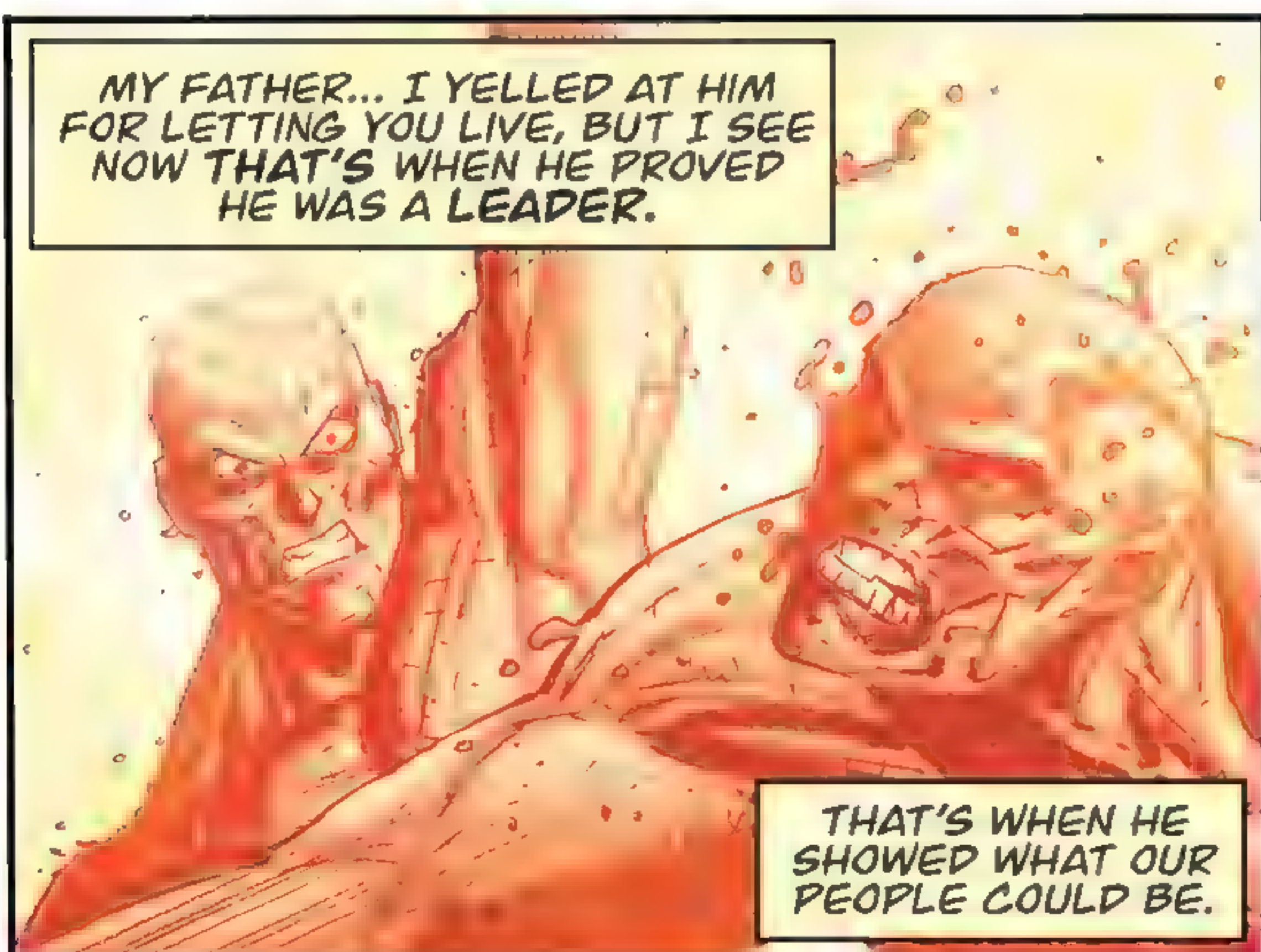
BECAUSE I JUST FIGURED
OUT WHY I'M GOING TO WIN
AND YOU'RE DEFINITELY
GOING TO LOSE.



YOU'RE FIGHTING FOR
REVENGE? SO YOU
CAN BE THE BEST?
SO YOU CAN LEAD?
YOU'RE FIGHTING FOR
NOTHING.

I'M FIGHTING FOR MY FAMILY,
MY PEOPLE... OUR PEOPLE,
YOUR PEOPLE--HELL, EVEN
YOUR ARMY THAT'S
FIGHTING AGAINST ME.

I WANT ALL OF THIS
TO STOP--I WANT
ALL OF US TO LIVE.



MY FATHER... I YELLED AT HIM
FOR LETTING YOU LIVE, BUT I SEE
NOW THAT'S WHEN HE PROVED
HE WAS A LEADER.

THAT'S WHEN HE
SHOWED WHAT OUR
PEOPLE COULD BE.



YOU... YOU SORRY SACK
OF SHIT. YOU NEVER
SAW OUR POTENTIAL.



YOU---

OH, GOD...



DO YOU KNOW
WHAT THIS
MEANS?



DO YOU
GET IT?



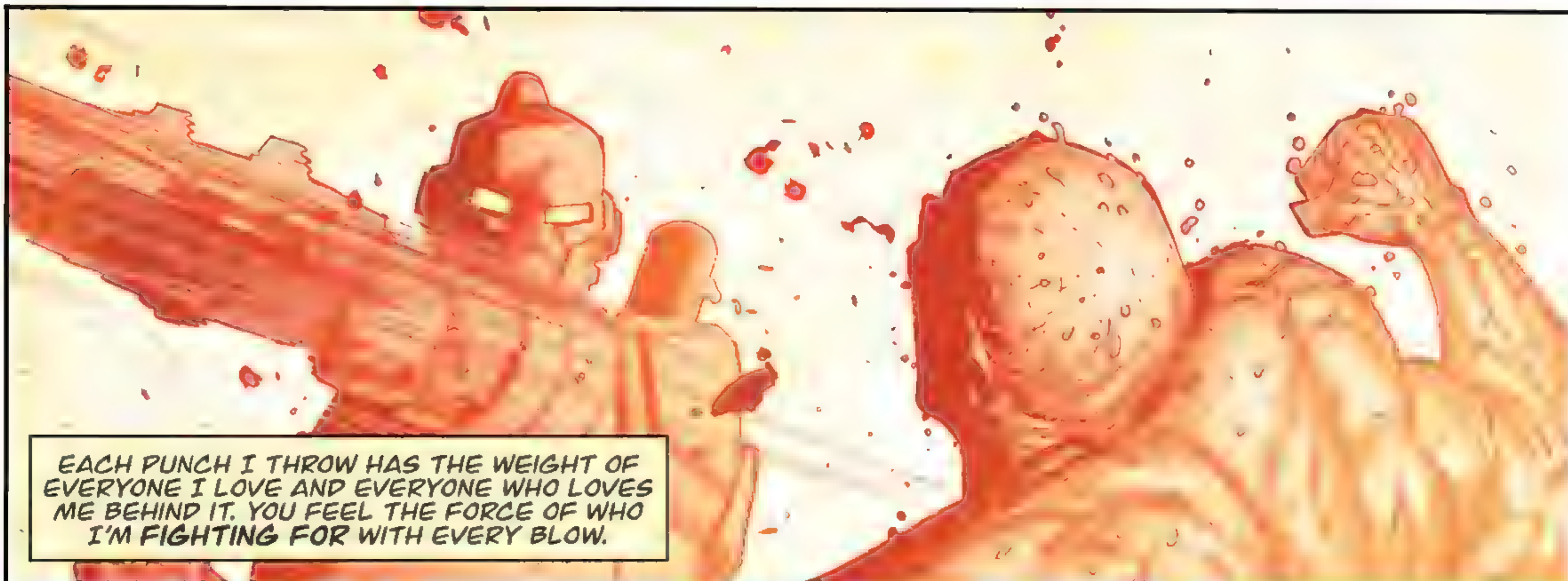
MY ENEMY HAS SENT HIS
OUTERMOST PROTECTIVE
SHELL TO HELP ME.

I ONLY WISH I
KNEW HOW TO USE
THIS THING--
IT HAS WEAPONS
THAT COULD HURT
EVEN YOU. STILL,
THIS WILL PROTECT
ME FOR A FEW
MOMENTS BEFORE
IT COMPLETELY
MELTS.

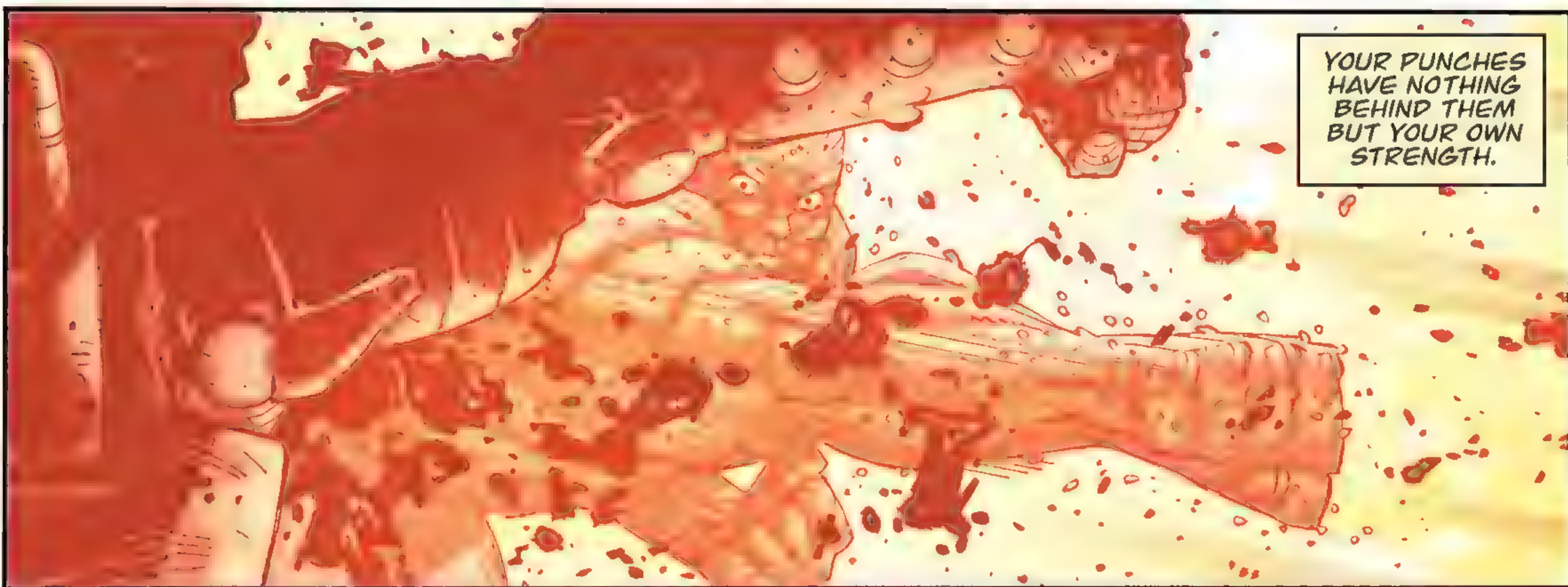
WHERE IS
YOUR HELP?



YOUR OWN CHILDREN
AREN'T COMING TO HELP
YOU, ARE THEY? NO ONE
CARES ABOUT YOU.



EACH PUNCH I THROW HAS THE WEIGHT OF
EVERYONE I LOVE AND EVERYONE WHO LOVES
ME BEHIND IT. YOU FEEL THE FORCE OF WHO
I'M FIGHTING FOR WITH EVERY BLOW.



YOUR PUNCHES
HAVE NOTHING
BEHIND THEM
BUT YOUR OWN
STRENGTH.



BECAUSE YOU'RE
A VILTRUMITE
WHO CLINGS TO
THE OLD WAYS.

YOU VALUE AND
RESPECT ONLY
STRENGTH. YOU FEEL
ONLY THE **STRONG**
DESERVE TO LIVE.

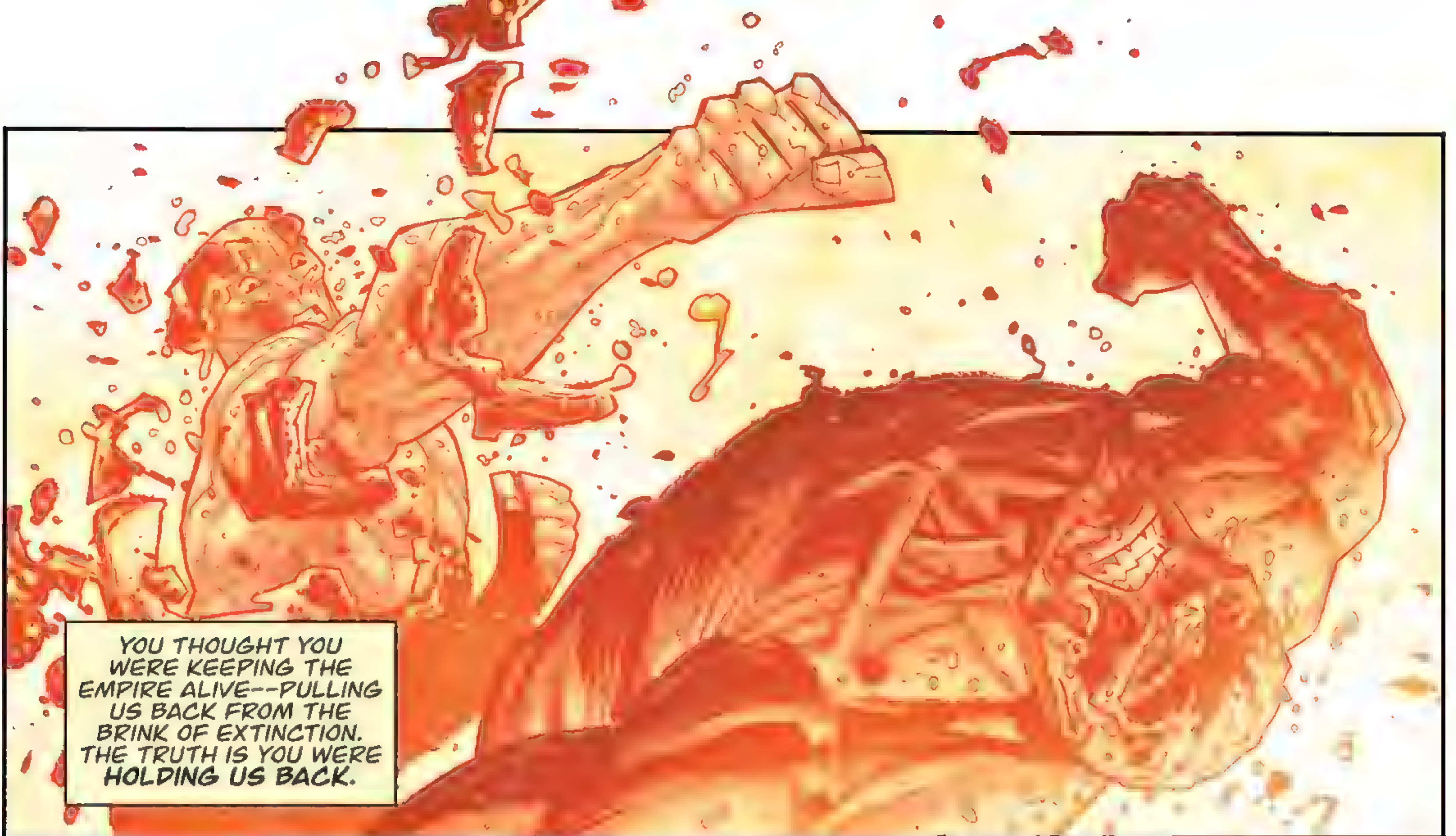
YOU CLING TO
PRACTICES THAT
PUSHED OUR PEOPLE
TO THE BRINK OF
EXTINCTION.

YOU SEE US AS
PEOPLE LIVING ONLY
FOR CONQUEST,
MEASURED ONLY BY
THE SIZE OF OUR
EMPIRE.

NO ROOM FOR PEACE.

NO ROOM FOR COMPASSION.

NO ROOM FOR LOVE.



YOU THOUGHT YOU
WERE KEEPING THE
EMPIRE ALIVE--PULLING
US BACK FROM THE
BRINK OF EXTINCTION.
THE TRUTH IS YOU WERE
HOLDING US BACK.



UNDER YOUR
LEADERSHIP THE
VILTRUMITES STOOD
FOR NOTHING...



...FOUGHT FOR
NOTHING.



JUST LIKE YOU.



LOOK AT WHAT THEY BECAME UNDER
MY FATHER'S LEADERSHIP. LOOK AT
HOW THEY TRANSFORMED.

YOU CAN'T SEE IT... YOU
CAN'T ALLOW YOURSELF
TO SEE IT. BUT IT'S THERE.



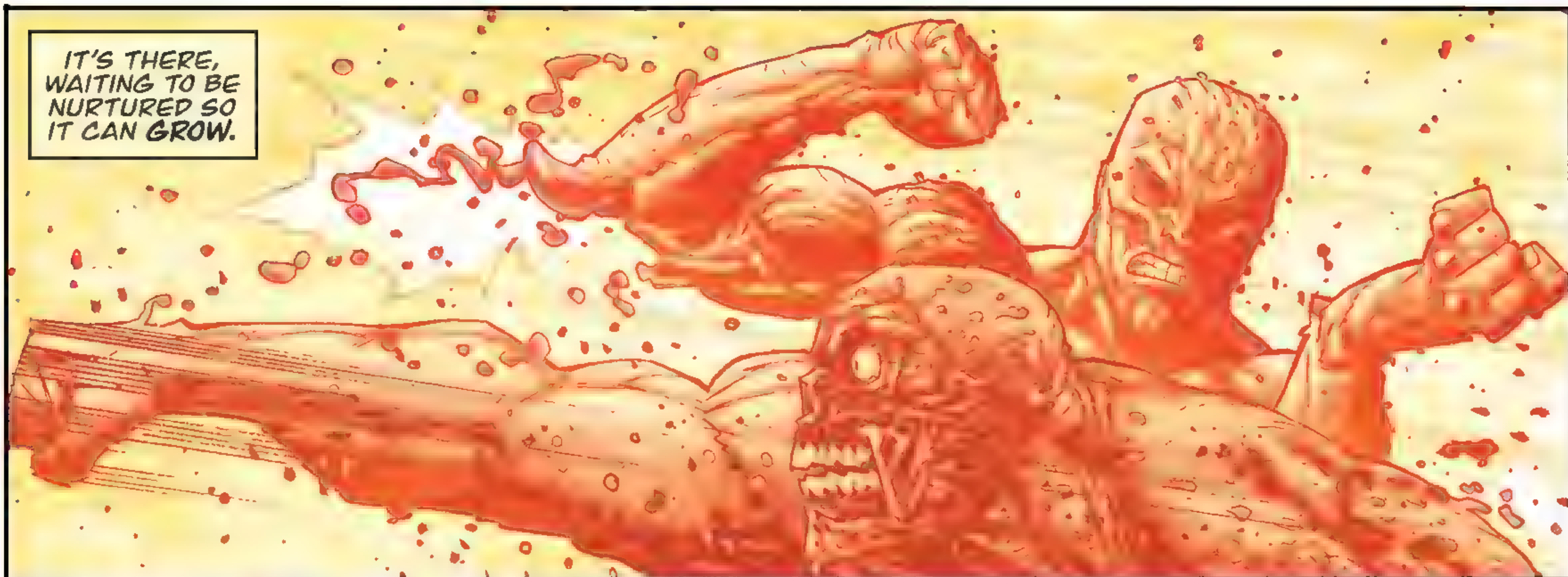
THEY'RE HERE--
THEY'RE FIGHTING FOR
EARTH--FOR THEIR
FAMILIES THERE.



IT ISN'T A HUGE SHIFT, BUT
IT'S THERE. IT SHOWS THE
POTENTIAL OF WHAT THE
VILTRUM EMPIRE CAN BE.



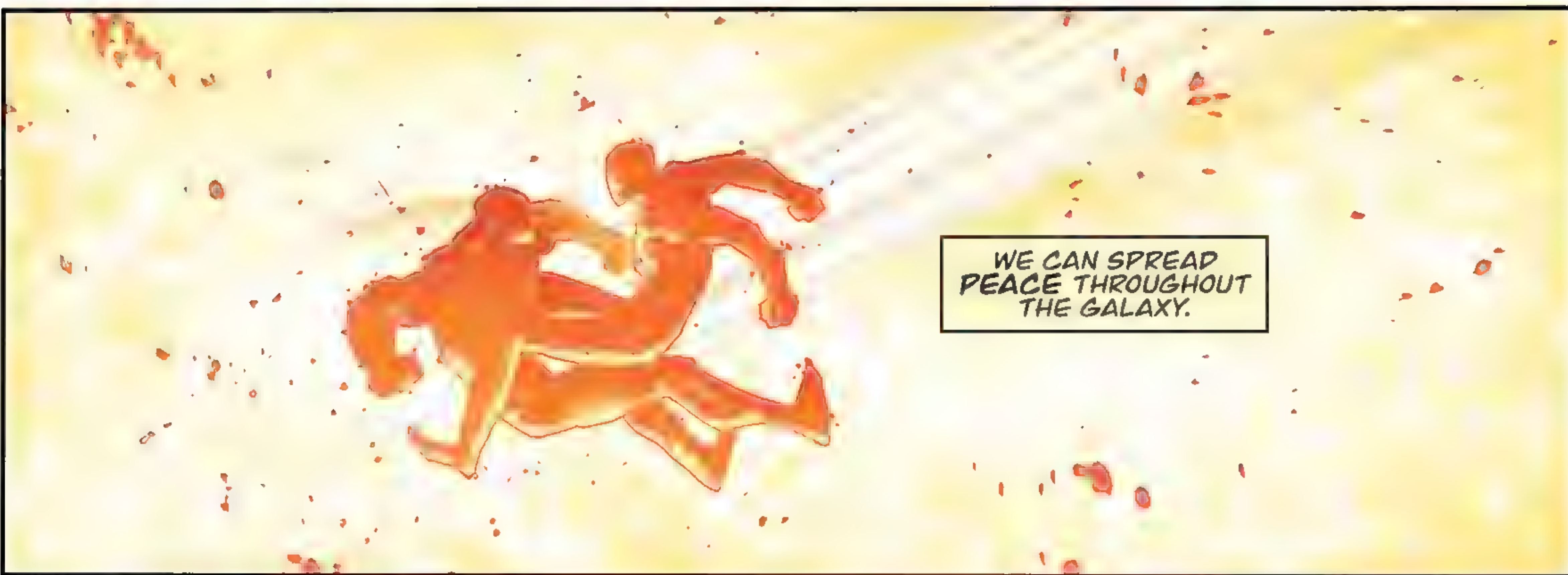
IT PROVES THERE WAS A
COMPASSION IN OUR PEOPLE...
ALWAYS THERE BENEATH THE
SURFACE, BURIED UNDER ALL
THAT STRENGTH AND FURY.



IT'S THERE,
WAITING TO BE
NURTURED SO
IT CAN GROW.



WE CAN
BE A FORCE
FOR GOOD.



WE CAN SPREAD
PEACE THROUGHOUT
THE GALAXY.



WE CAN LOVE AND BE LOVED.

WE CAN BE HAPPY.





LIKE I SAID... I WISH YOU
COULD HEAR ME. BUT
NOW YOU'RE DEAD, AND
I'LL SOON FOLLOW.

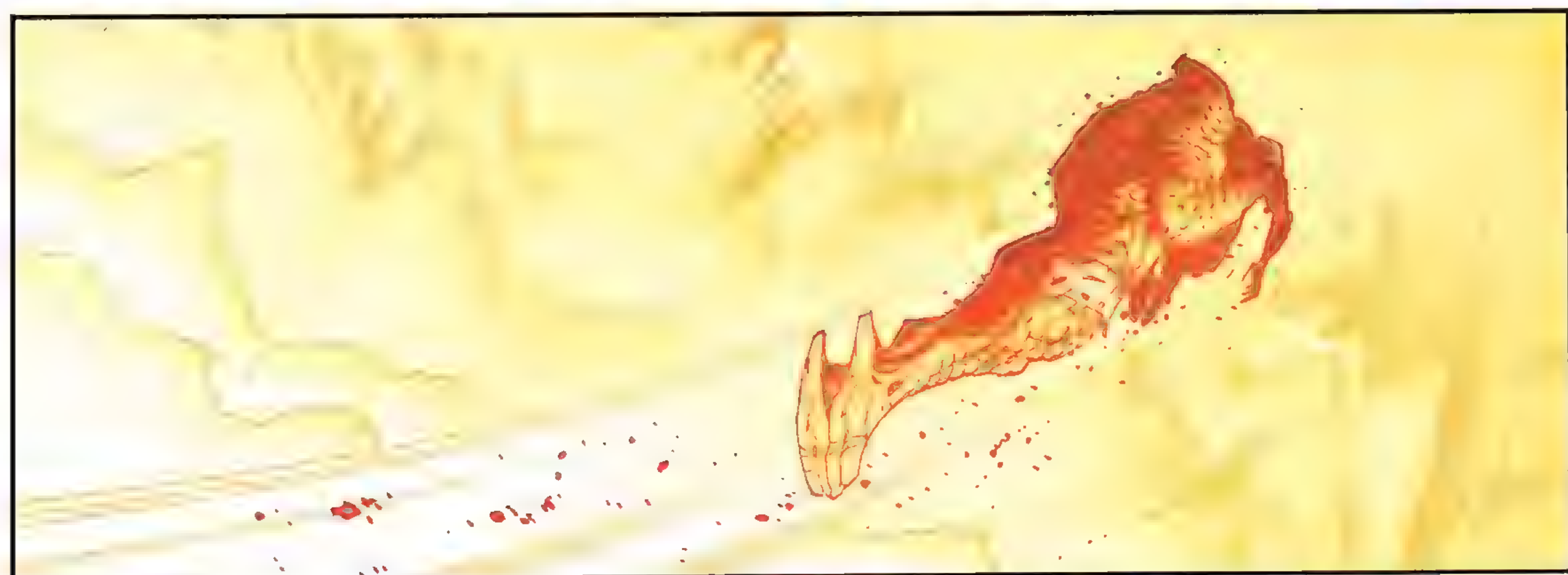
MY MIND IS RACING...
THINKING OF THE
POTENTIAL FOR WHAT
WE COULD ACHIEVE.



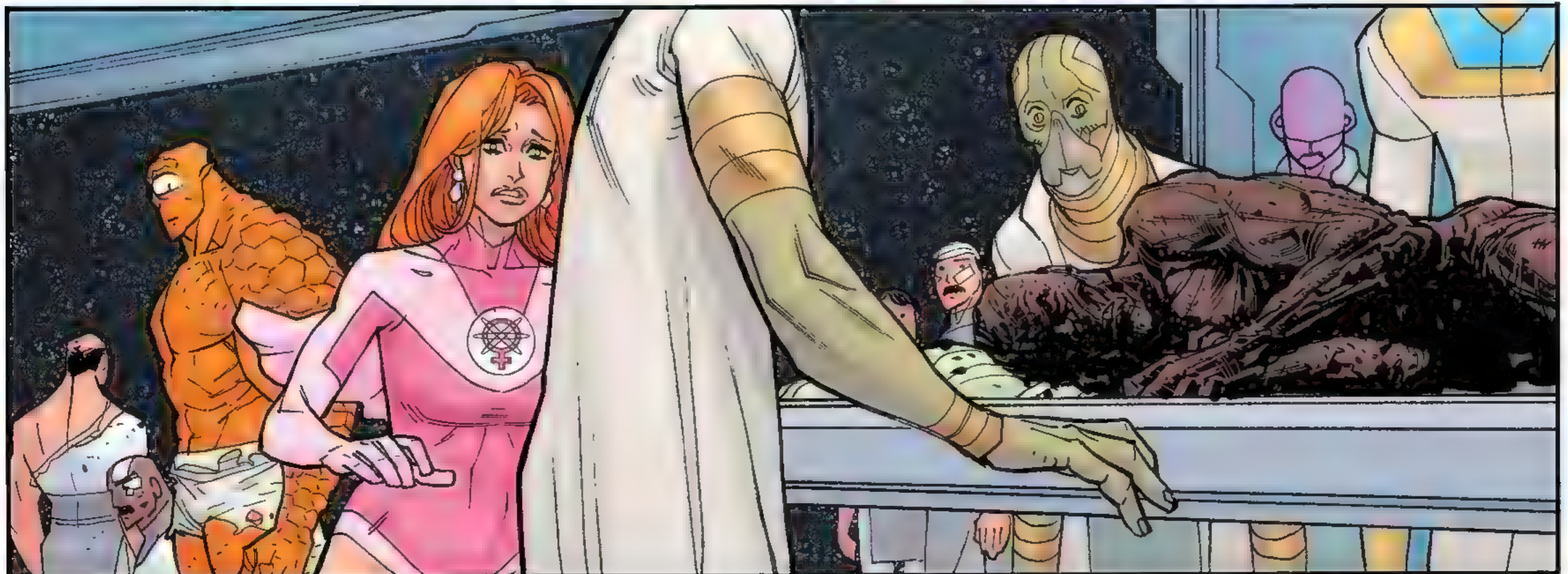
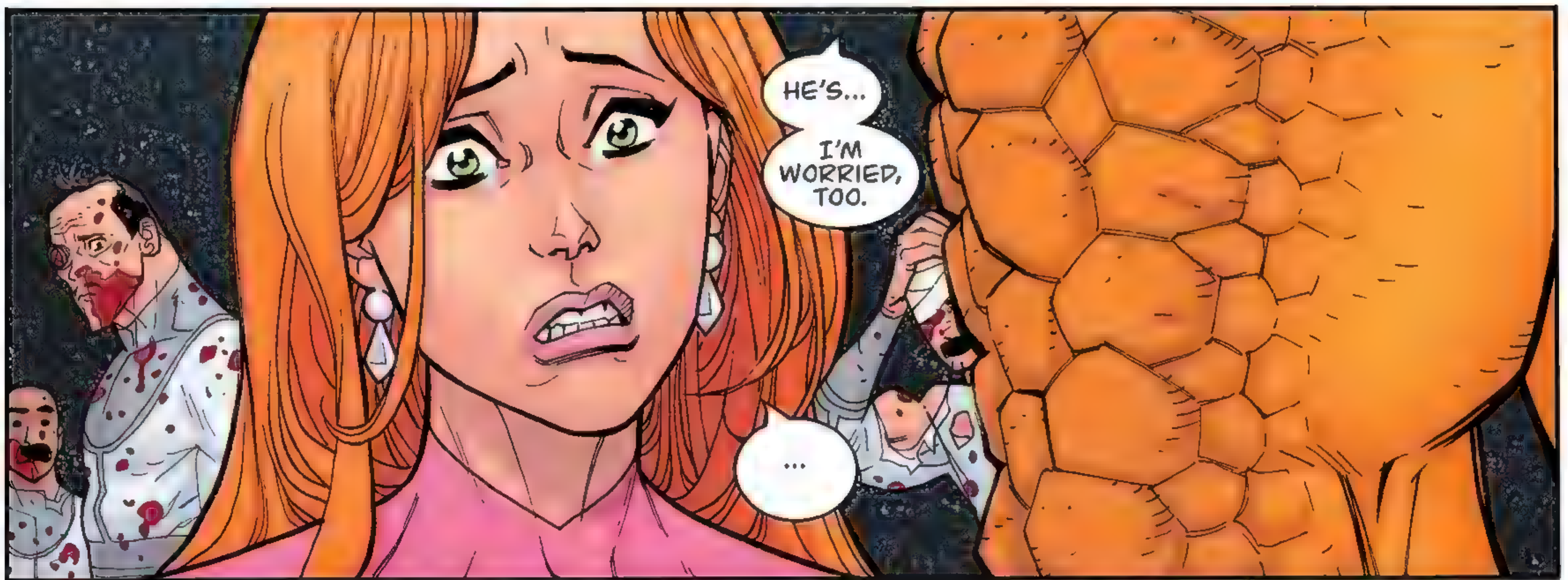
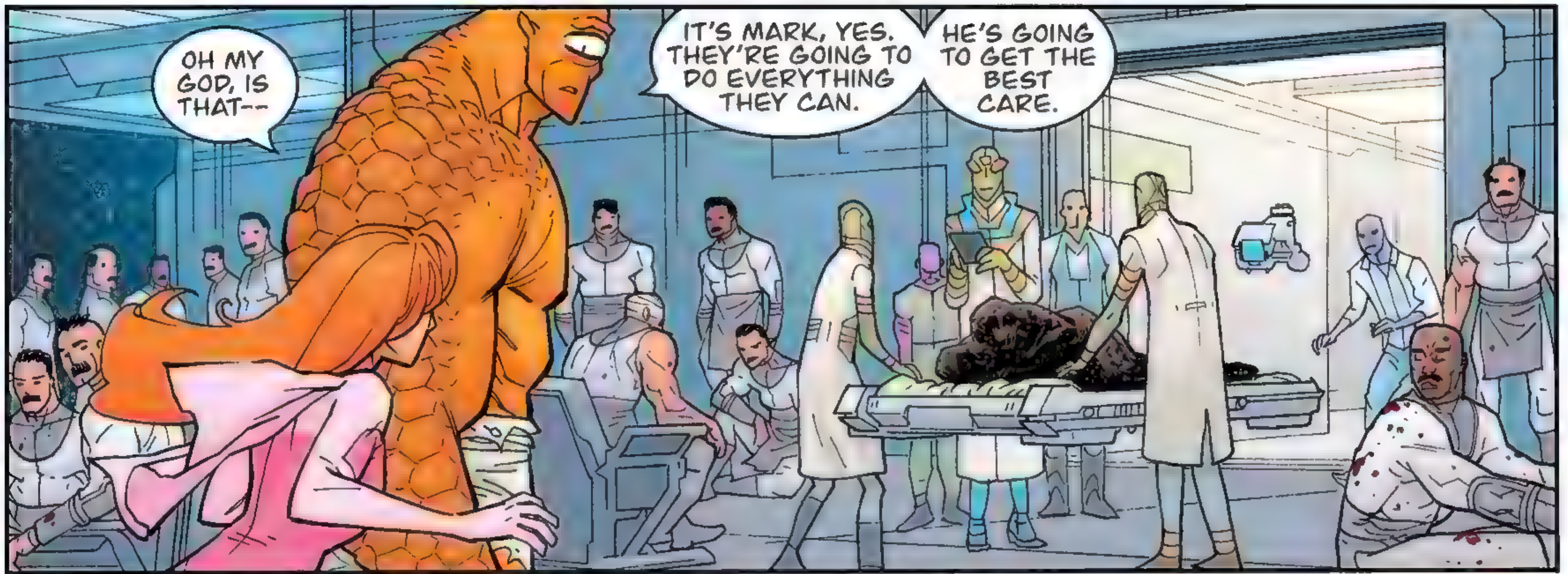
IF ONLY...

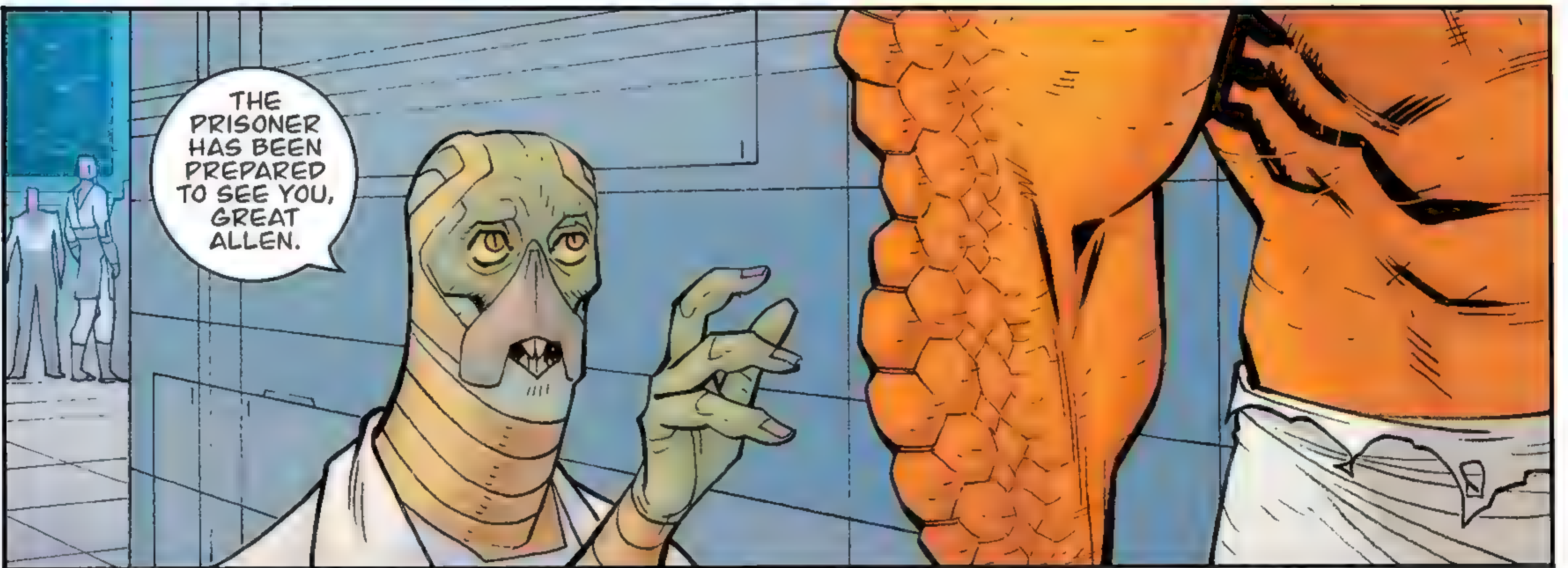


...I COULD LIVE TO SEE IT.











YOU ENDED THIS CONFLICT. THAT MEANS SOMETHING. THERE WERE CASUALTIES ON BOTH SIDES. IF YOU'RE WILLING, I'D LIKE TO BEGIN THE LONG PROCESS OF HEALING THE DIVIDE BETWEEN YOUR PEOPLE AND MINE.



MARK GRAYSON KILLED MY BROTHER... I ATTEMPTED TO KILL HIS MATE, THE MOTHER OF HIS CHILD. I PUT HIS CHILD IN DANGER.

I AM INTRIGUED BY YOUR PEOPLE... HOW THEY TREAT ONE ANOTHER, HOW THEY DEFEND EACH OTHER. I WANT OUR FIGHT TO BE AT AN END.

BUT I DO NOT HOLD OUT HOPE FOR OUR DIVIDE TO EVER TRULY BE HEALED.



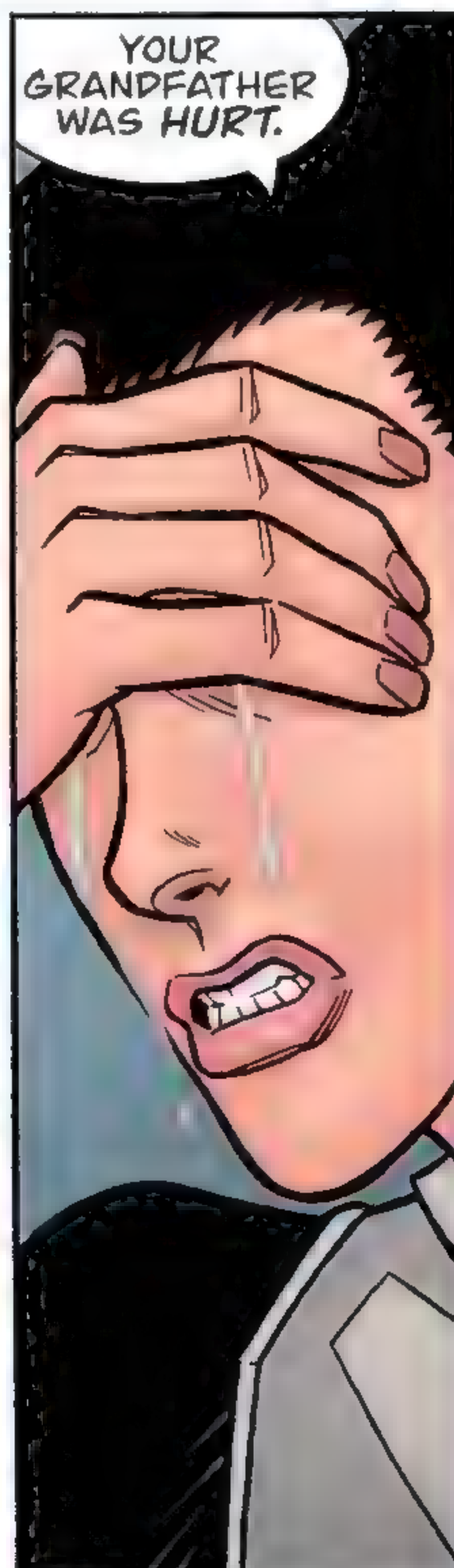
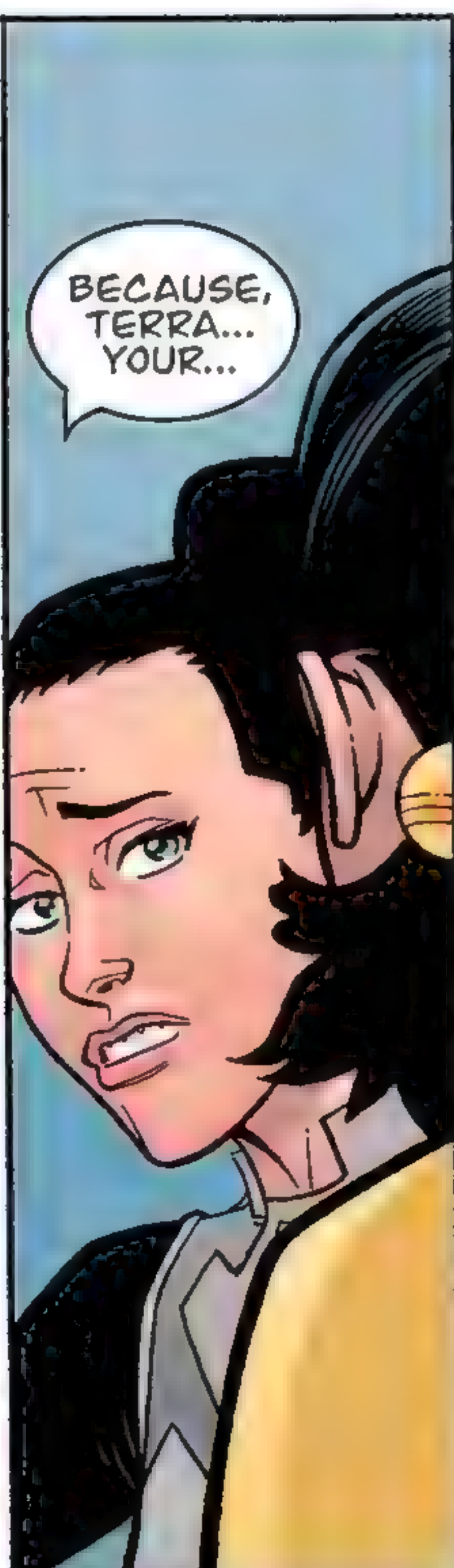
URSAAL...

...DID YOUR FATHER EVER TEACH YOUR PEOPLE THE CONCEPT OF FORGIVENESS?

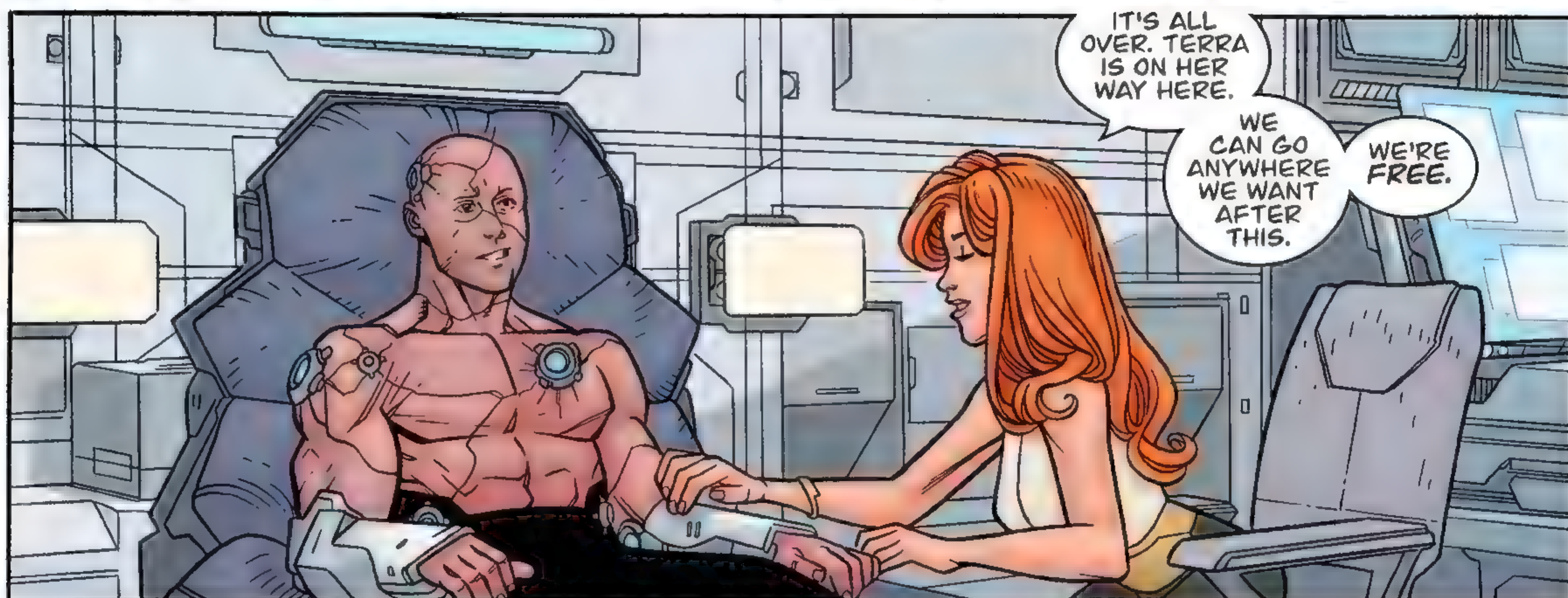


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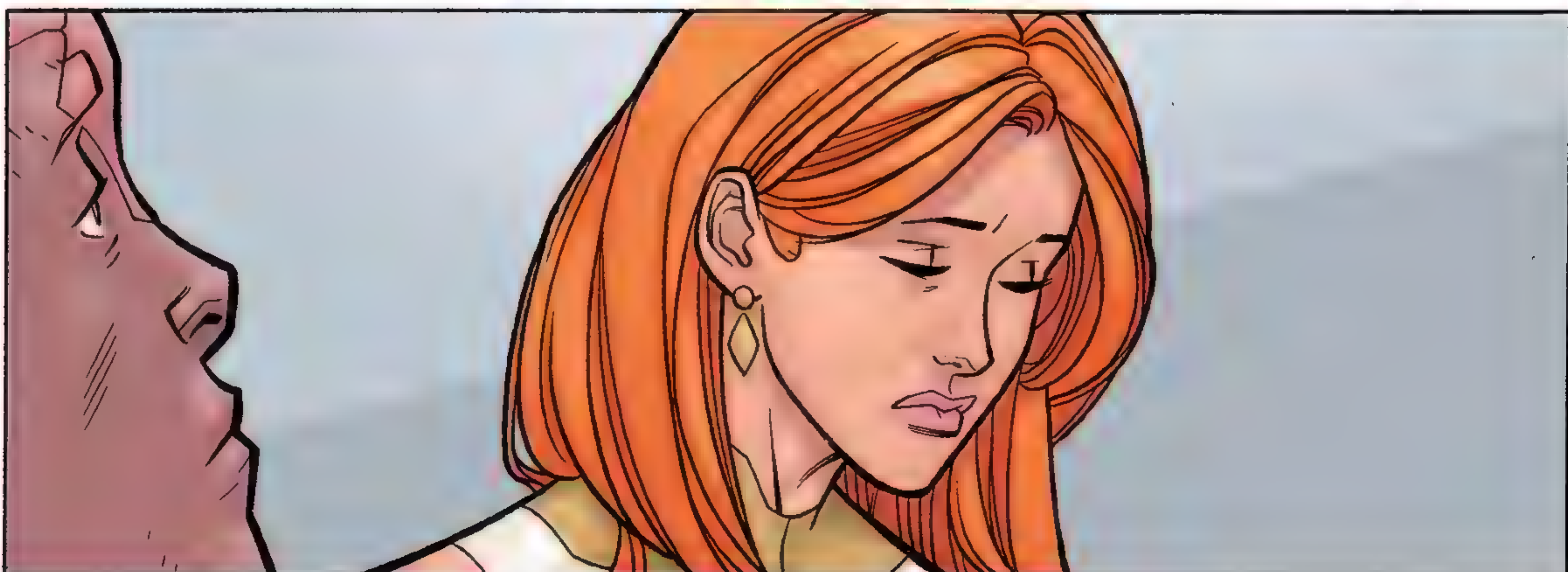
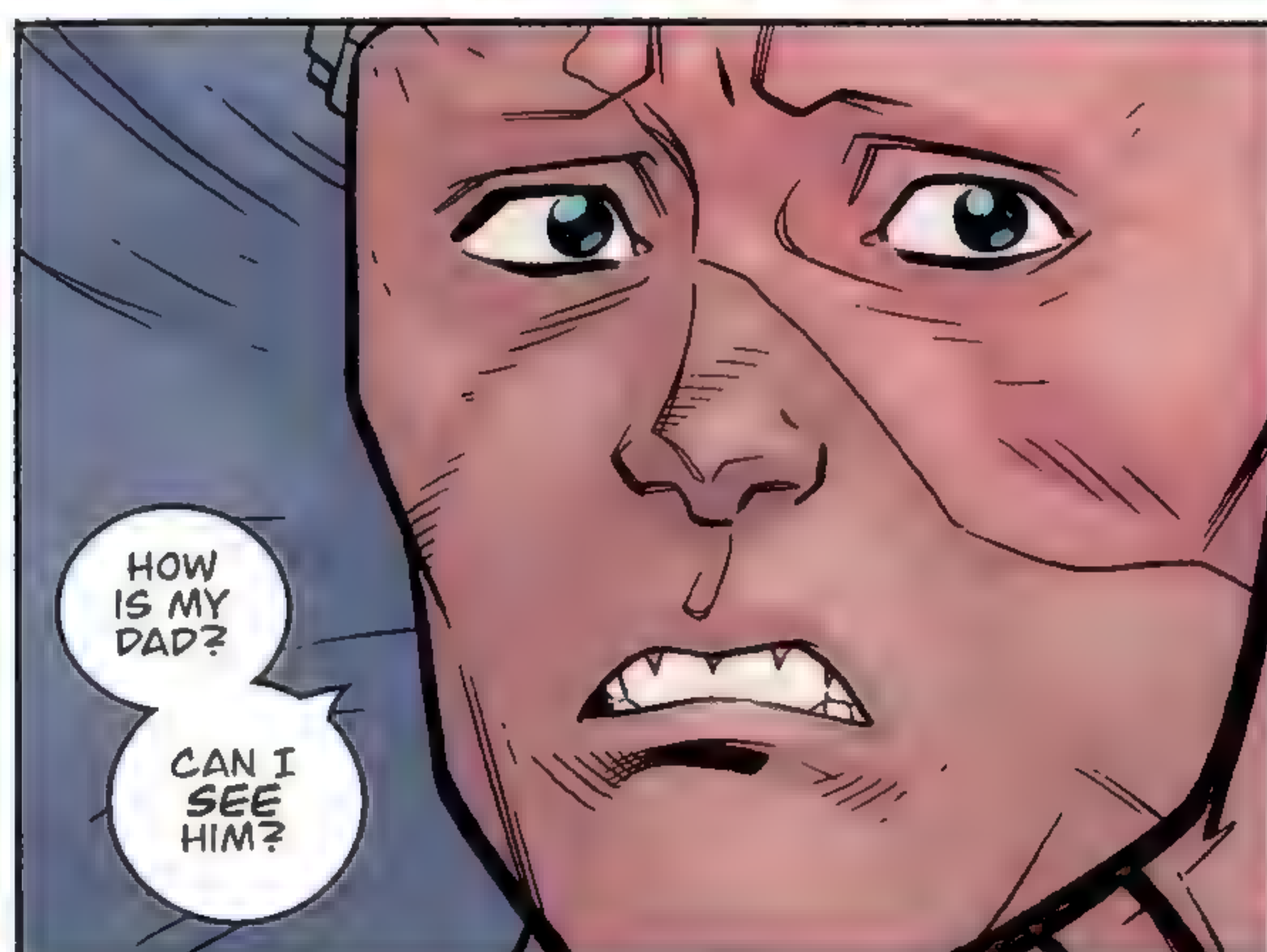
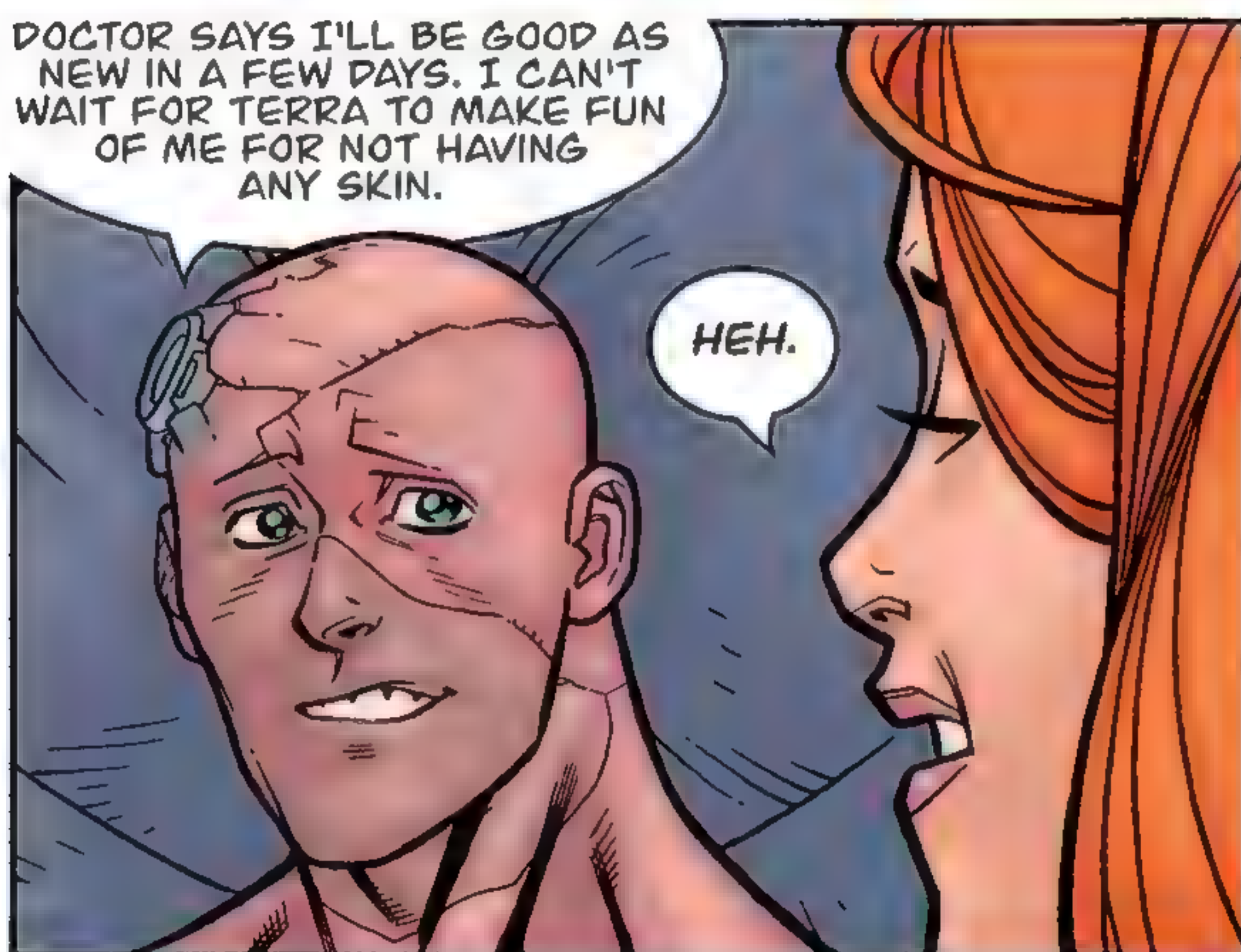


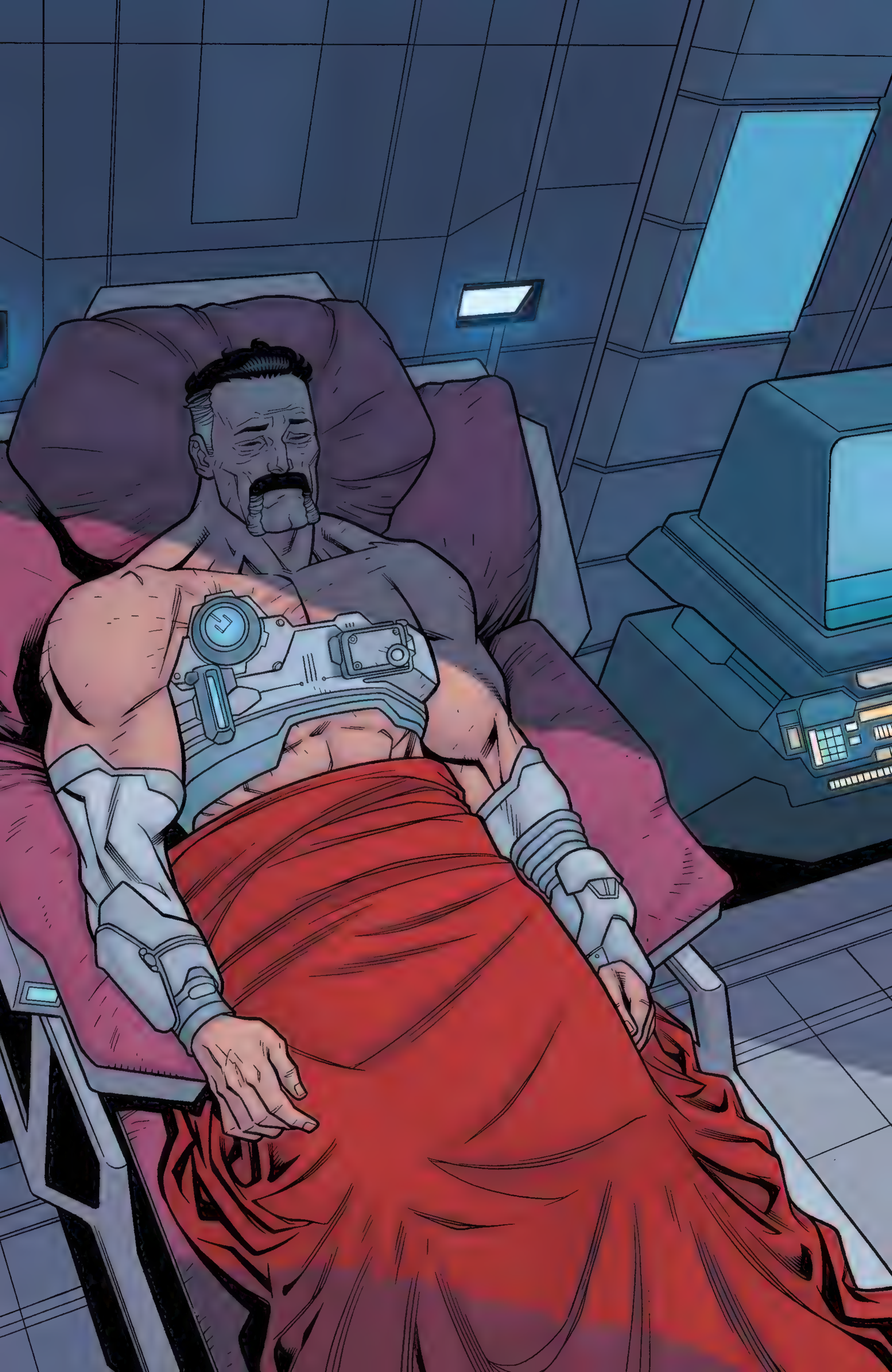


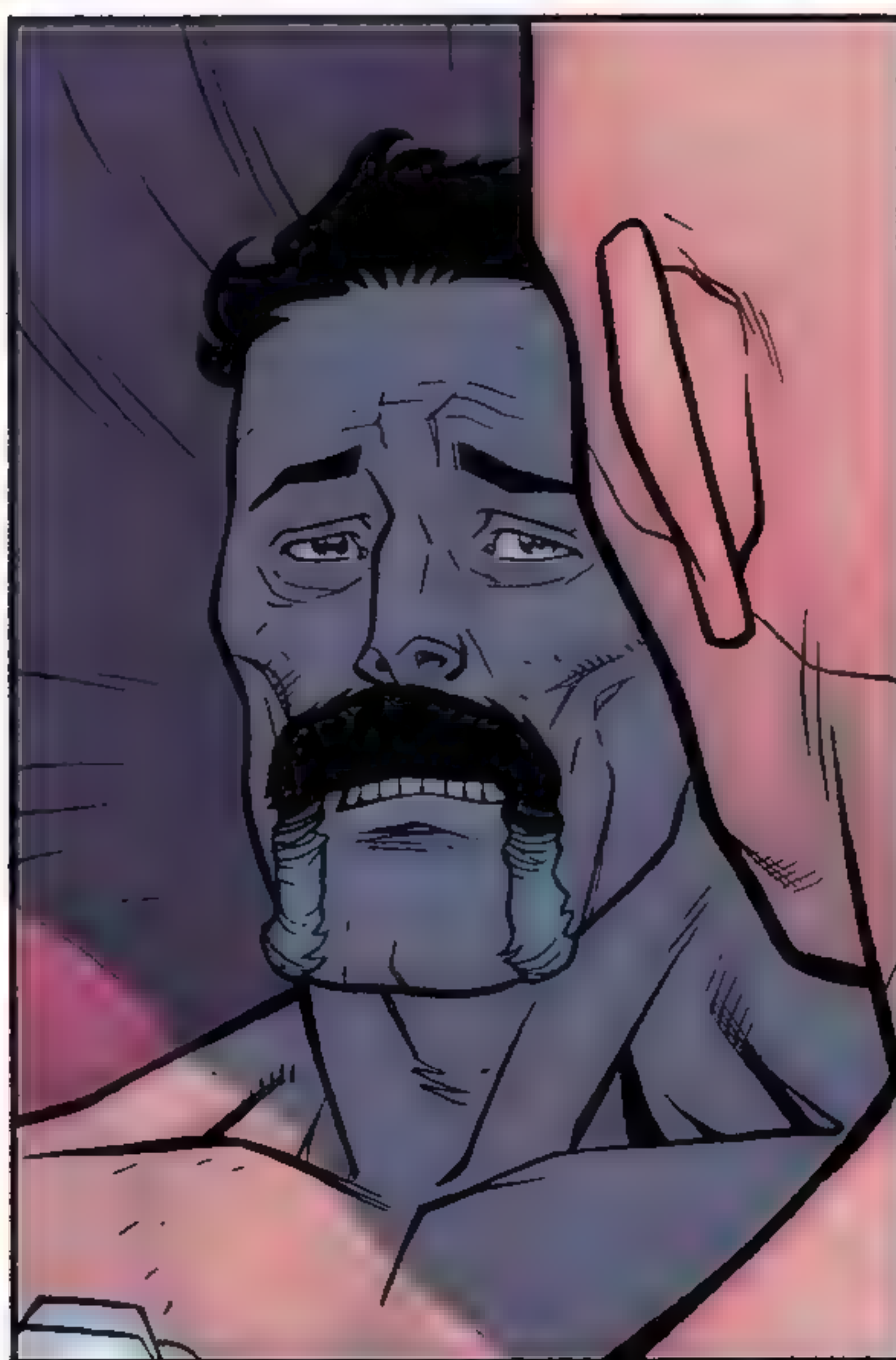
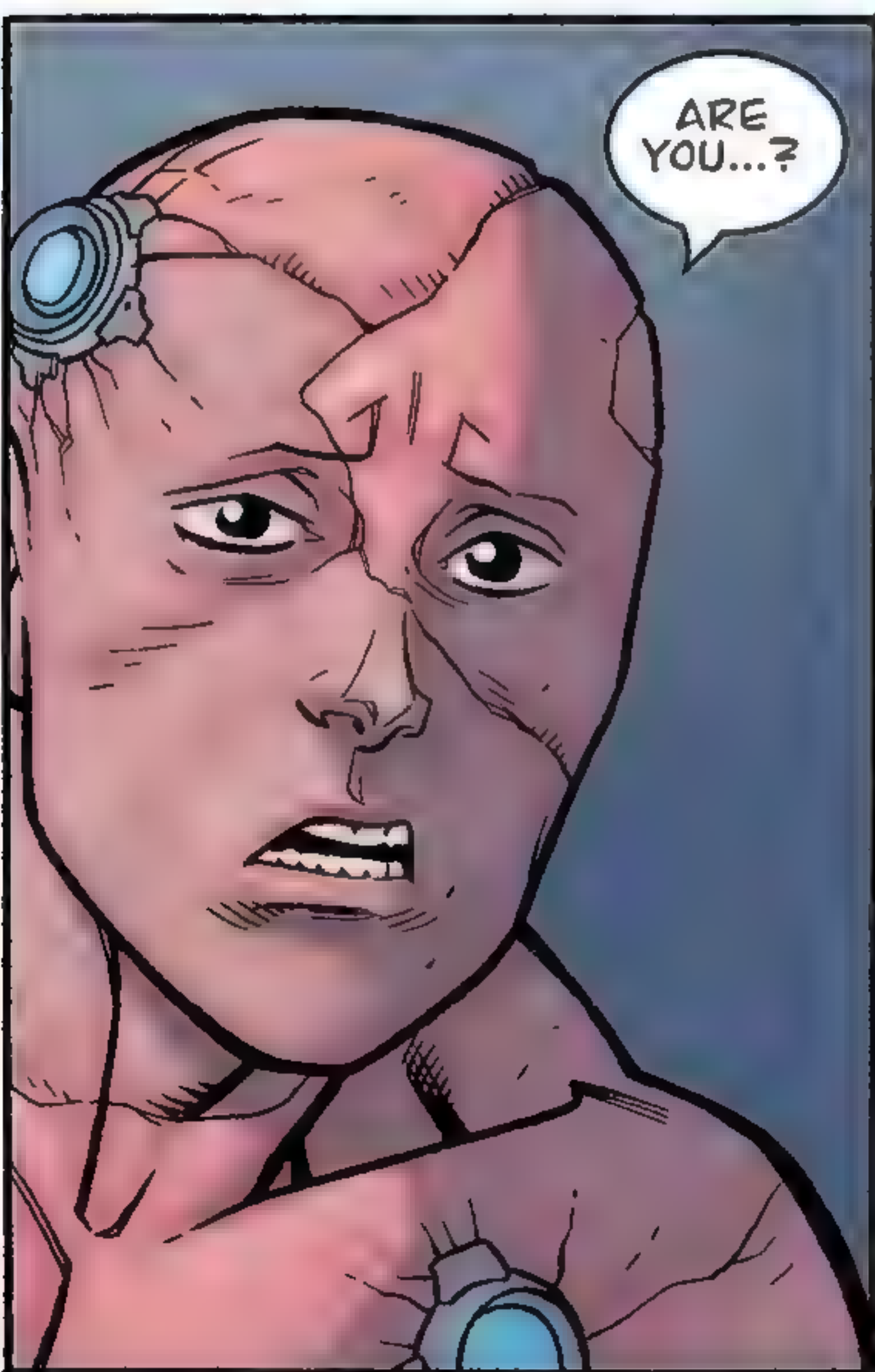


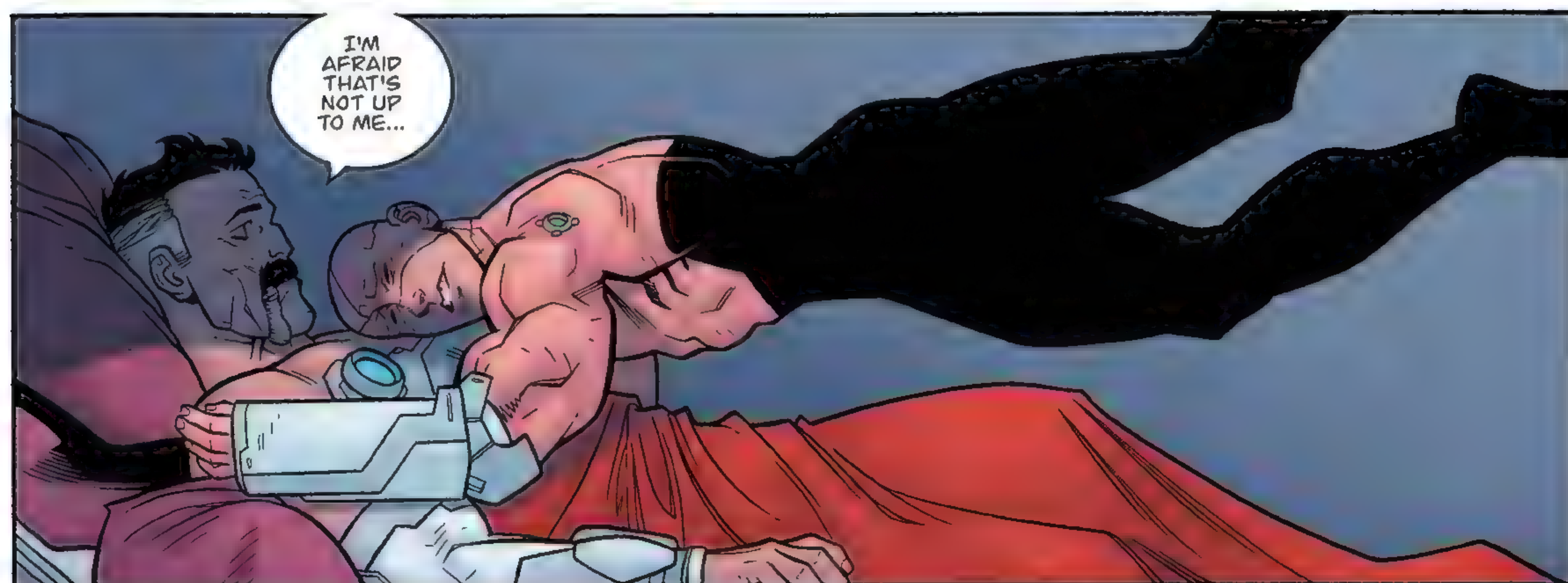
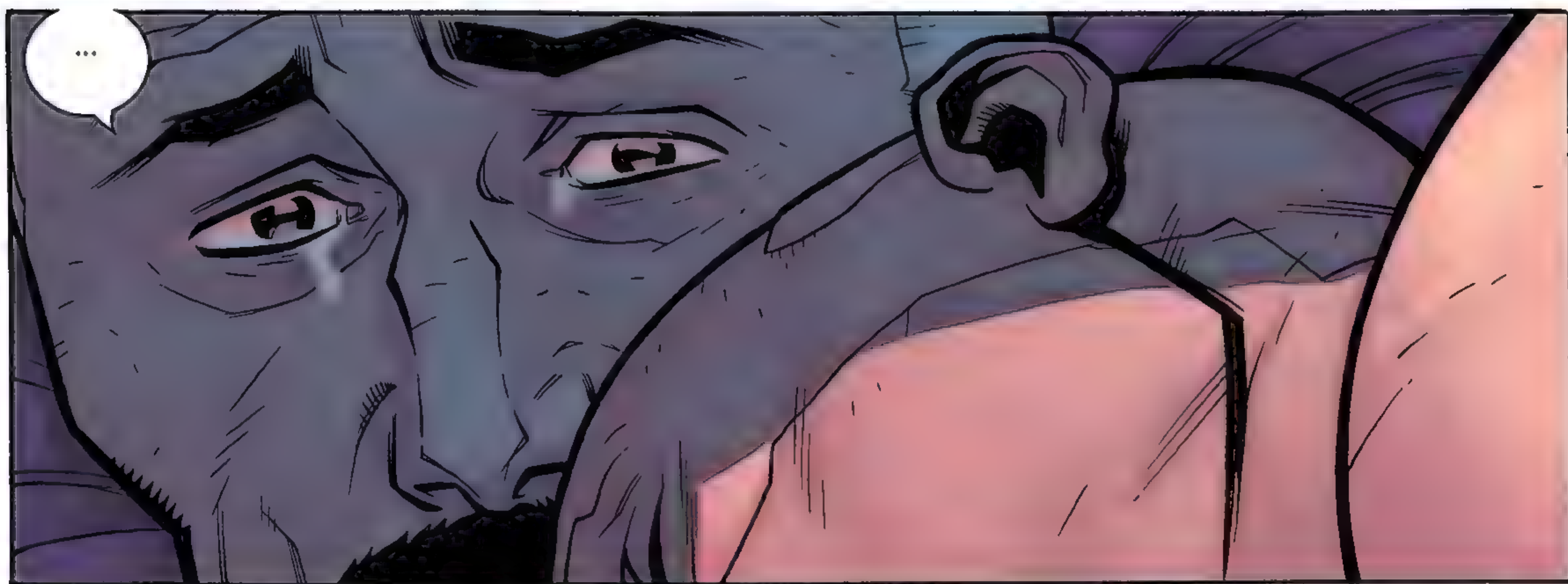


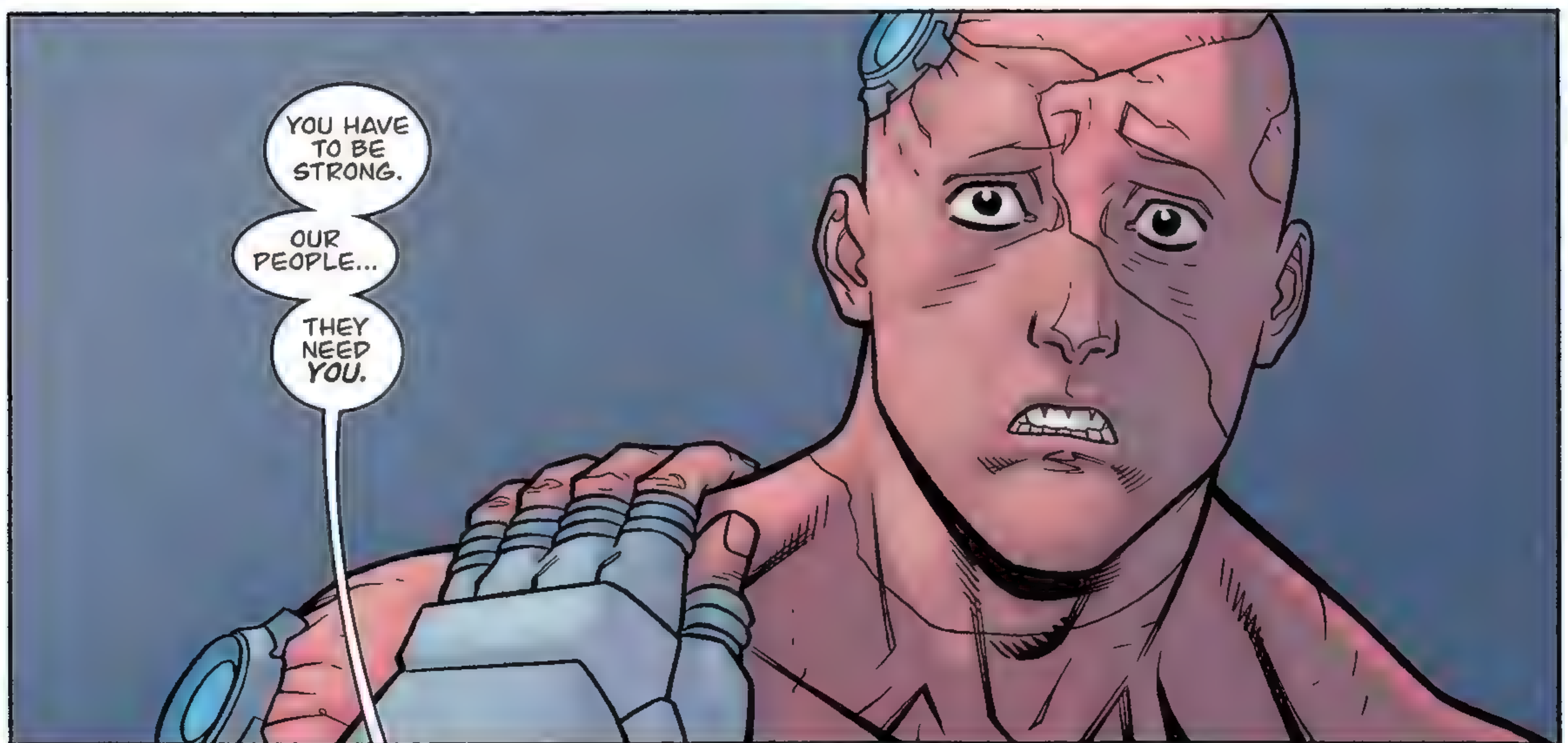
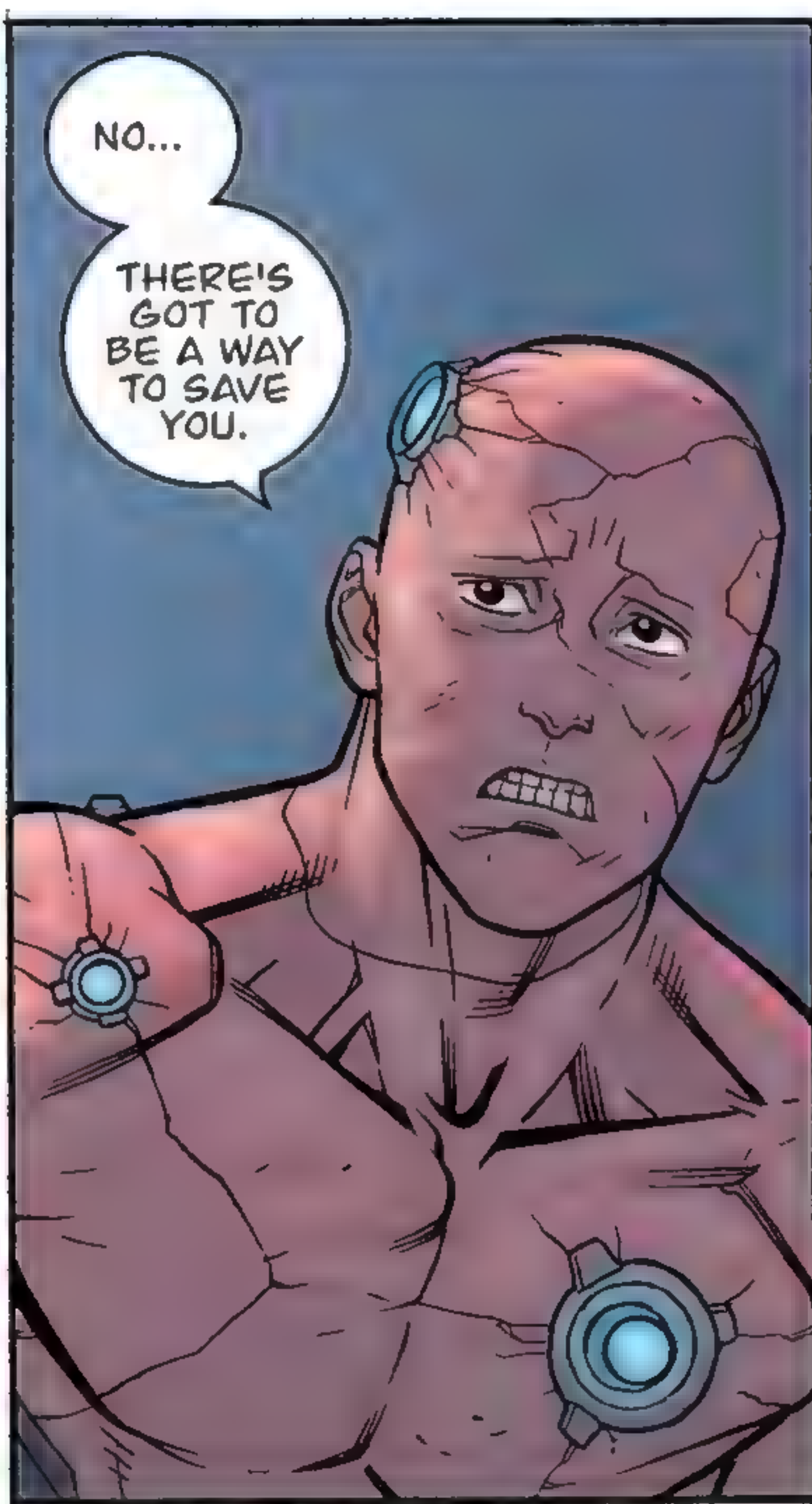
DOCTOR SAYS I'LL BE GOOD AS NEW IN A FEW DAYS. I CAN'T WAIT FOR TERRA TO MAKE FUN OF ME FOR NOT HAVING ANY SKIN.













IT'S TIME
FOR YOU TO
LEAD THE
VILTRUMITES.



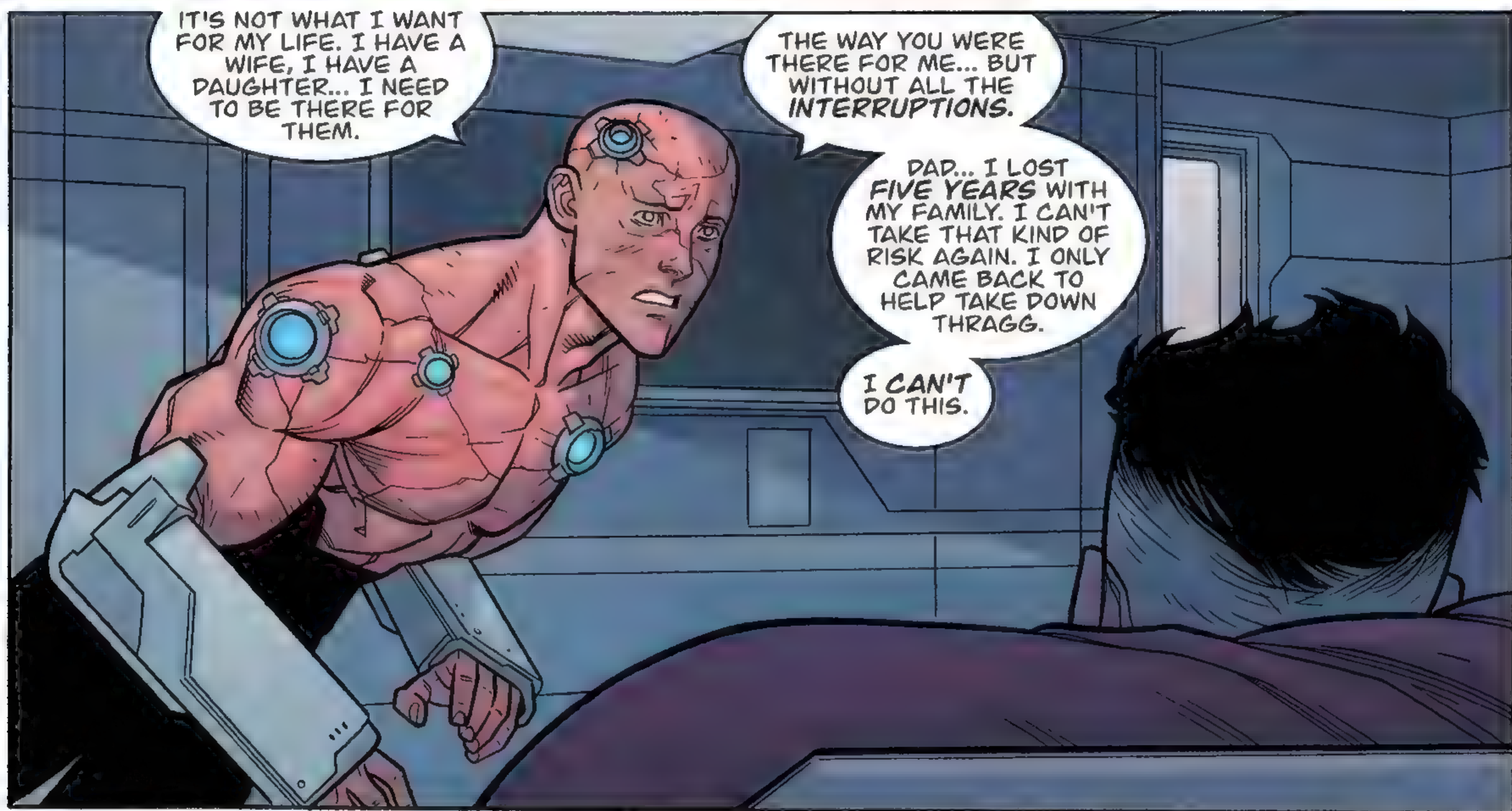
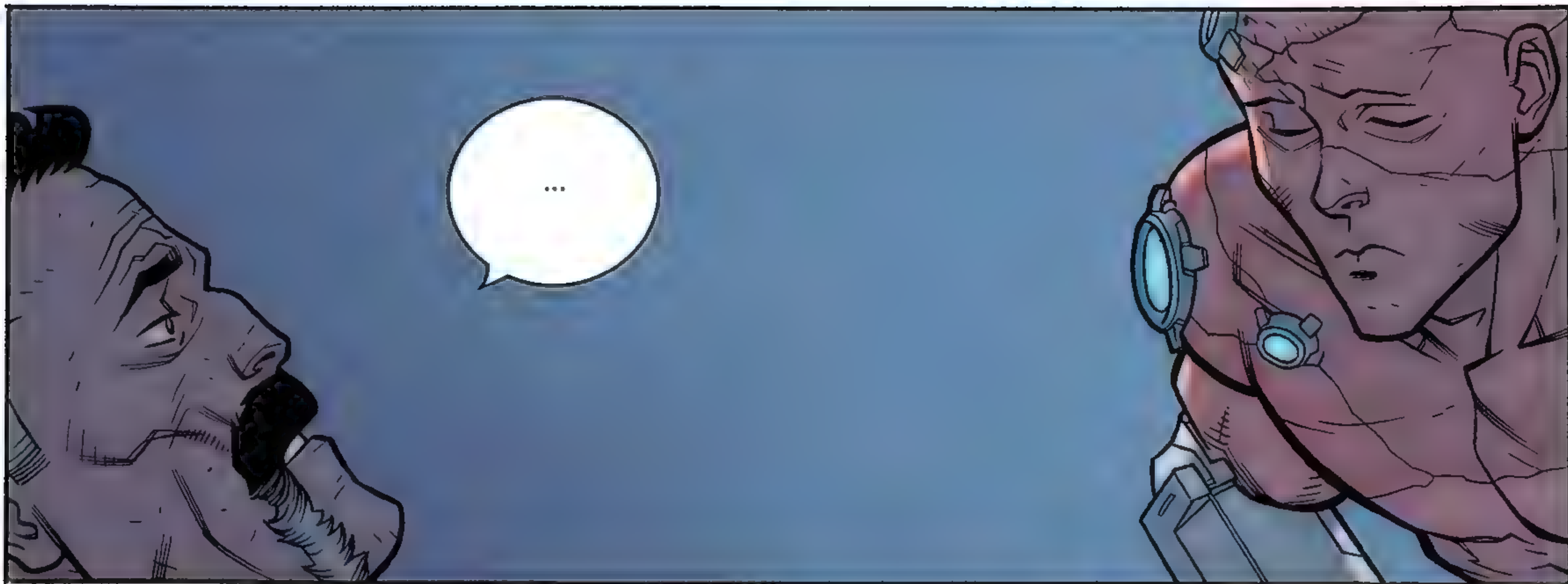
I'M NOT
READY
FOR
THAT.



YOU'RE
MORE
READY THAN
I WAS WHEN
I TOOK
OVER.



I DON'T
WANT
IT.



IT'S NOT WHAT I WANT FOR MY LIFE. I HAVE A WIFE, I HAVE A DAUGHTER... I NEED TO BE THERE FOR THEM.

THE WAY YOU WERE THERE FOR ME... BUT WITHOUT ALL THE INTERRUPTIONS.

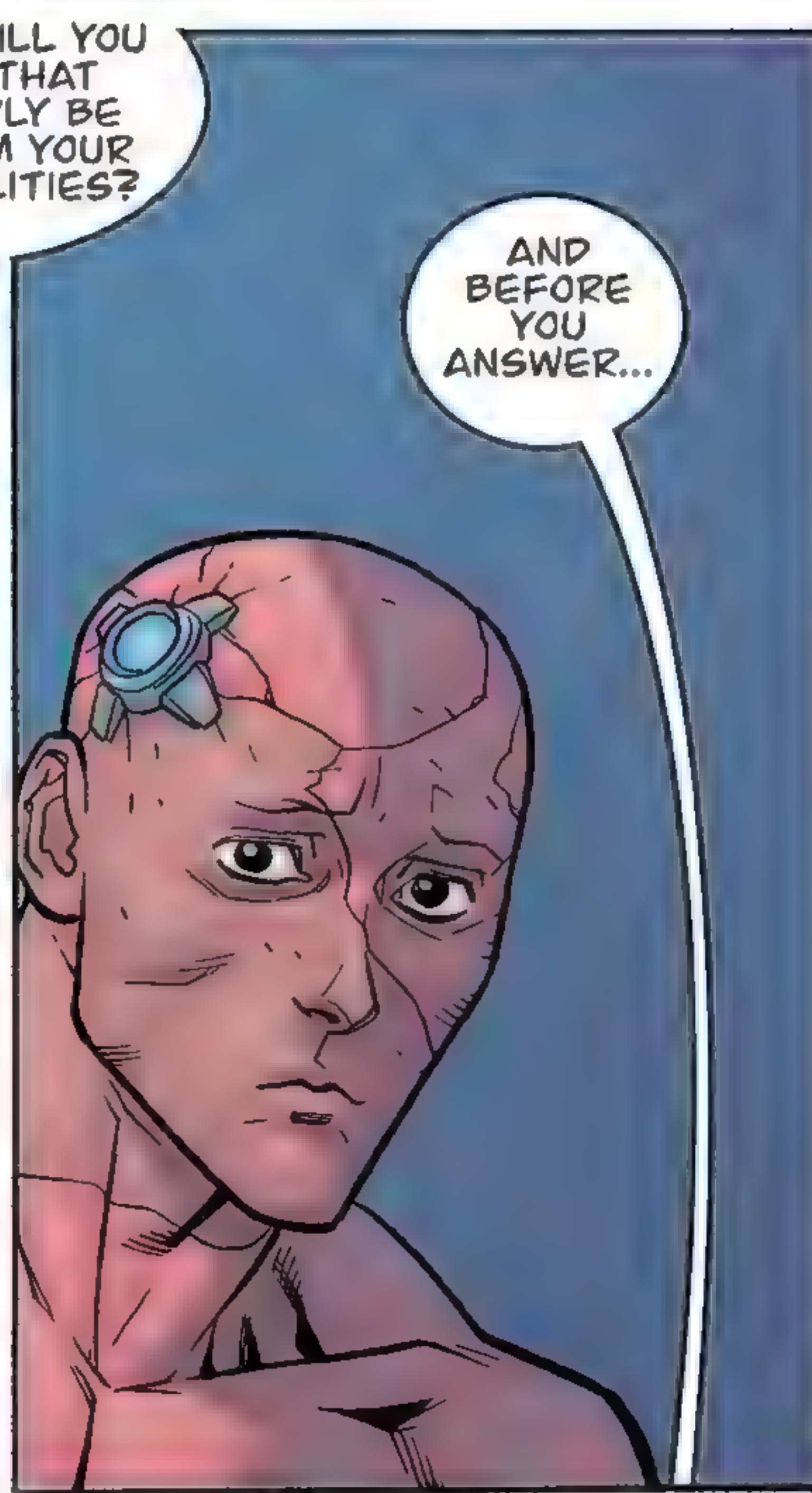
DAD... I LOST FIVE YEARS WITH MY FAMILY. I CAN'T TAKE THAT KIND OF RISK AGAIN. I ONLY CAME BACK TO HELP TAKE DOWN THRAGG.

I CAN'T DO THIS.

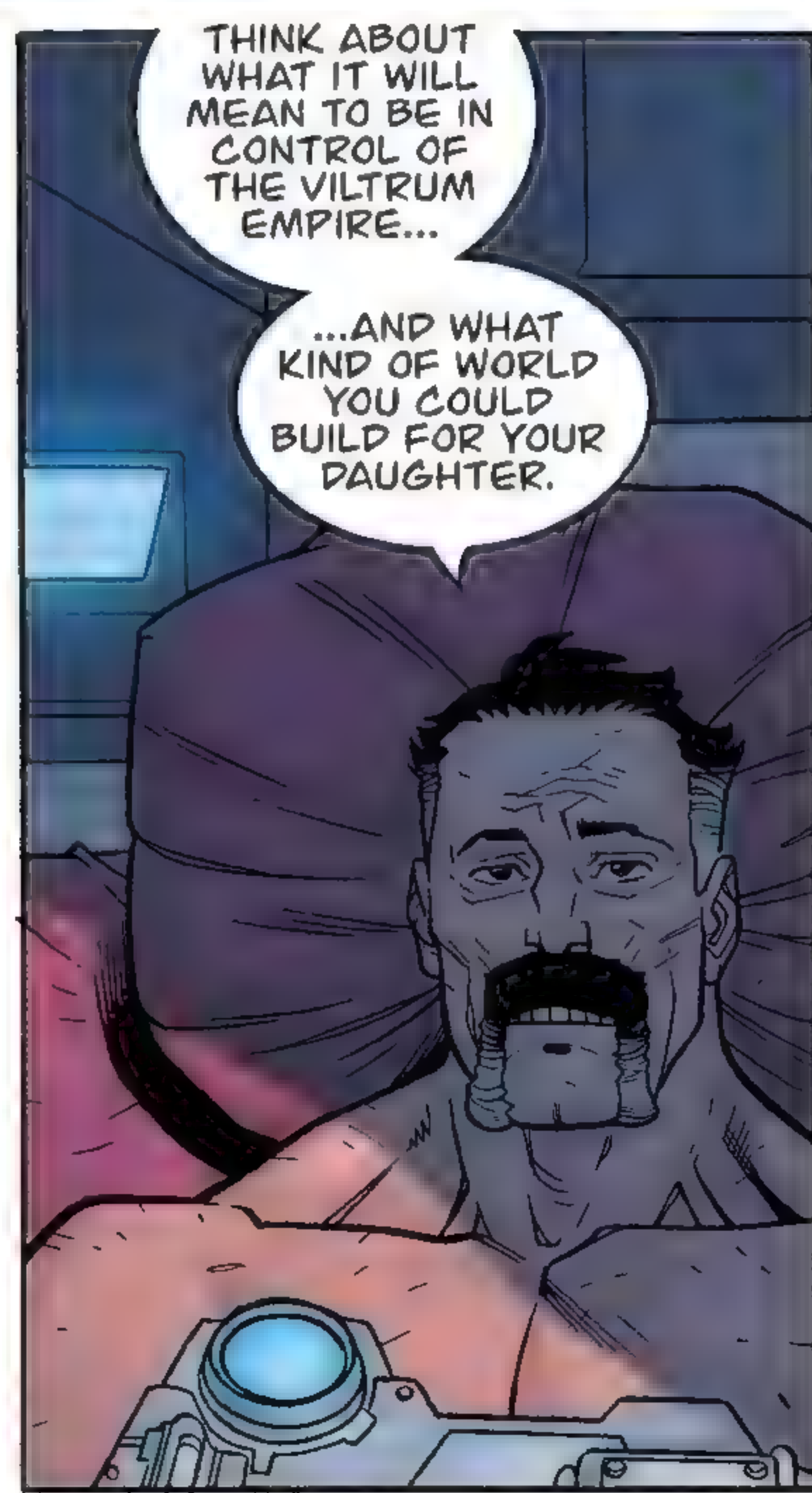


WHERE WILL YOU GO? WHAT WILL YOU DO?

DO YOU THINK THERE'S ANY PLACE OUT THERE WHERE YOU'LL BE SAFE? IF SO... FOR HOW LONG?



AND BEFORE YOU ANSWER...



THINK ABOUT WHAT IT WILL MEAN TO BE IN CONTROL OF THE VILTRUM EMPIRE...

...AND WHAT KIND OF WORLD YOU COULD BUILD FOR YOUR DAUGHTER.



THEY NEED YOU, MARK. NOT JUST A GOOD LEADER... NOT JUST SOMEONE WORTHY... THEY NEED YOU.

I THINK ABOUT THRAGG... WHAT HE DID... AND IT REMINDS ME WHO I AM...

...WHO I WAS.

BUT MORE THAN THAT... WHO I COULD EASILY BE AGAIN.



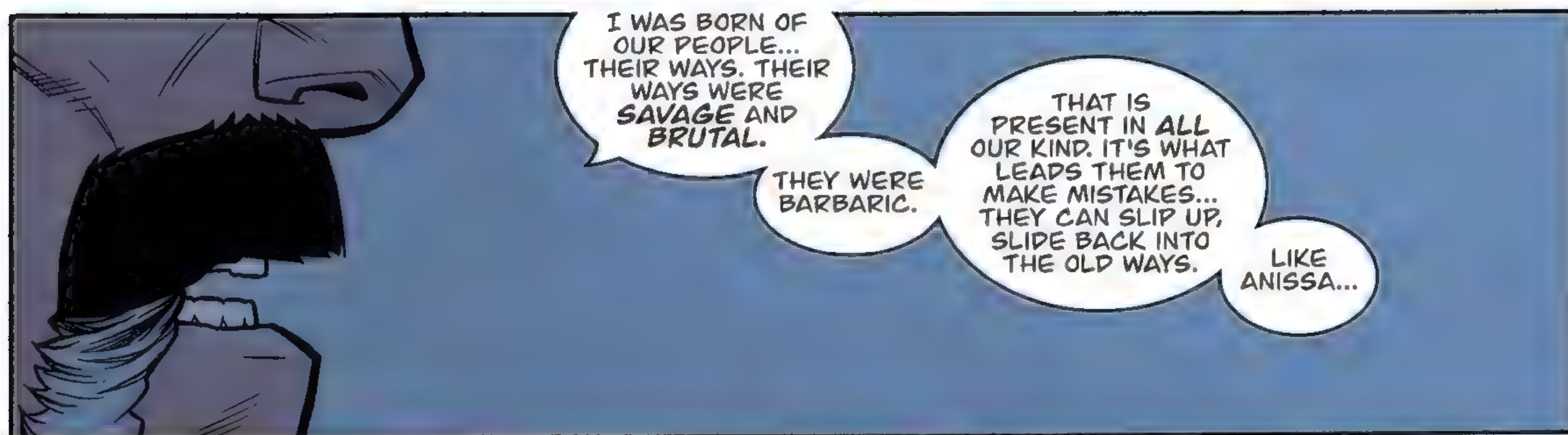
NO. YOU'D NEVER--

YOU'RE BETTER THAN THAT.



IF I AM... IT'S BECAUSE OF YOU.

I NEED YOU TO KNOW THAT, SON.

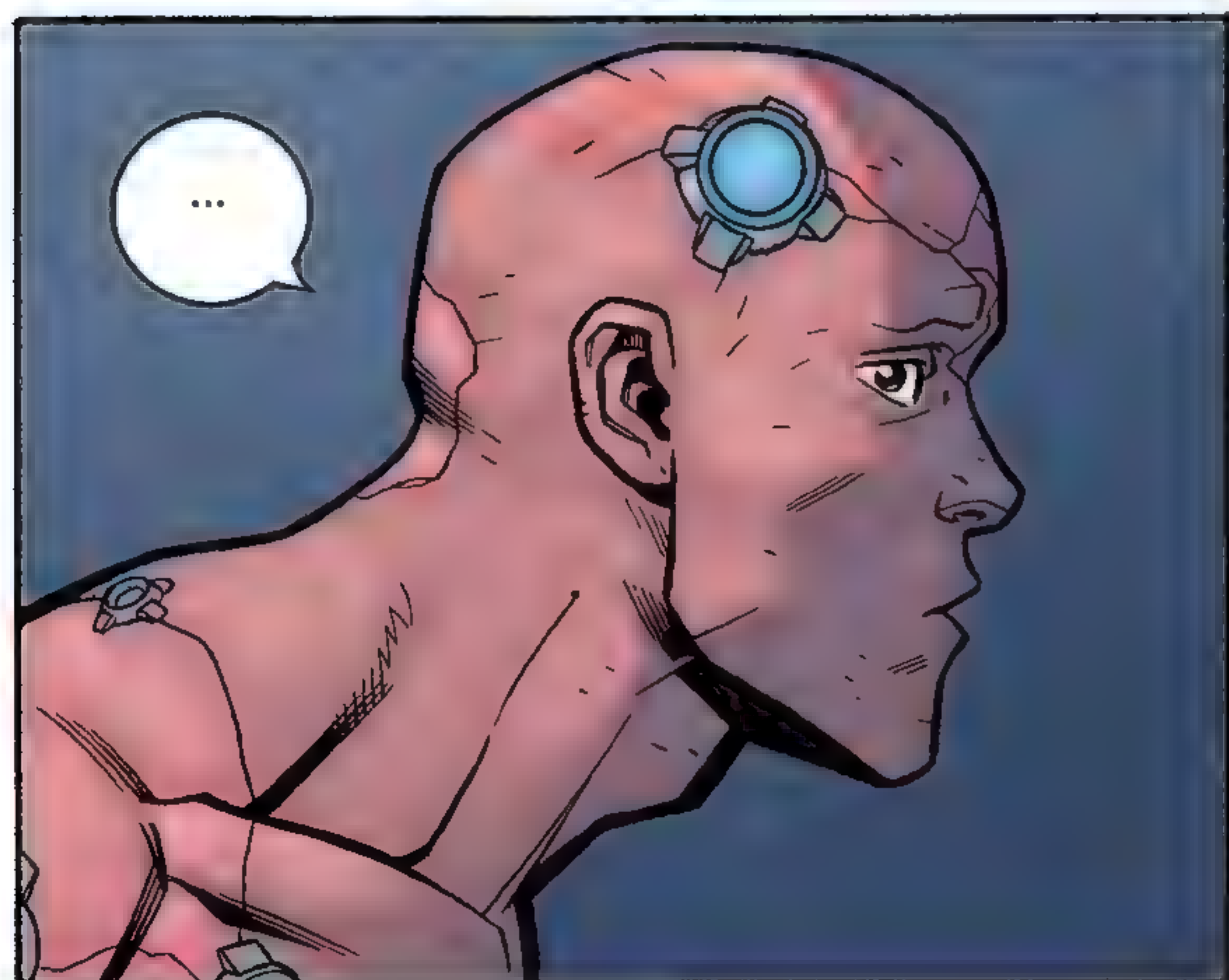


I WAS BORN OF OUR PEOPLE... THEIR WAYS. THEIR WAYS WERE SAVAGE AND BRUTAL.

THEY WERE BARBARIC.

THAT IS PRESENT IN ALL OUR KIND. IT'S WHAT LEADS THEM TO MAKE MISTAKES... THEY CAN SLIP UP, SLIDE BACK INTO THE OLD WAYS.

LIKE ANISSA...



...



YOU ARE FREE FROM THAT. YOU WERE ALWAYS ON A DIFFERENT PATH.

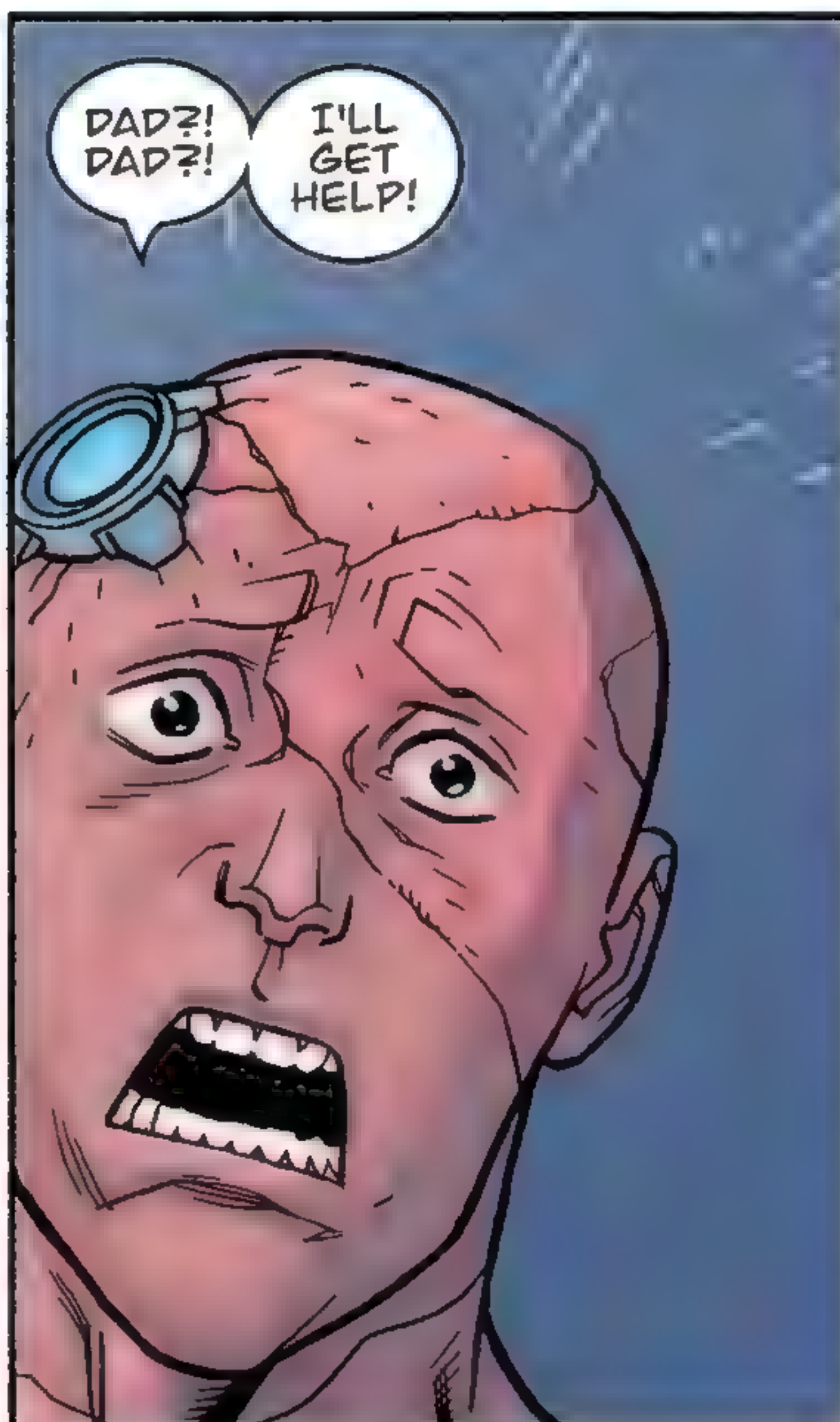
YOU CAN SHOW US THE WAY.



YOU
CAN--

≡KOFF!≡
≡KOFF!≡

≡KOFF!≡



DAD?!
DAD?!

I'LL
GET
HELP!



NO,
I'M FINE--
I'M--

YOU
HAVE TO
LISTEN
TO ME.

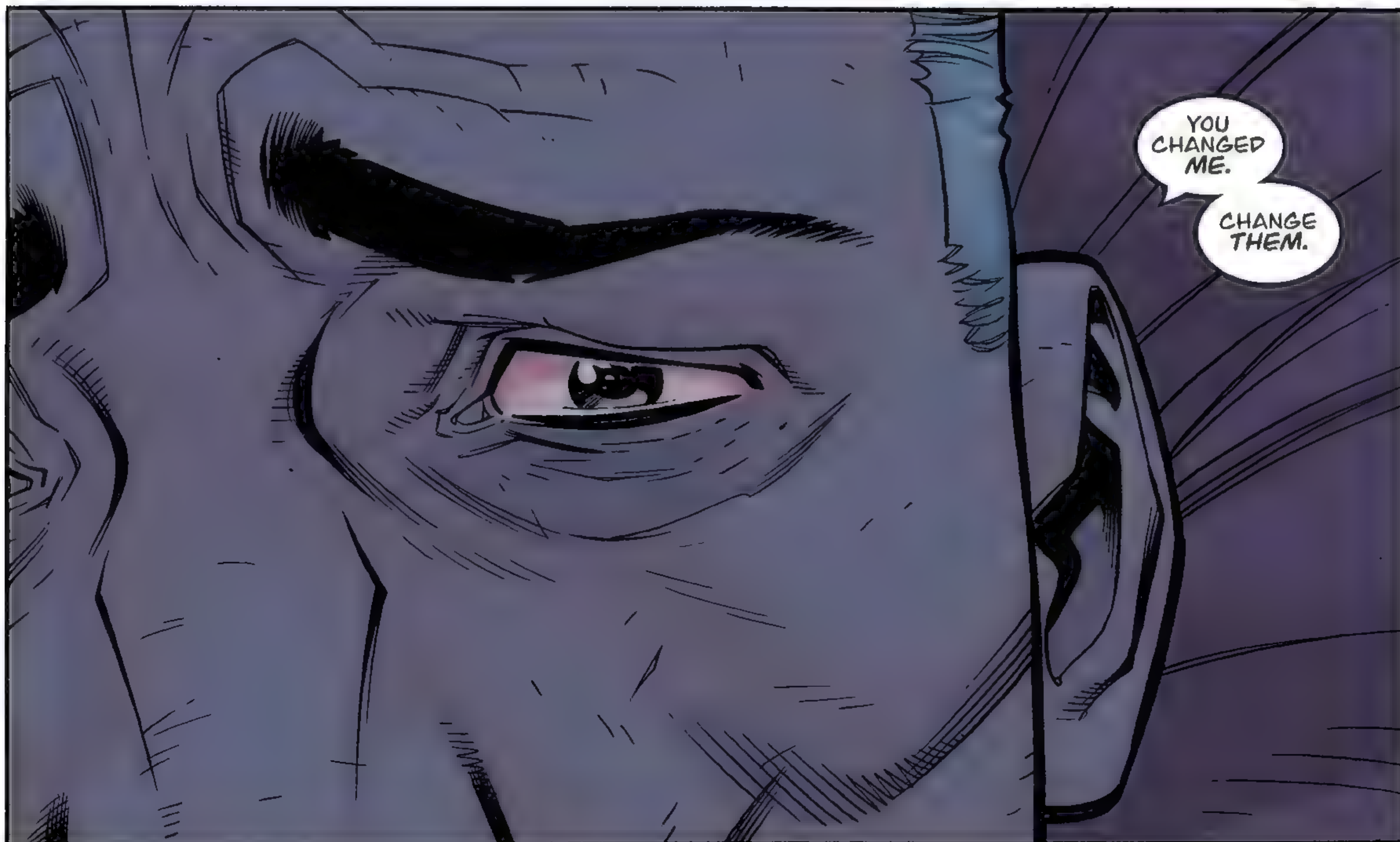


YOU'RE GOING TO LEAD
OUR PEOPLE TO GREAT
HEIGHTS. YOU'RE
GOING TO SHOW THEM
YOUR WAYS... YOUR
COMPASSION...

...YOU'RE
GOING
TO...

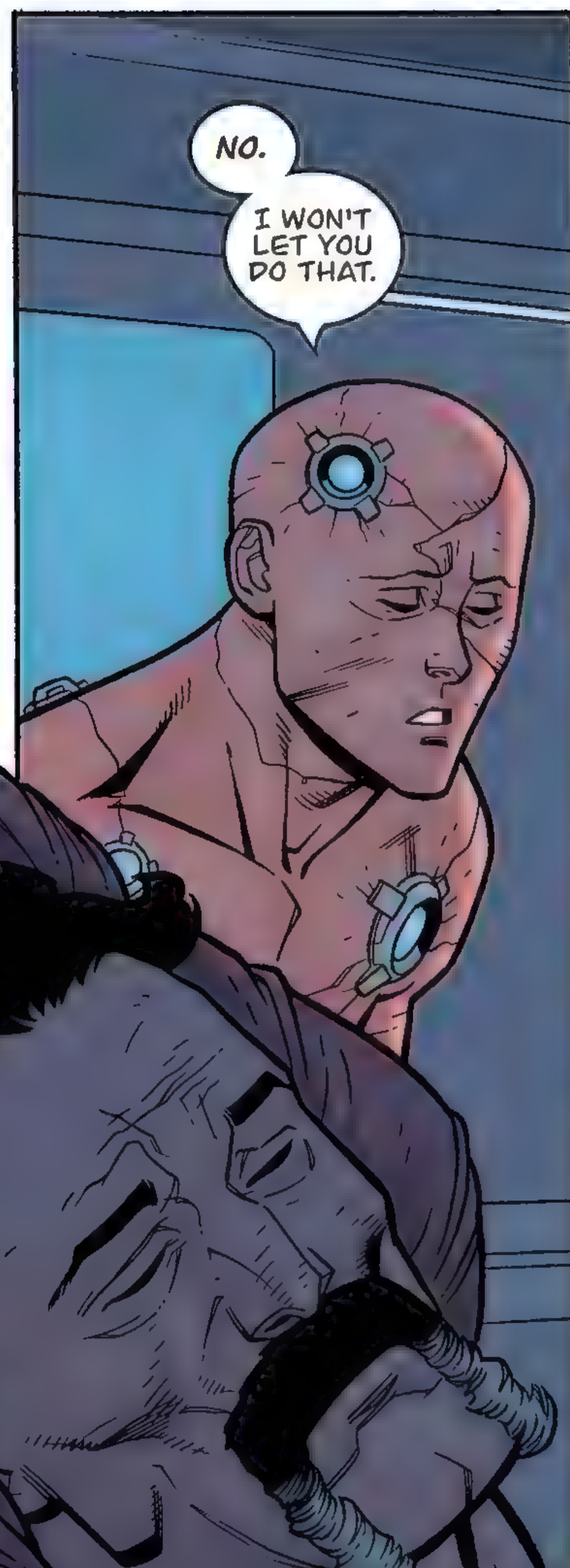
YOU'RE...

MARK.

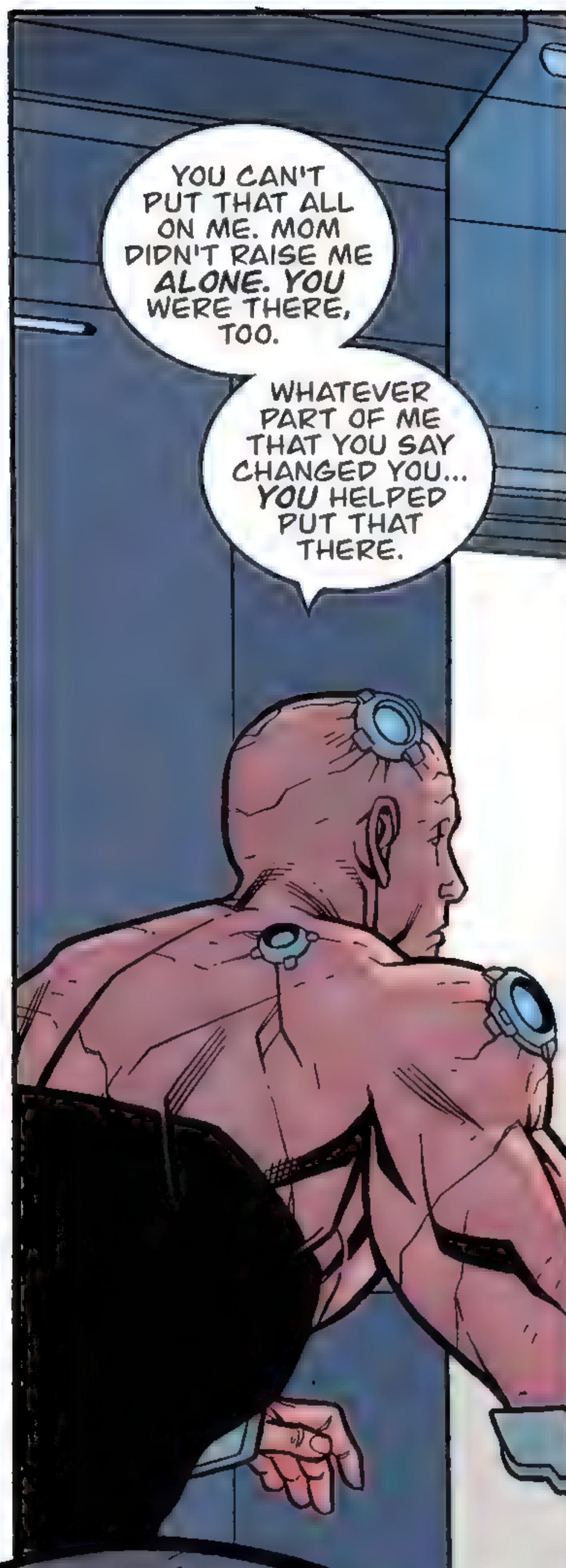


YOU
CHANGED
ME.

CHANGE
THEM.

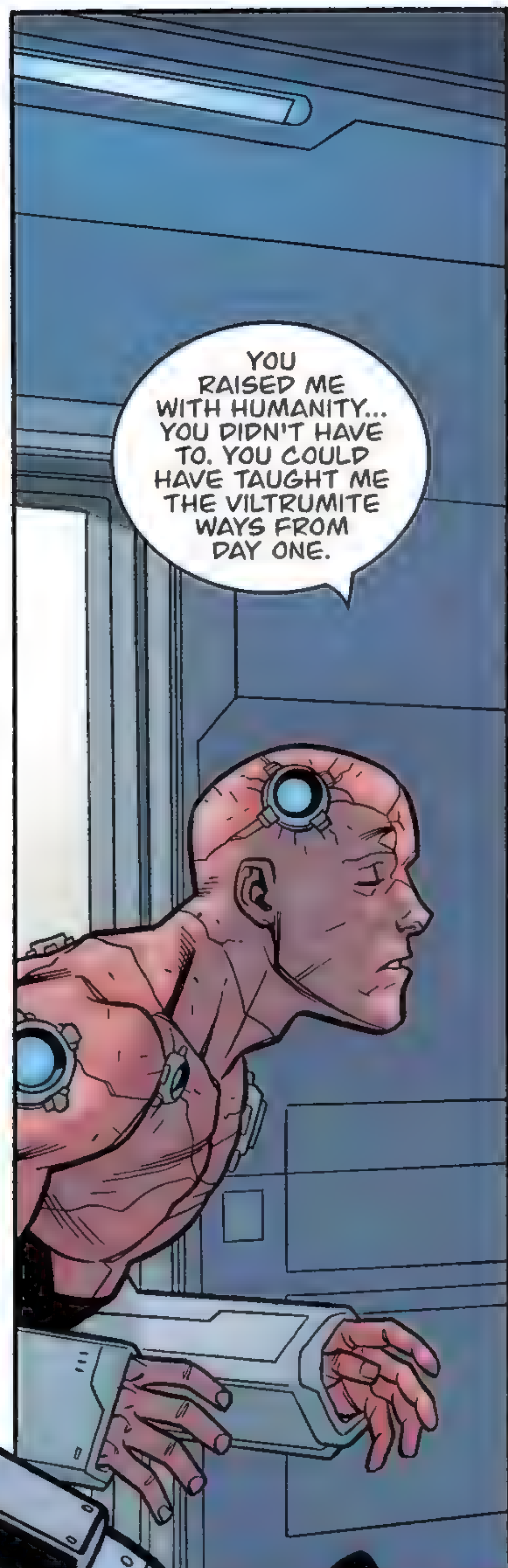


NO.
I WON'T
LET YOU
DO THAT.

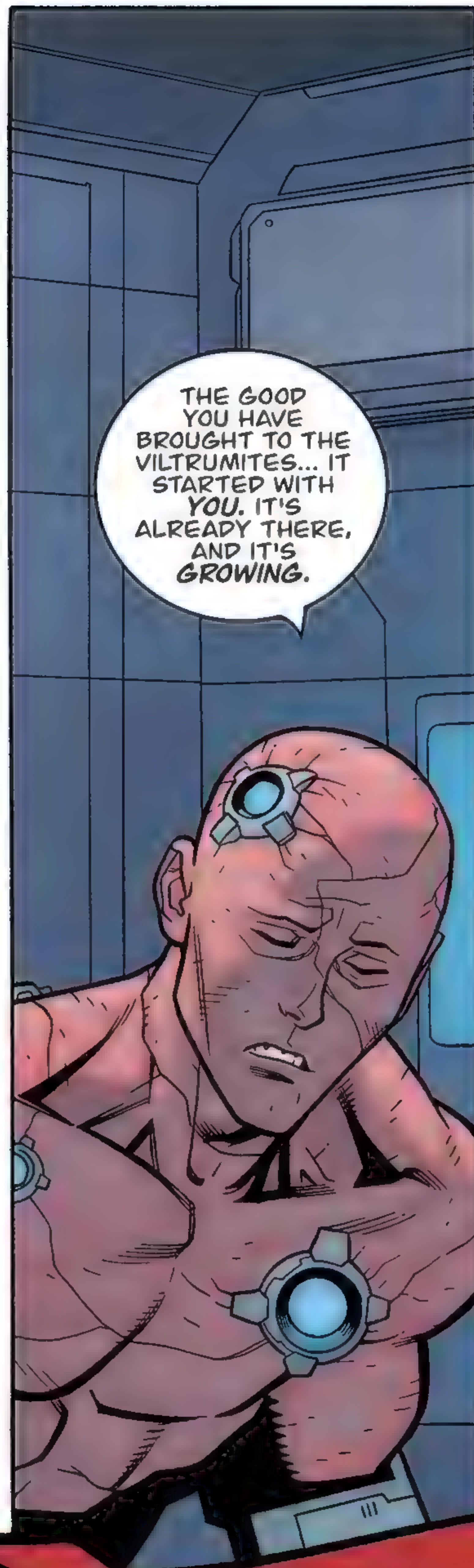


YOU CAN'T
PUT THAT ALL
ON ME. MOM
DIDN'T RAISE ME
ALONE. YOU
WERE THERE,
TOO.

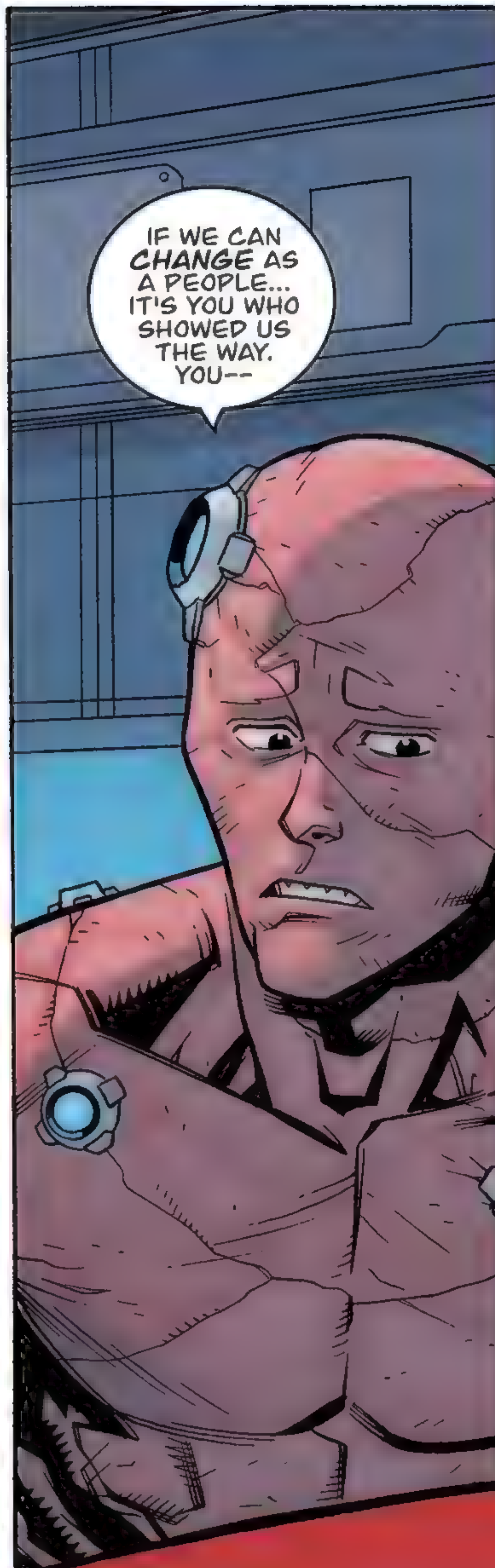
WHATEVER
PART OF ME
THAT YOU SAY
CHANGED YOU...
YOU HELPED
PUT THAT
THERE.



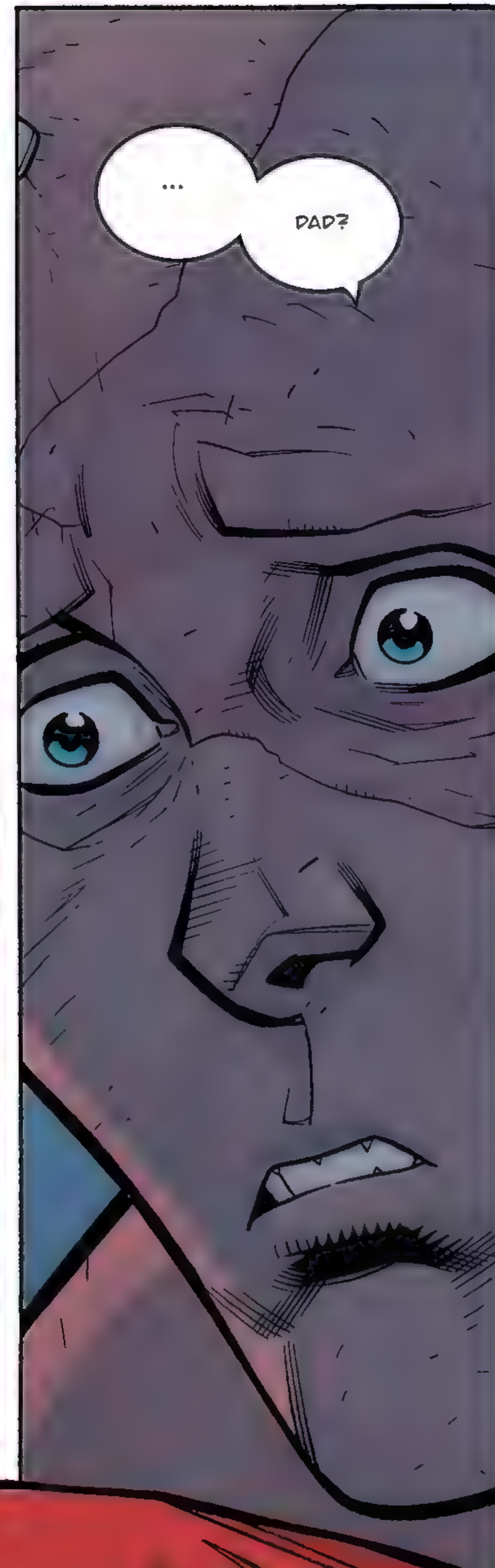
YOU
RAISED ME
WITH HUMANITY...
YOU DIDN'T HAVE
TO. YOU COULD
HAVE TAUGHT ME
THE VILTRUMITE
WAYS FROM
DAY ONE.



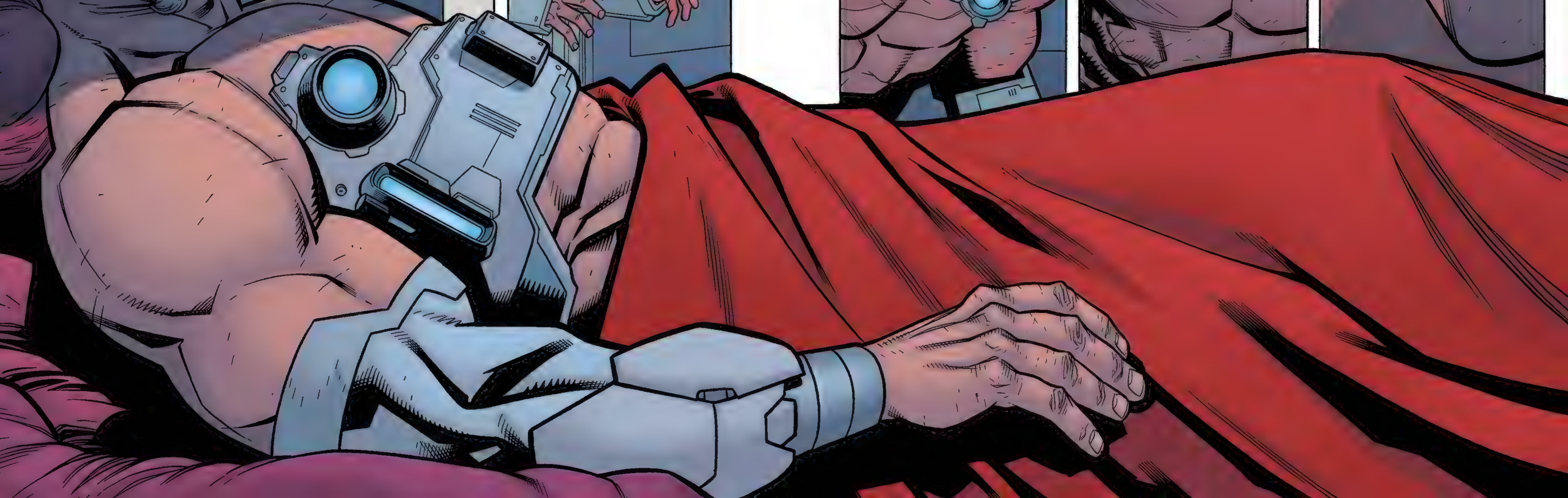
THE GOOD
YOU HAVE
BROUGHT TO THE
VILTRUMITES... IT
STARTED WITH
YOU. IT'S
ALREADY THERE,
AND IT'S
GROWING.

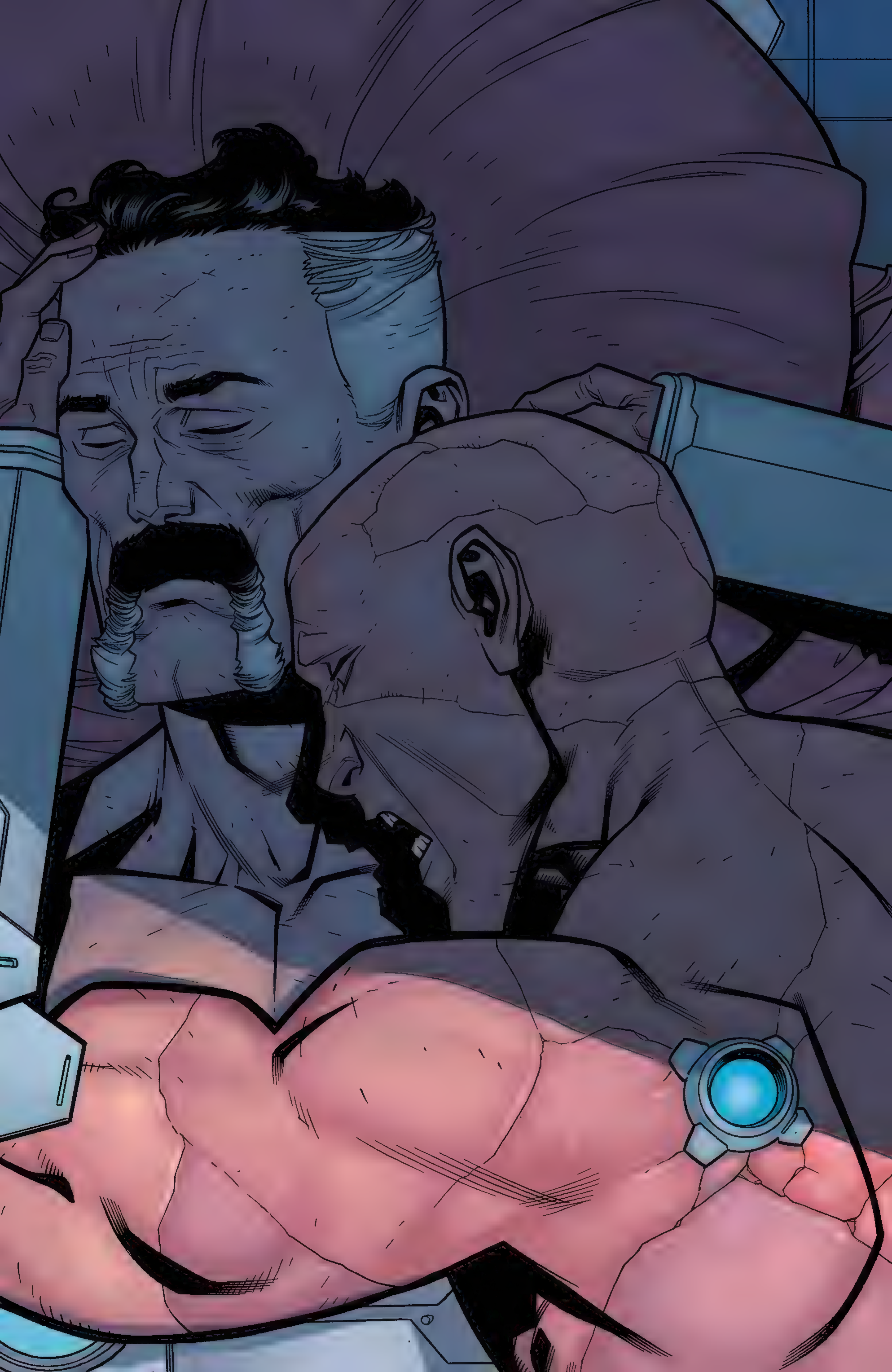


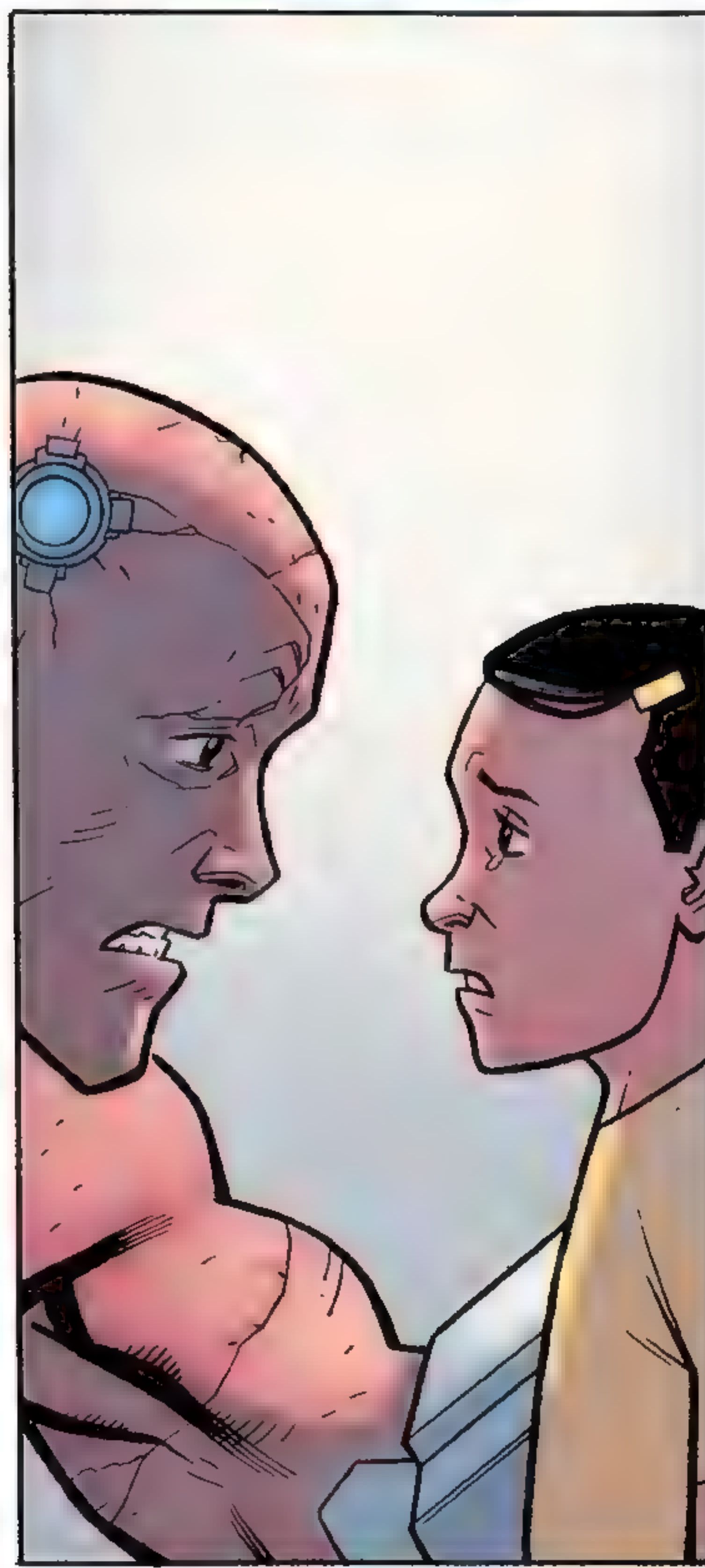
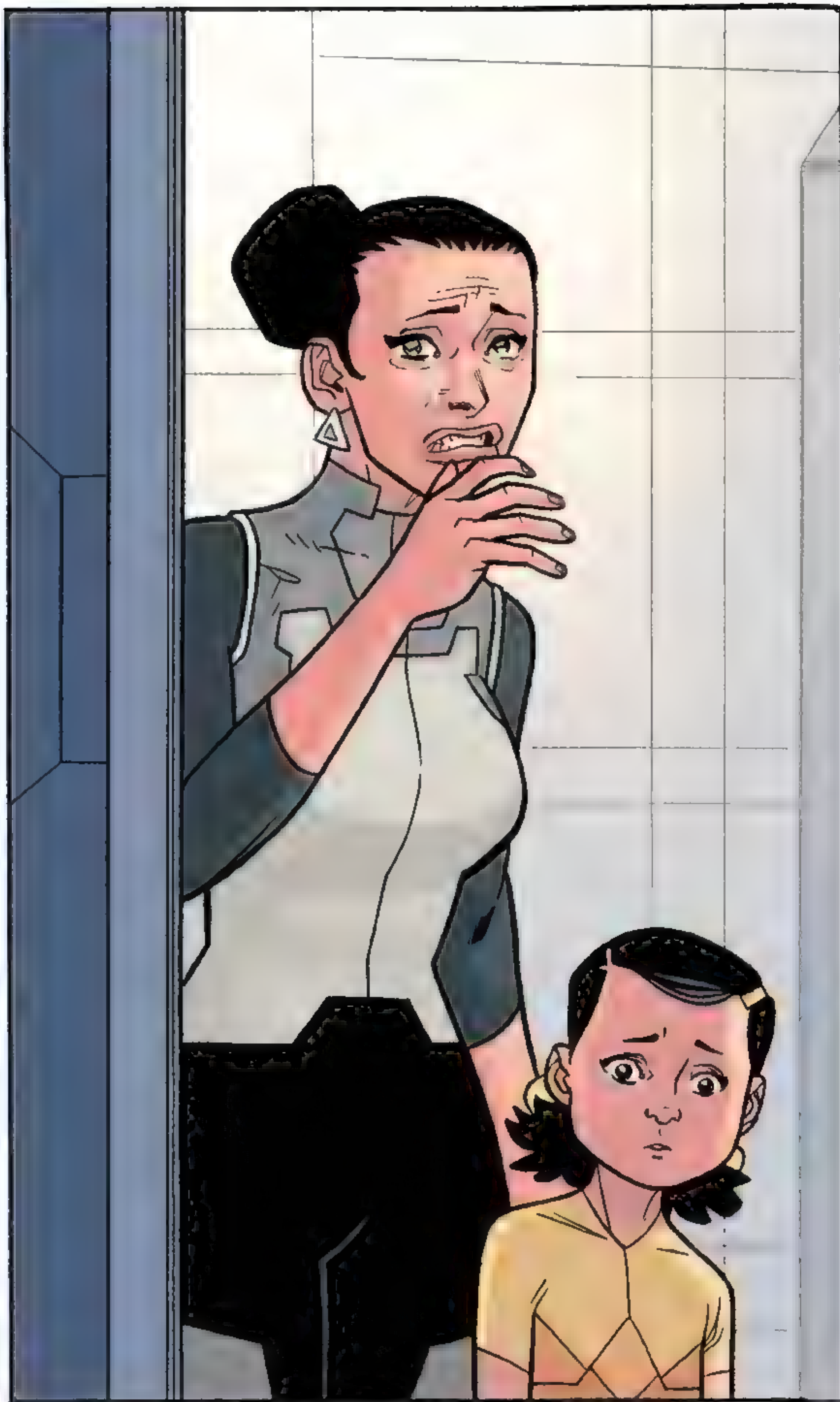
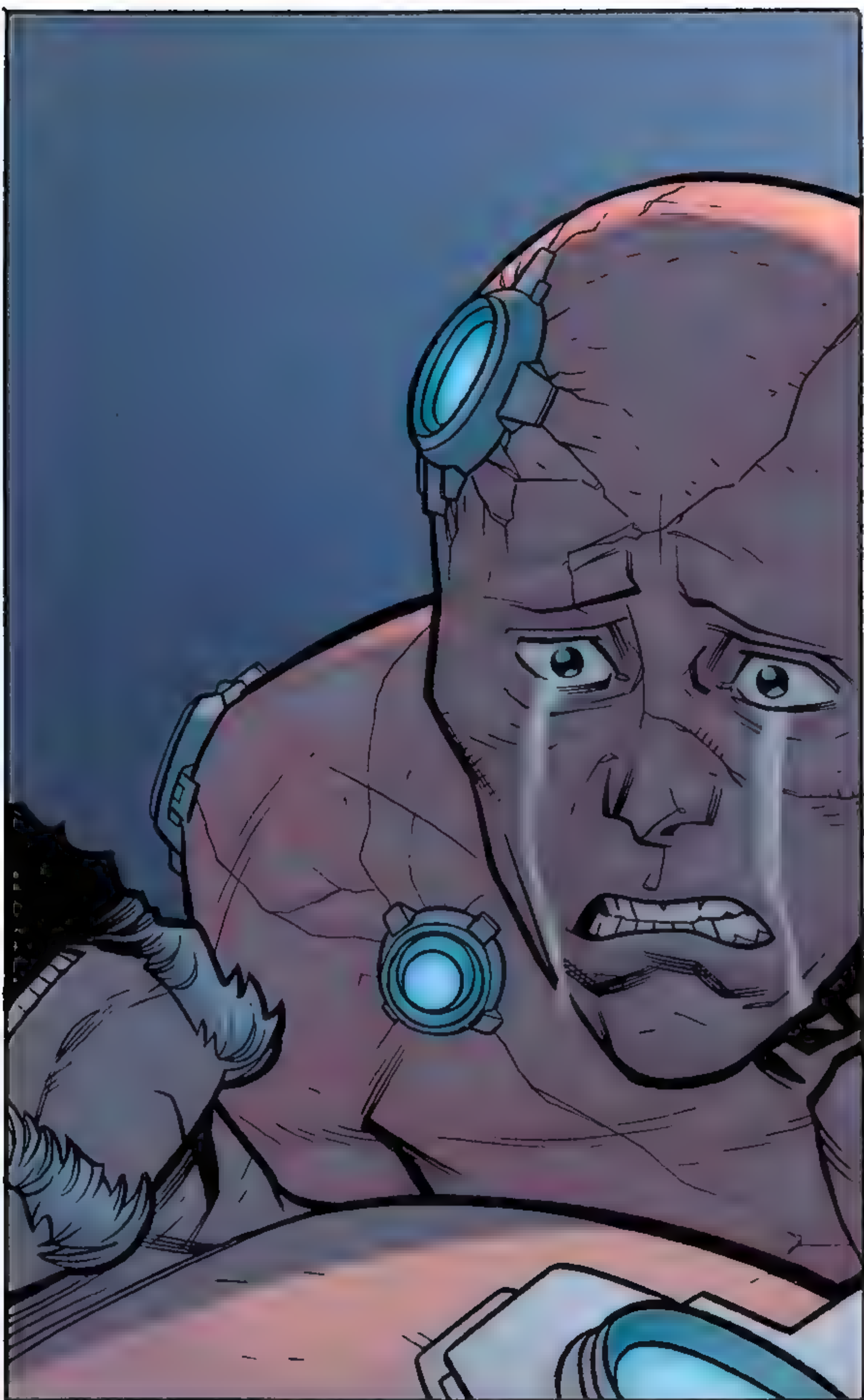
IF WE CAN
CHANGE AS
A PEOPLE...
IT'S YOU WHO
SHOWED US
THE WAY.
YOU--

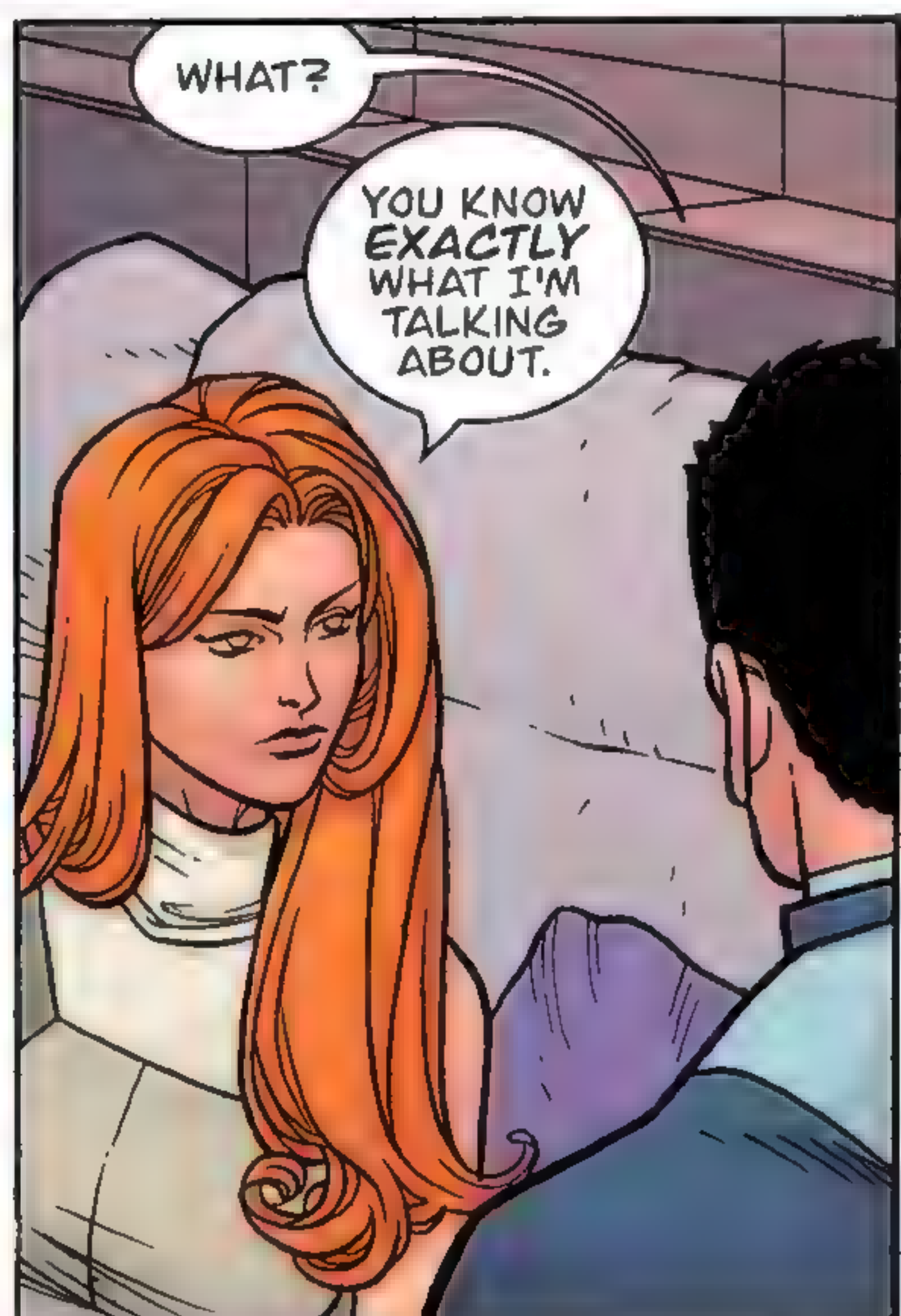
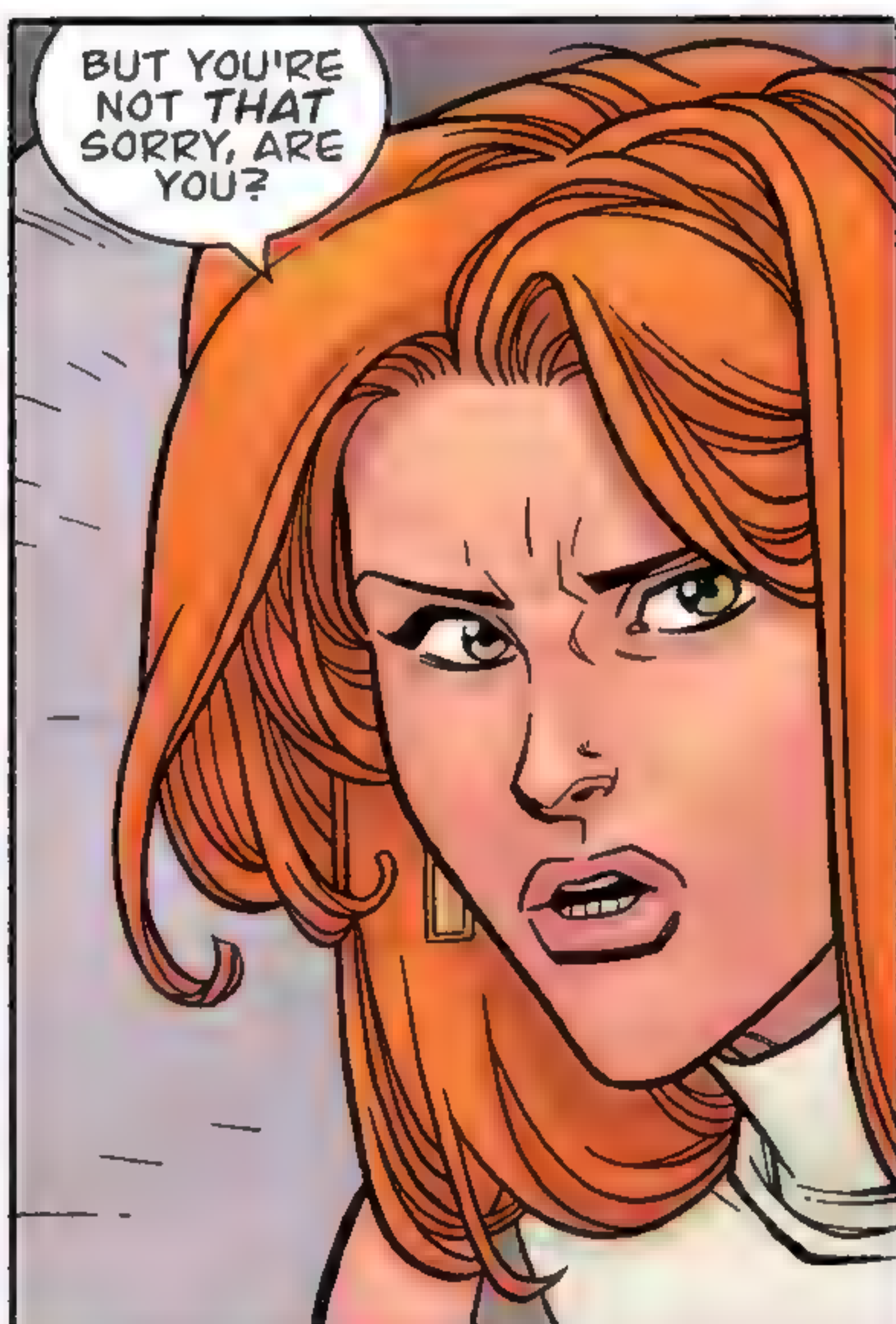
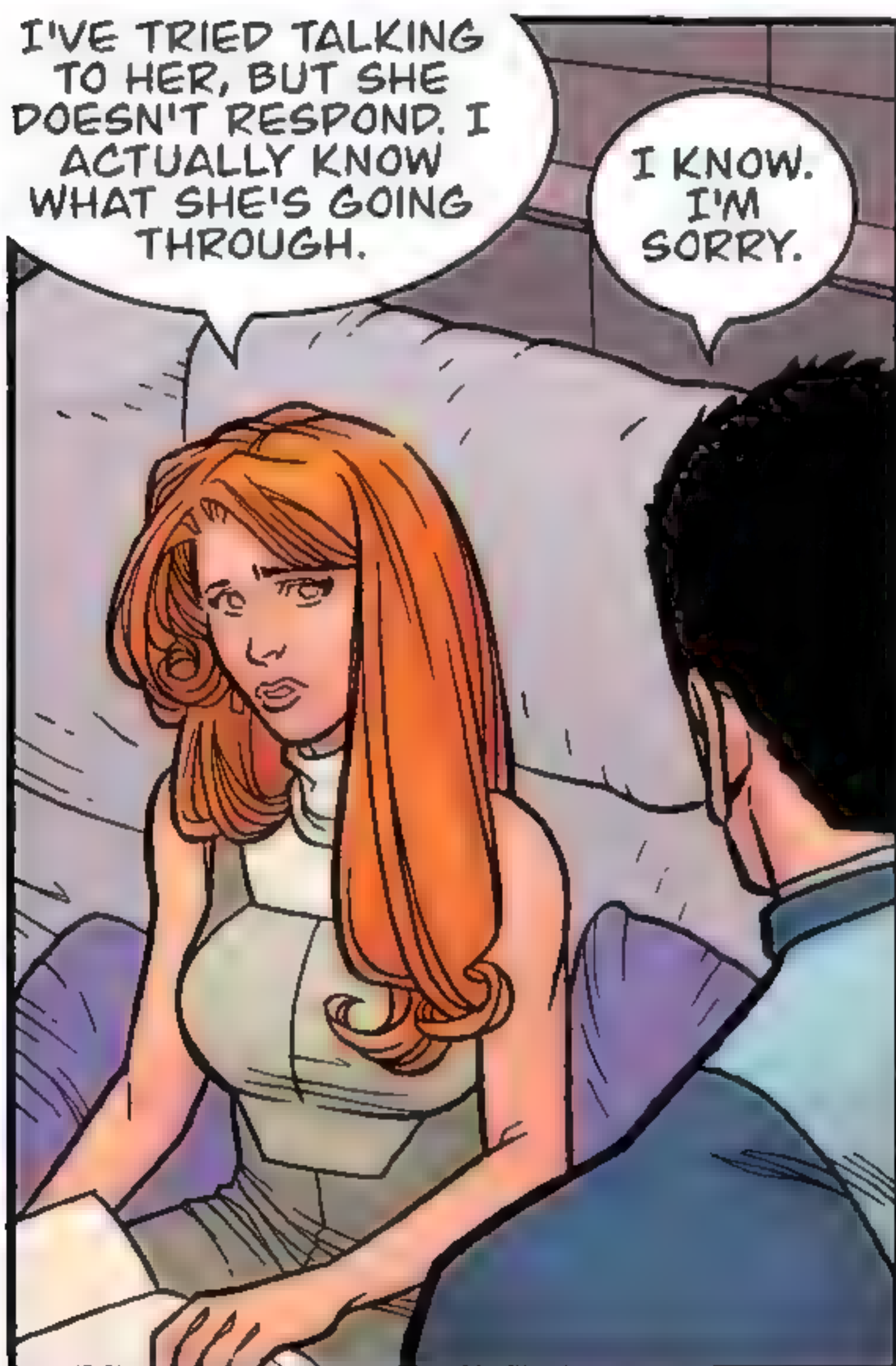


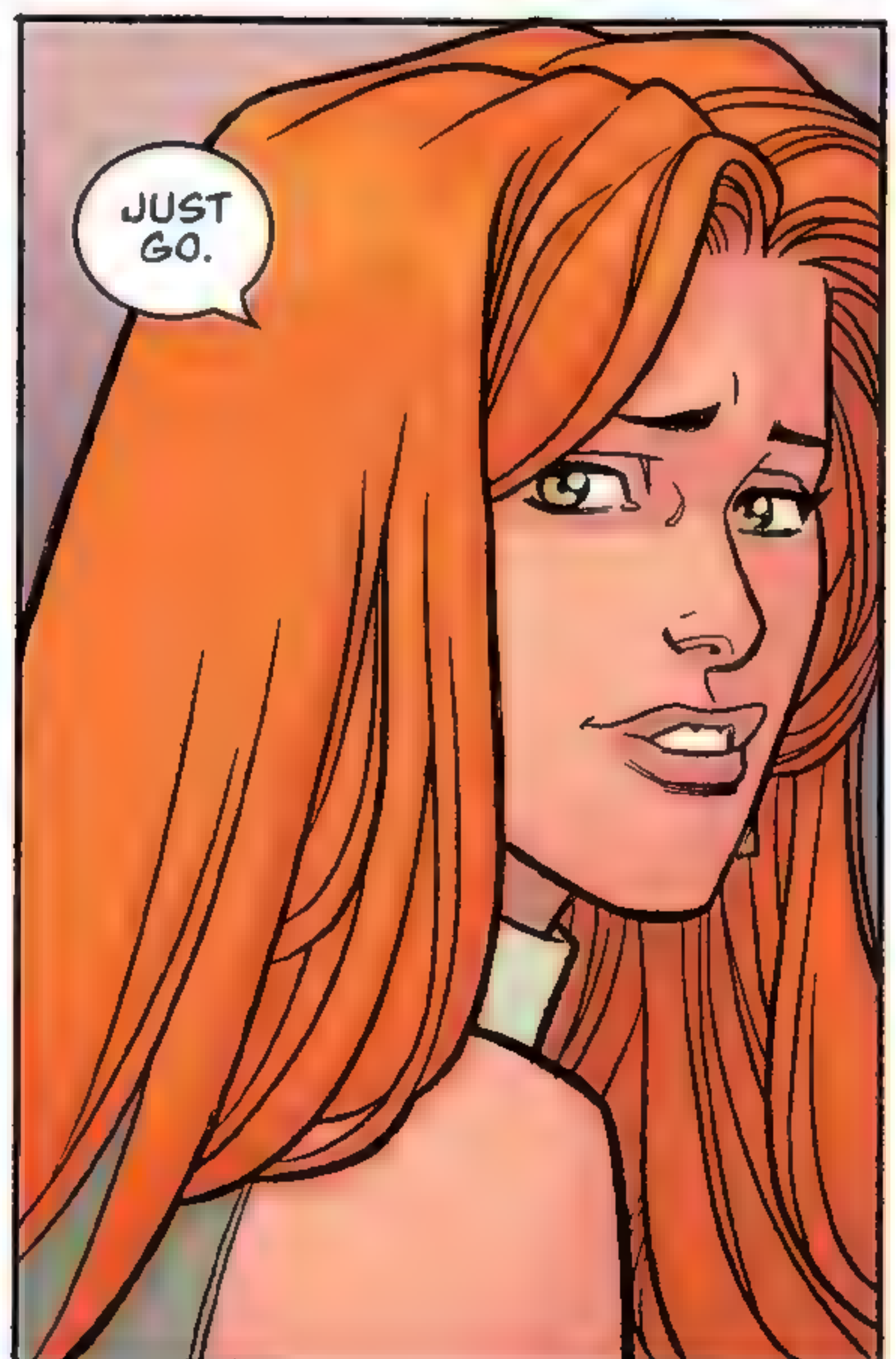
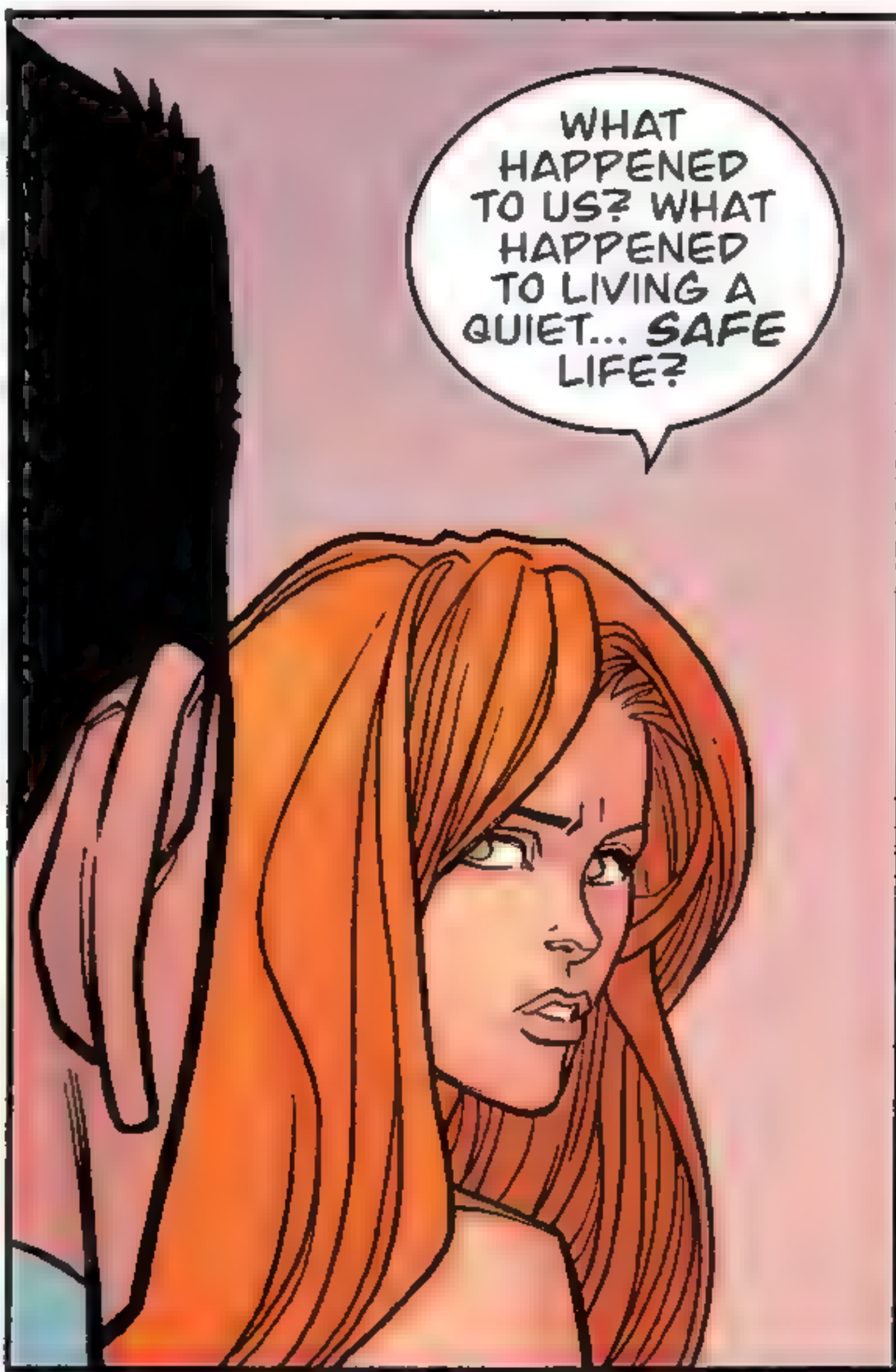
...
DAD?

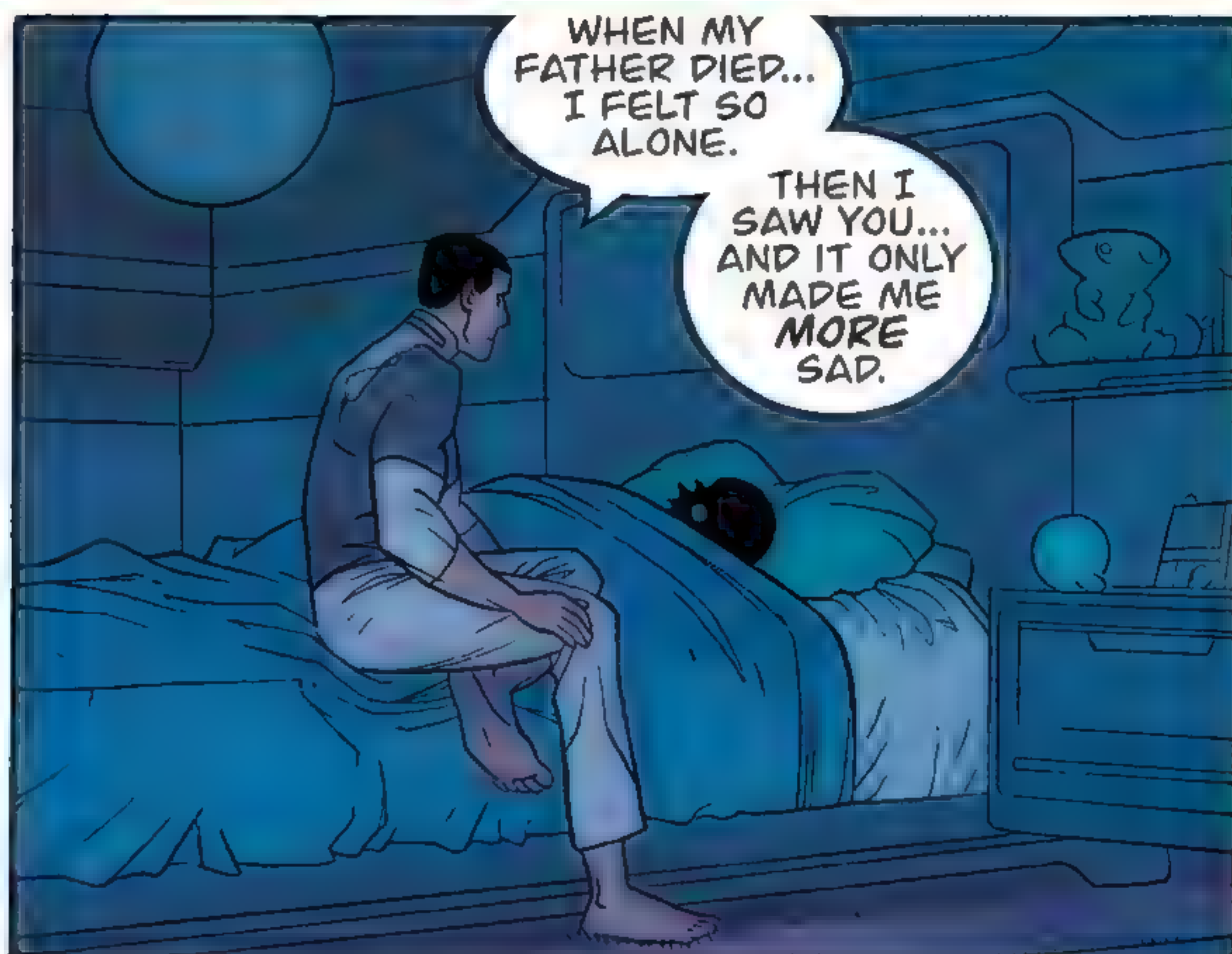
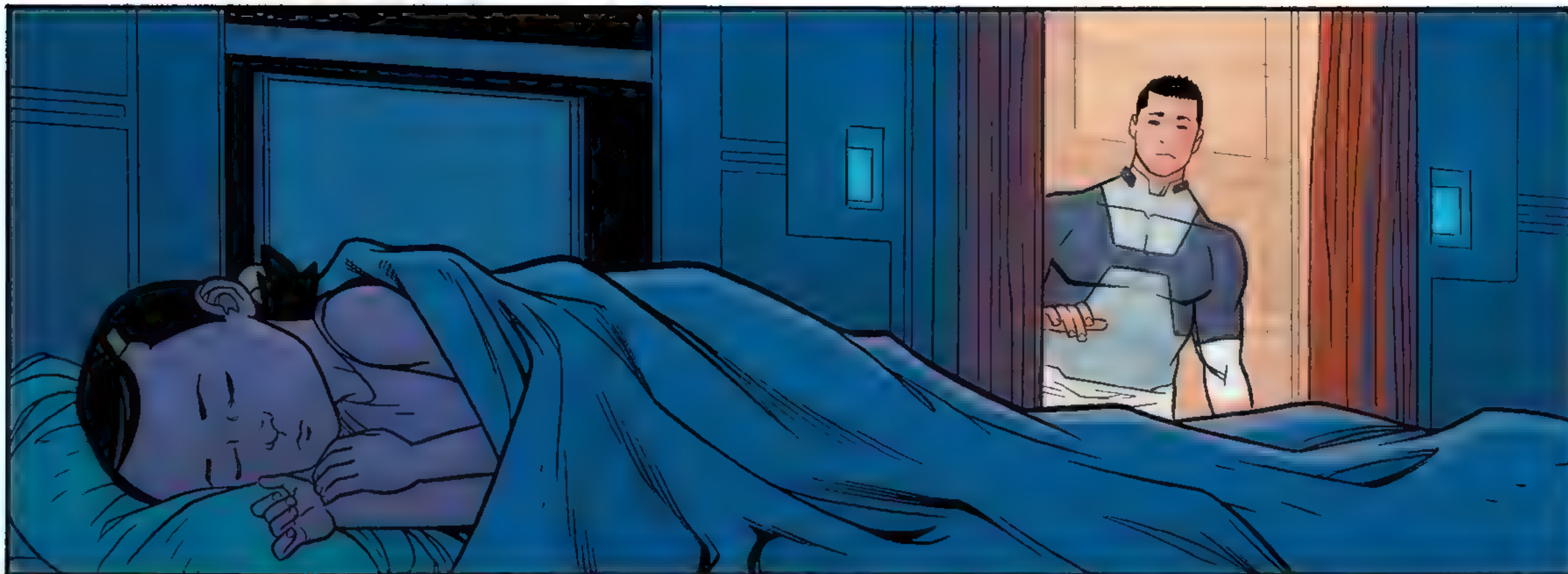


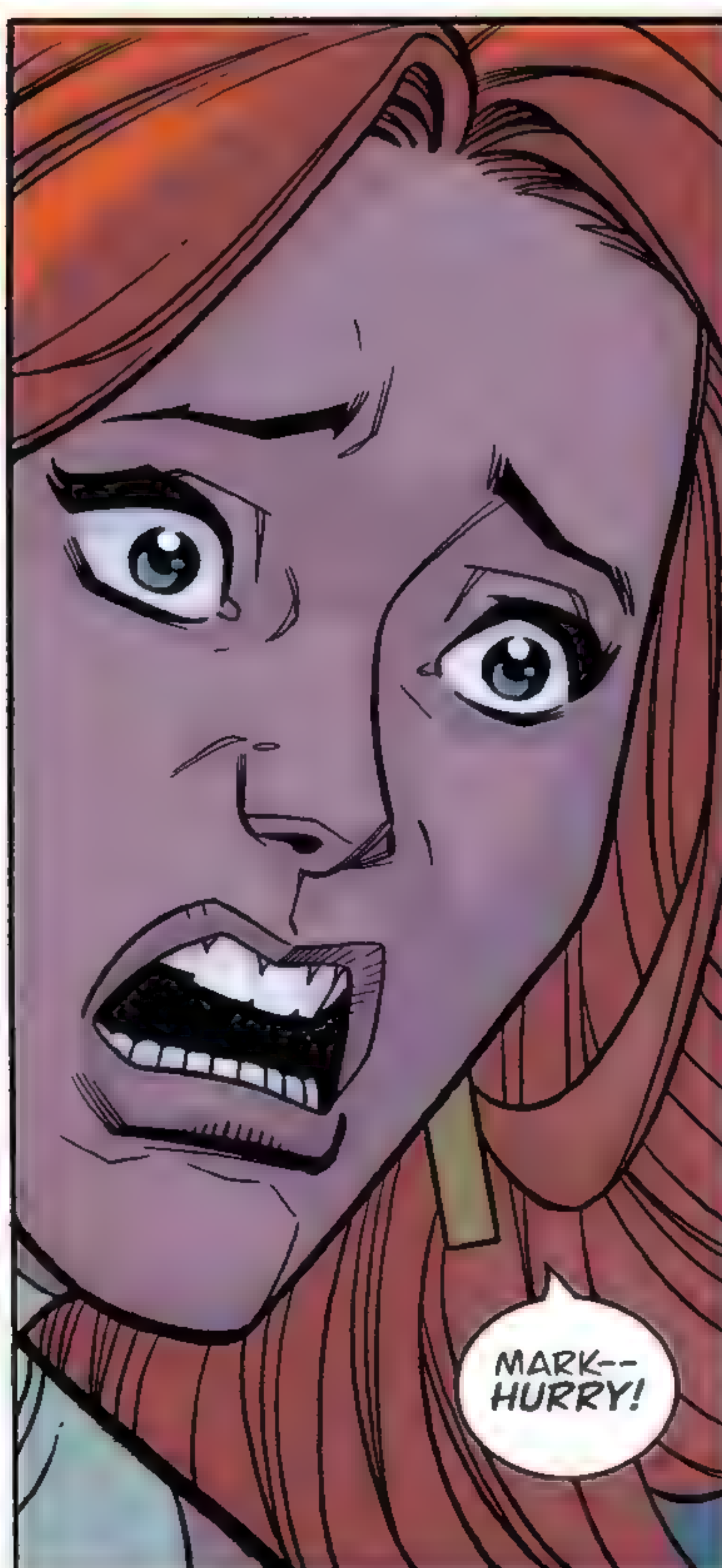
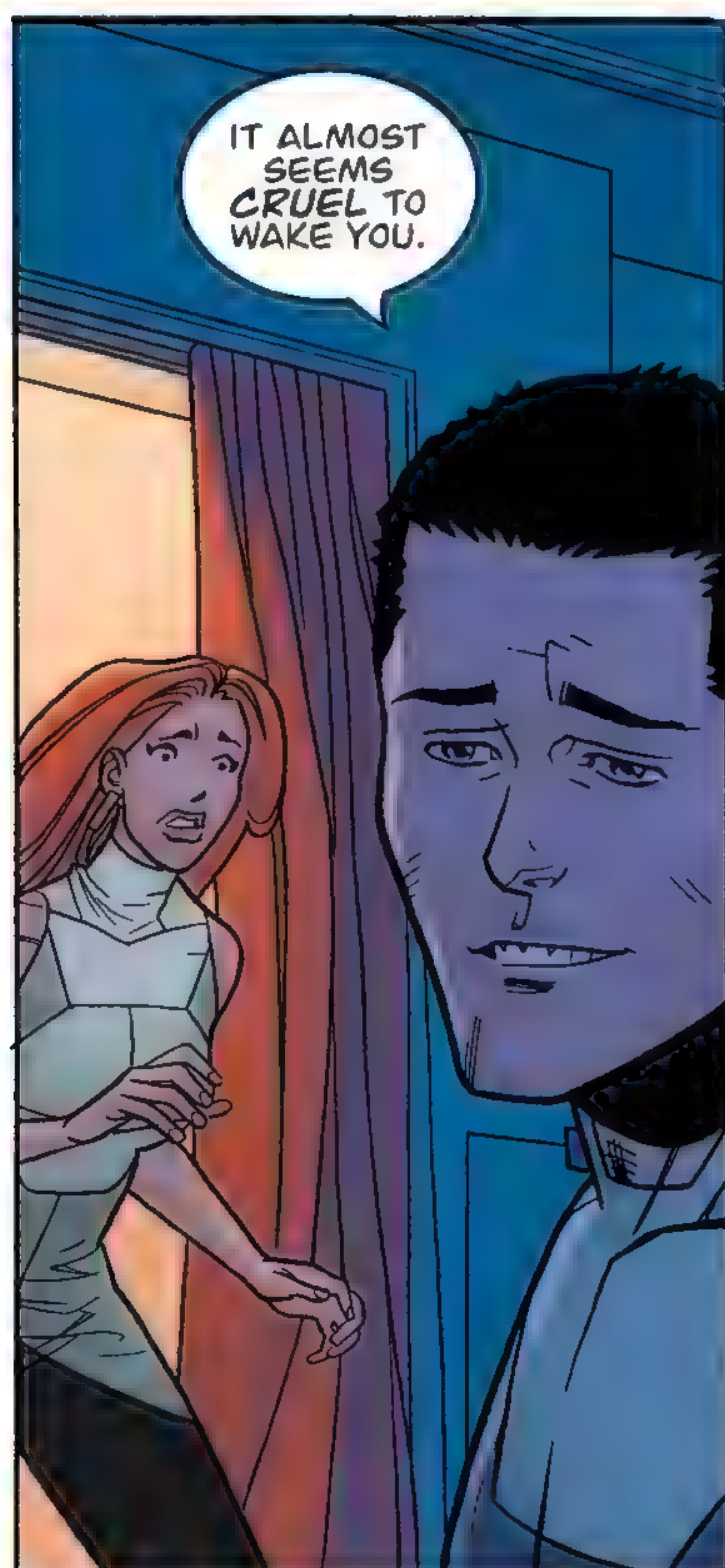




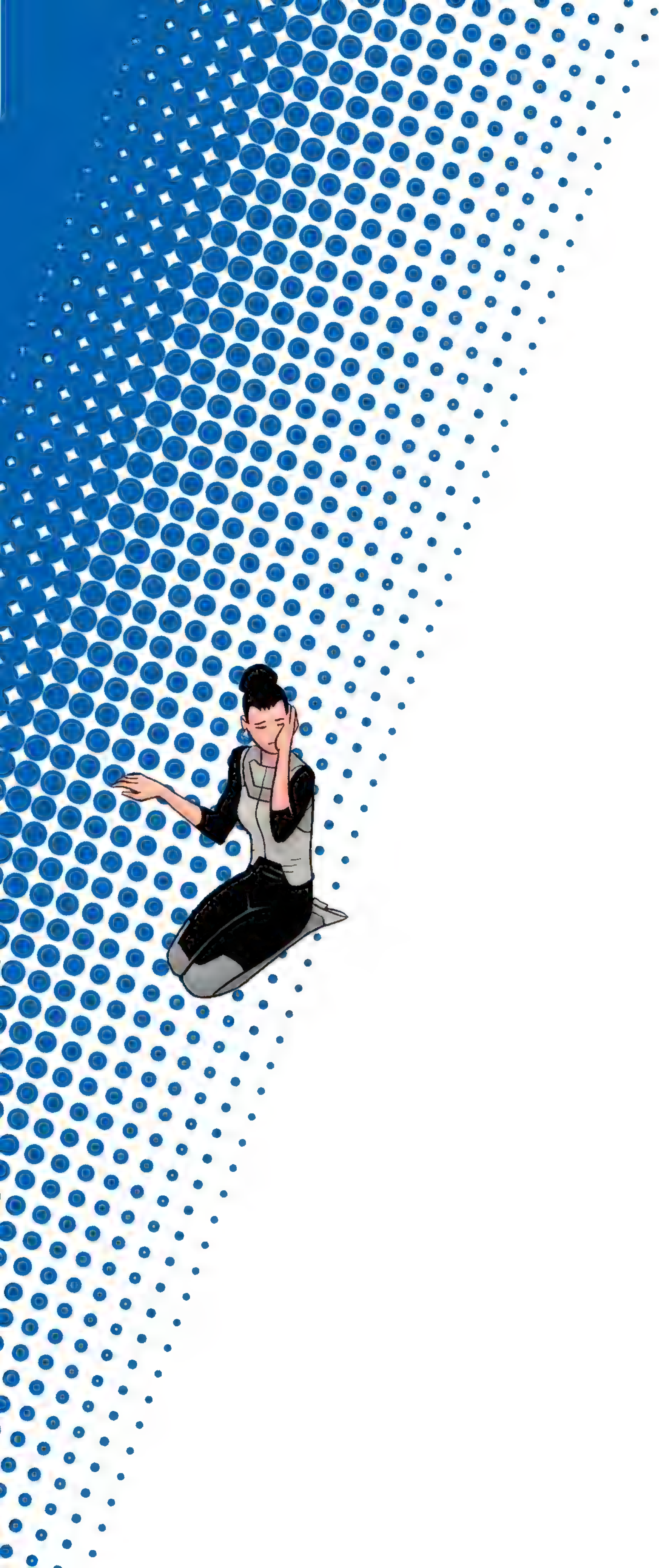






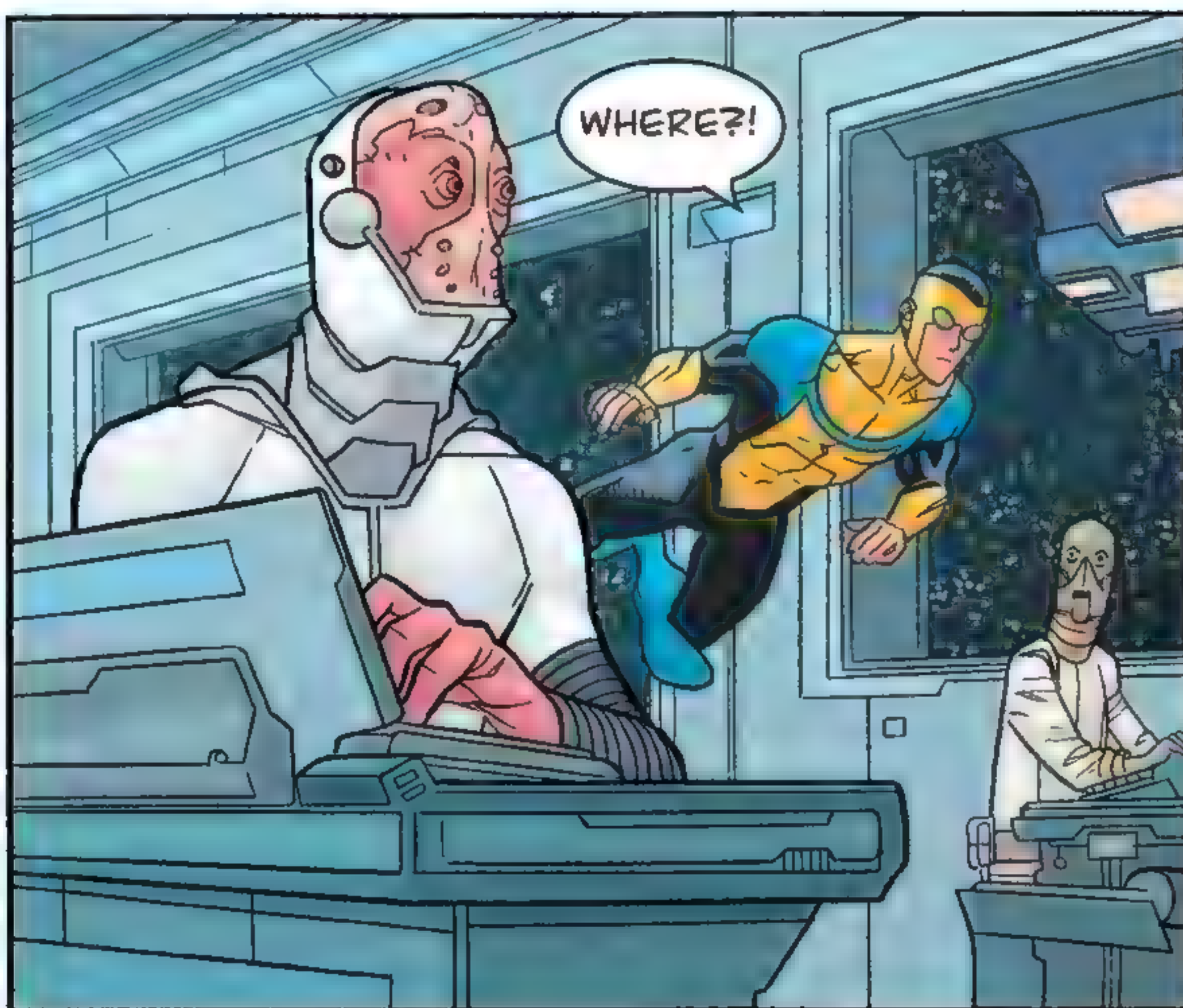
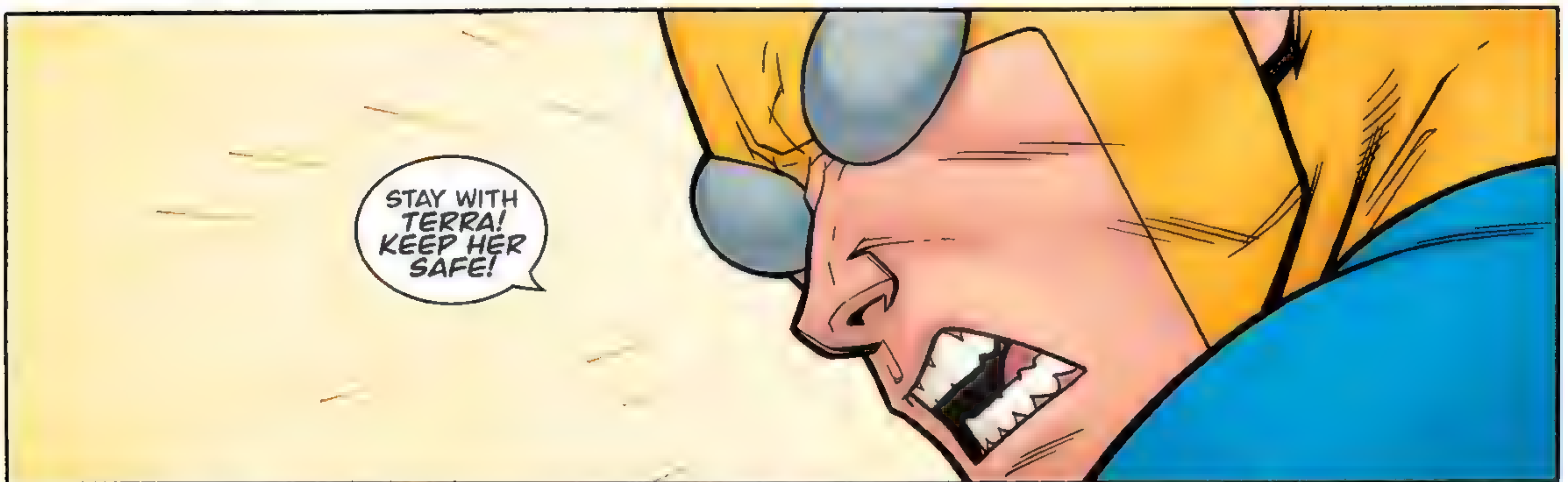
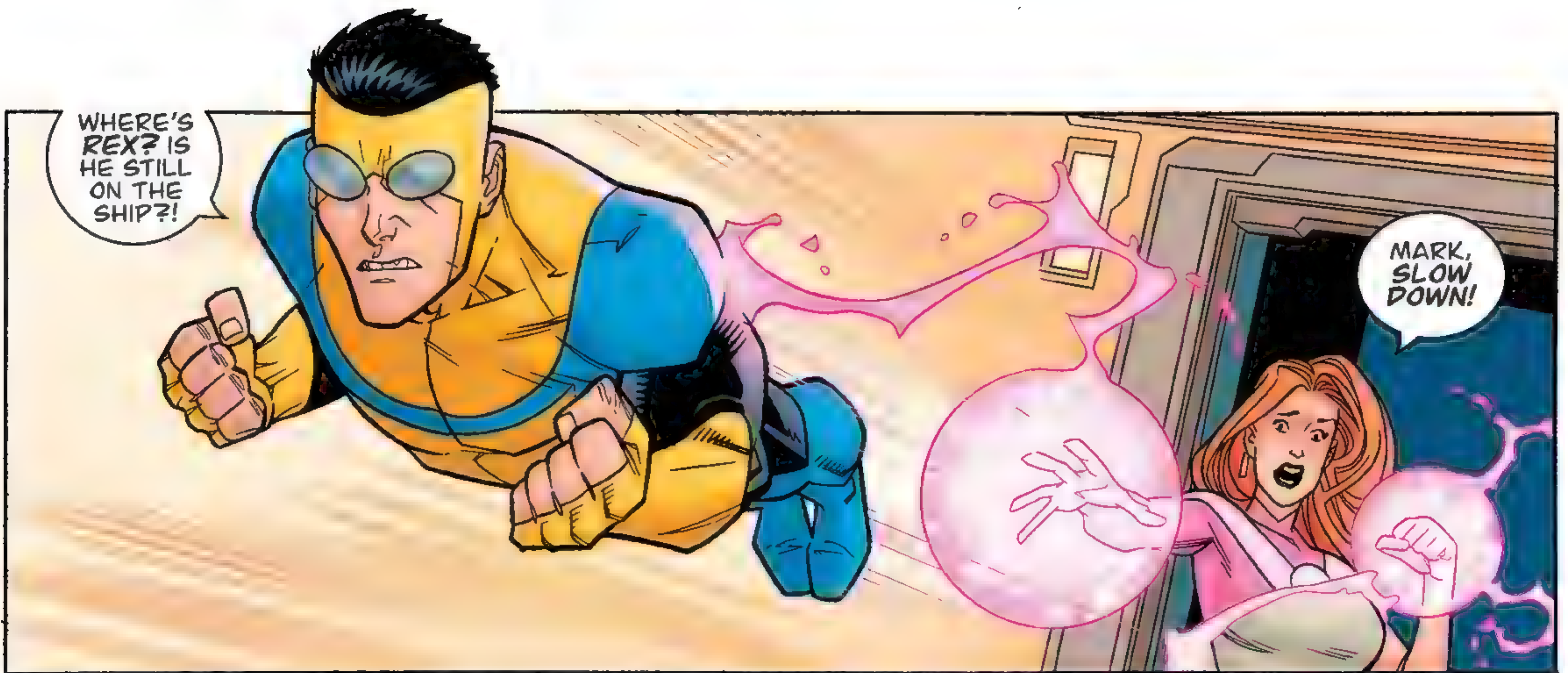


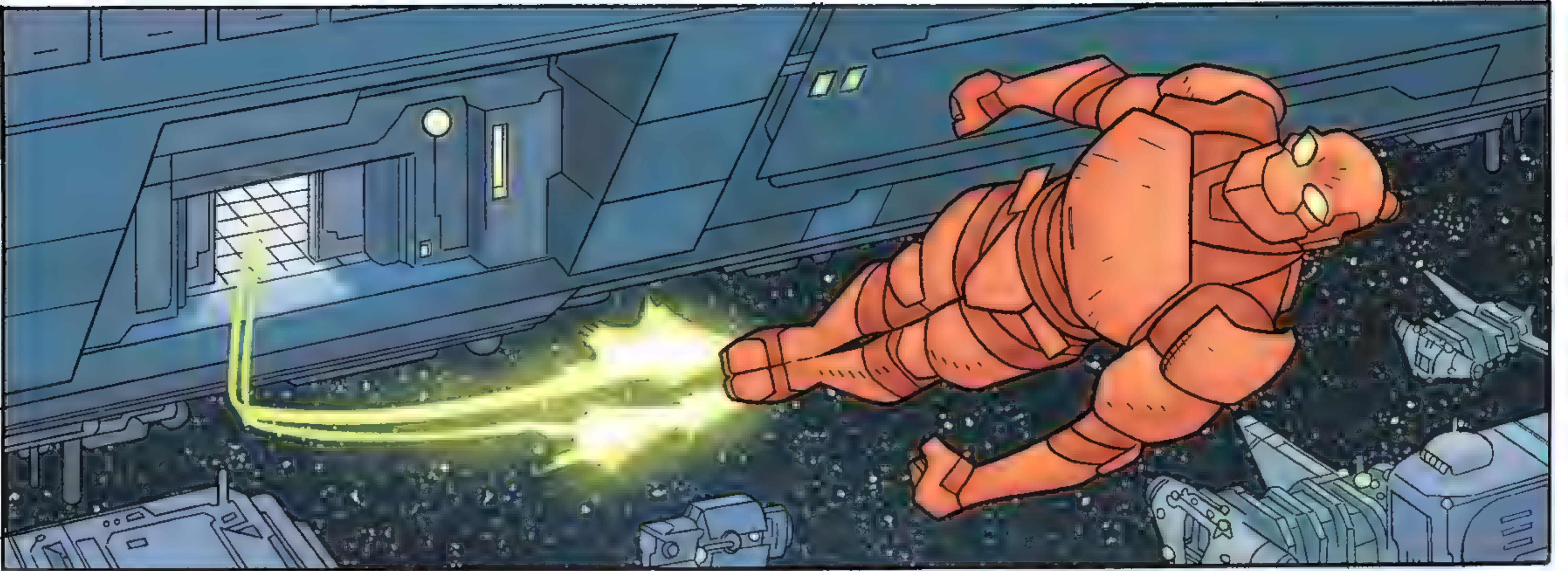


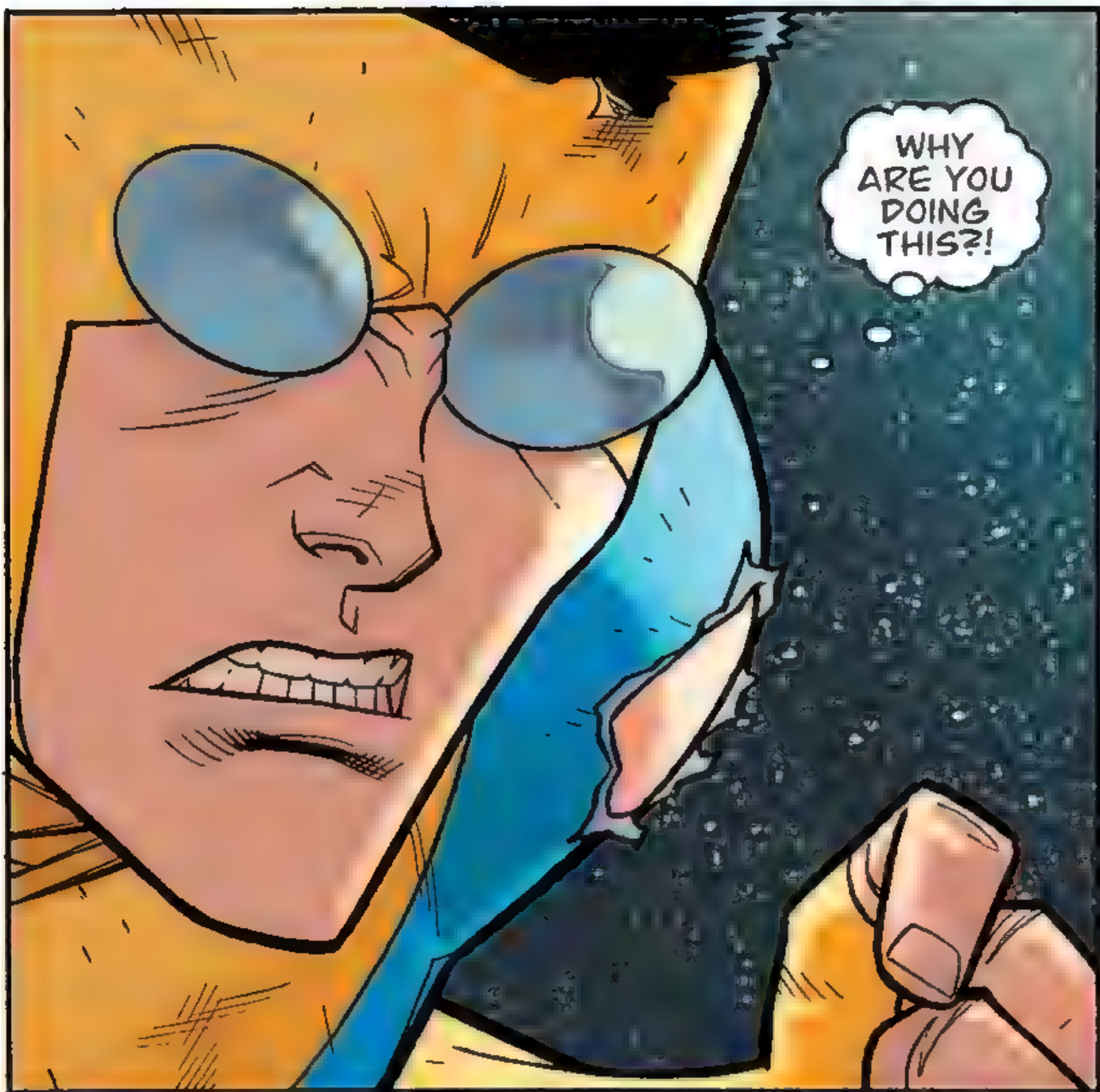


CHAPTER 142









WHY ARE YOU DOING THIS?!

WITH YOUR FATHER DEAD, YOU ARE GOING TO ASSUME COMMAND OF THE VILTRUMITES. IT'S ONLY A MATTER OF TIME BEFORE YOU TURN THEM AGAINST ME.



I HAD NO CHOICE BUT TO STRIKE FIRST.



I ONLY GATHERED THEIR OFFSPRING AS A PRECAUTION.

IF YOUR EFFORTS AGAINST THRAGG FAILED, THEY COULD HAVE BEEN AN ASSET IF THEY KNEW I'D PROTECT THEM.

NOW, THEY'RE A TOOL TO TURN YOUR ARMY AGAINST YOU BEFORE YOU CAN TURN IT AGAINST ME.

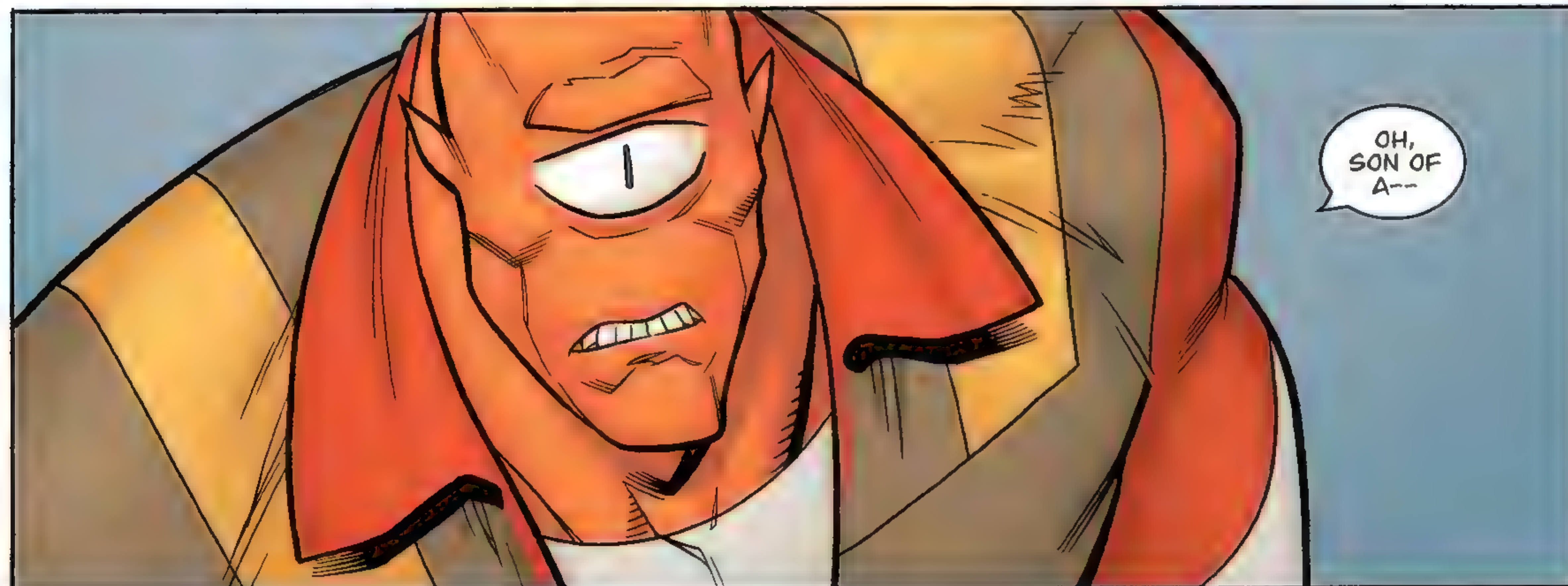
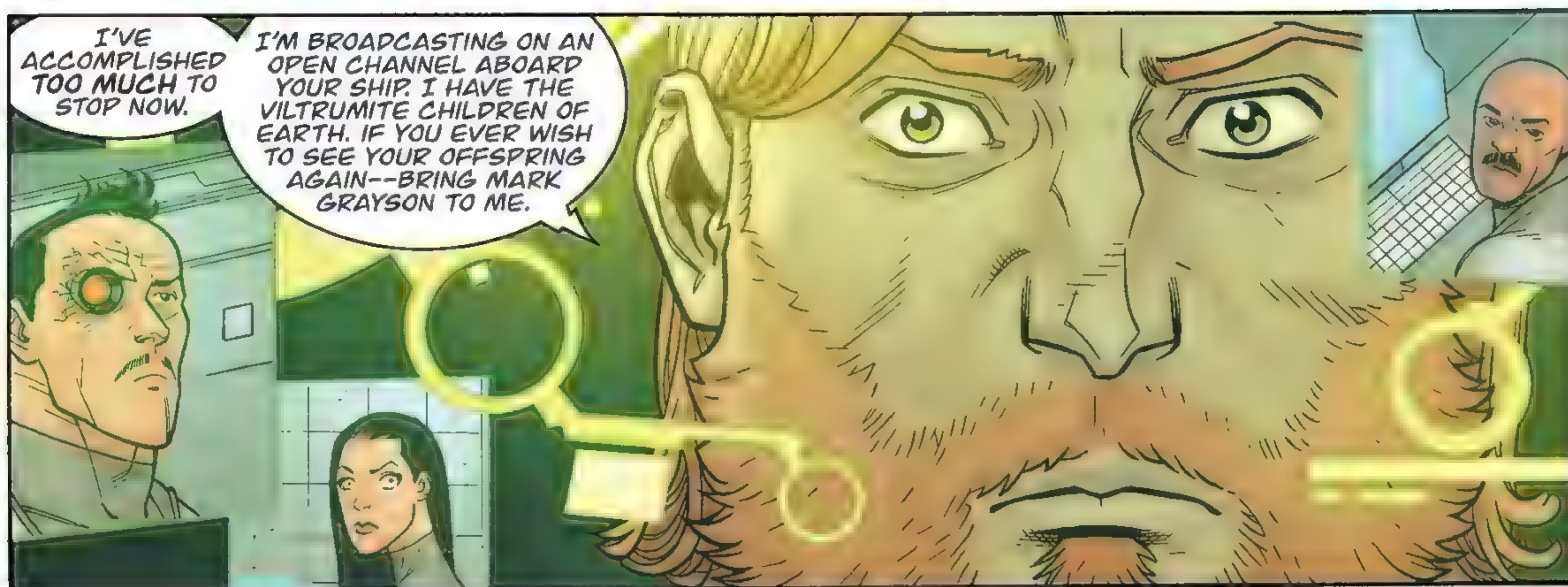


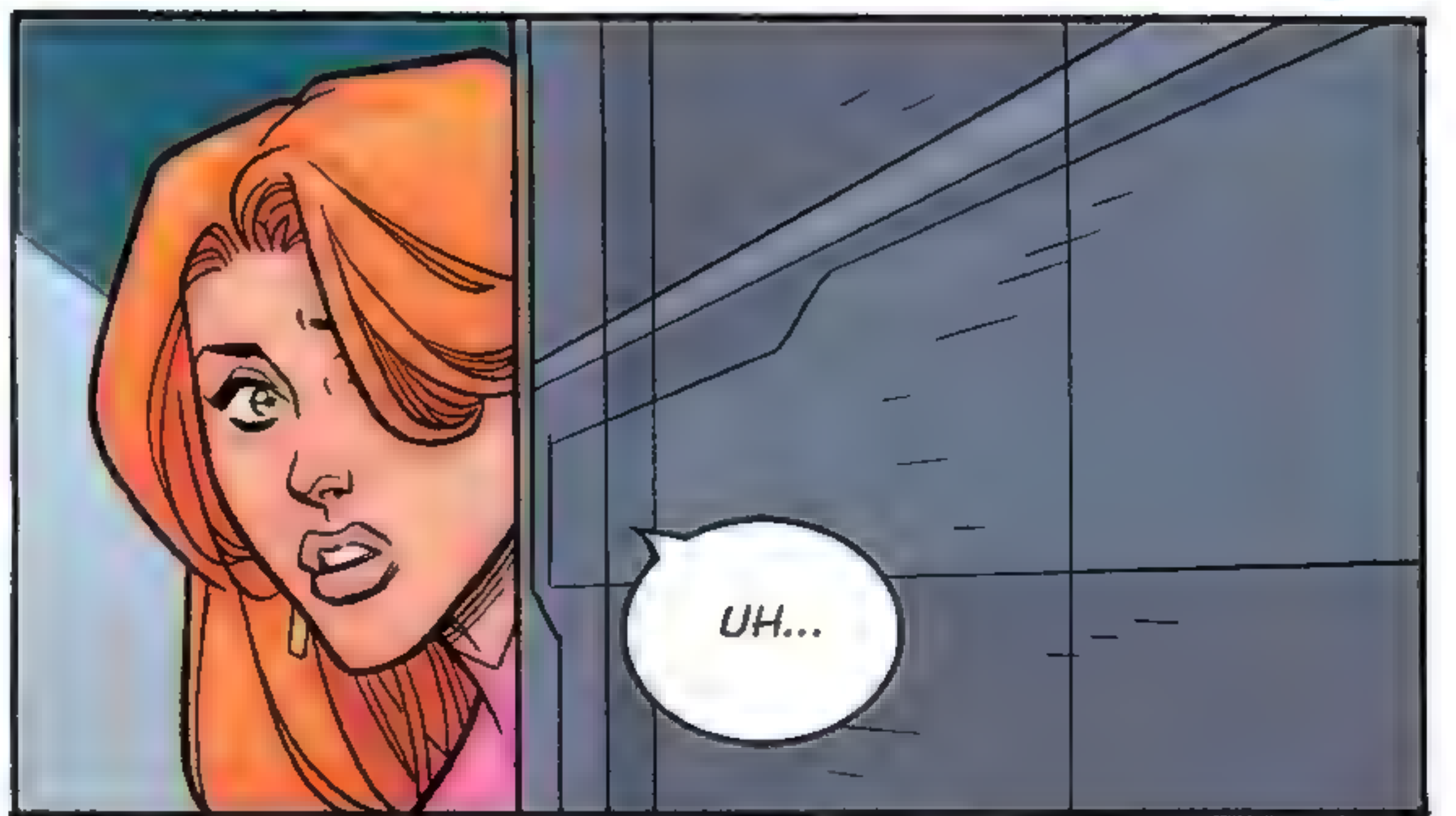
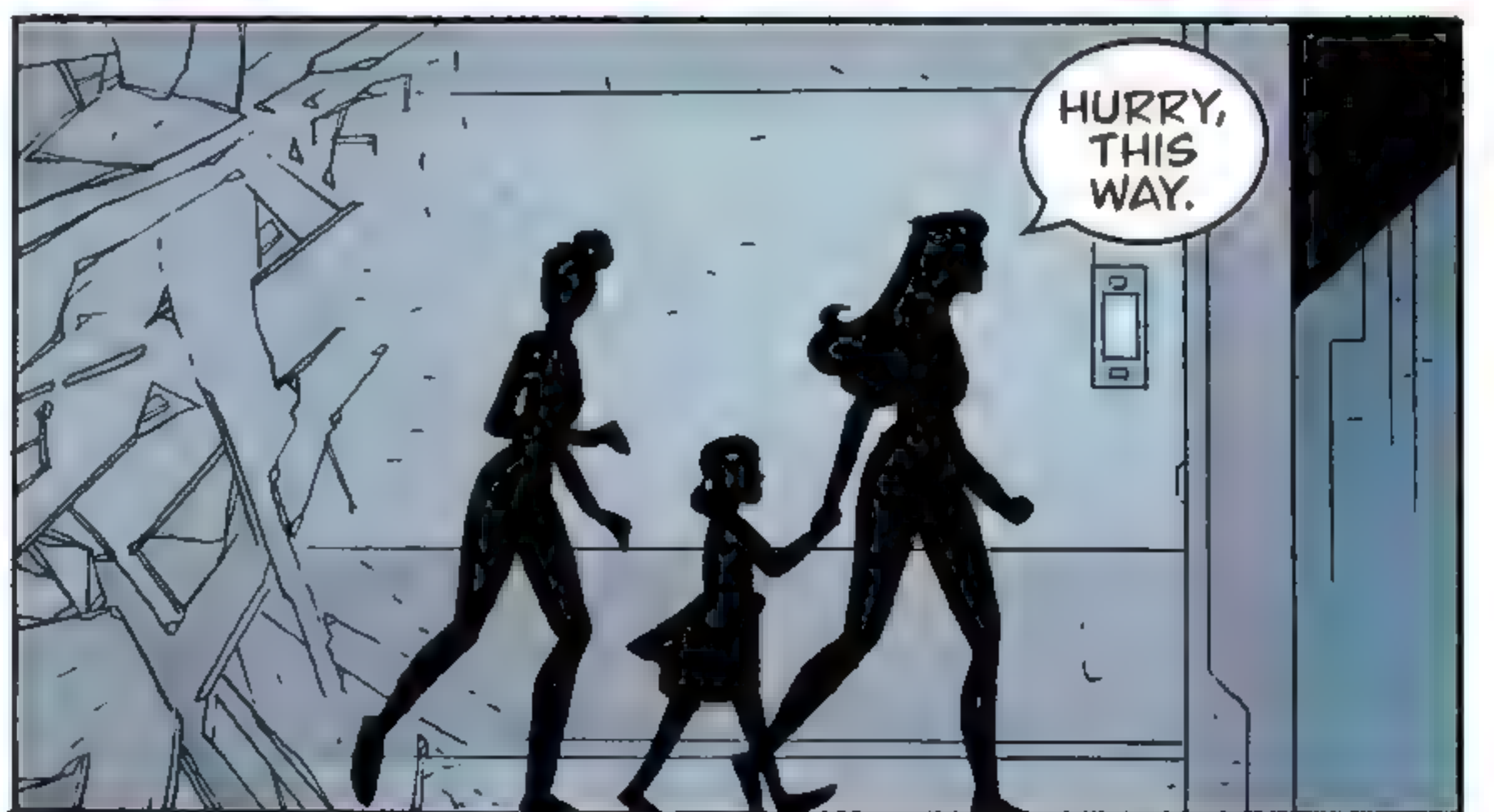
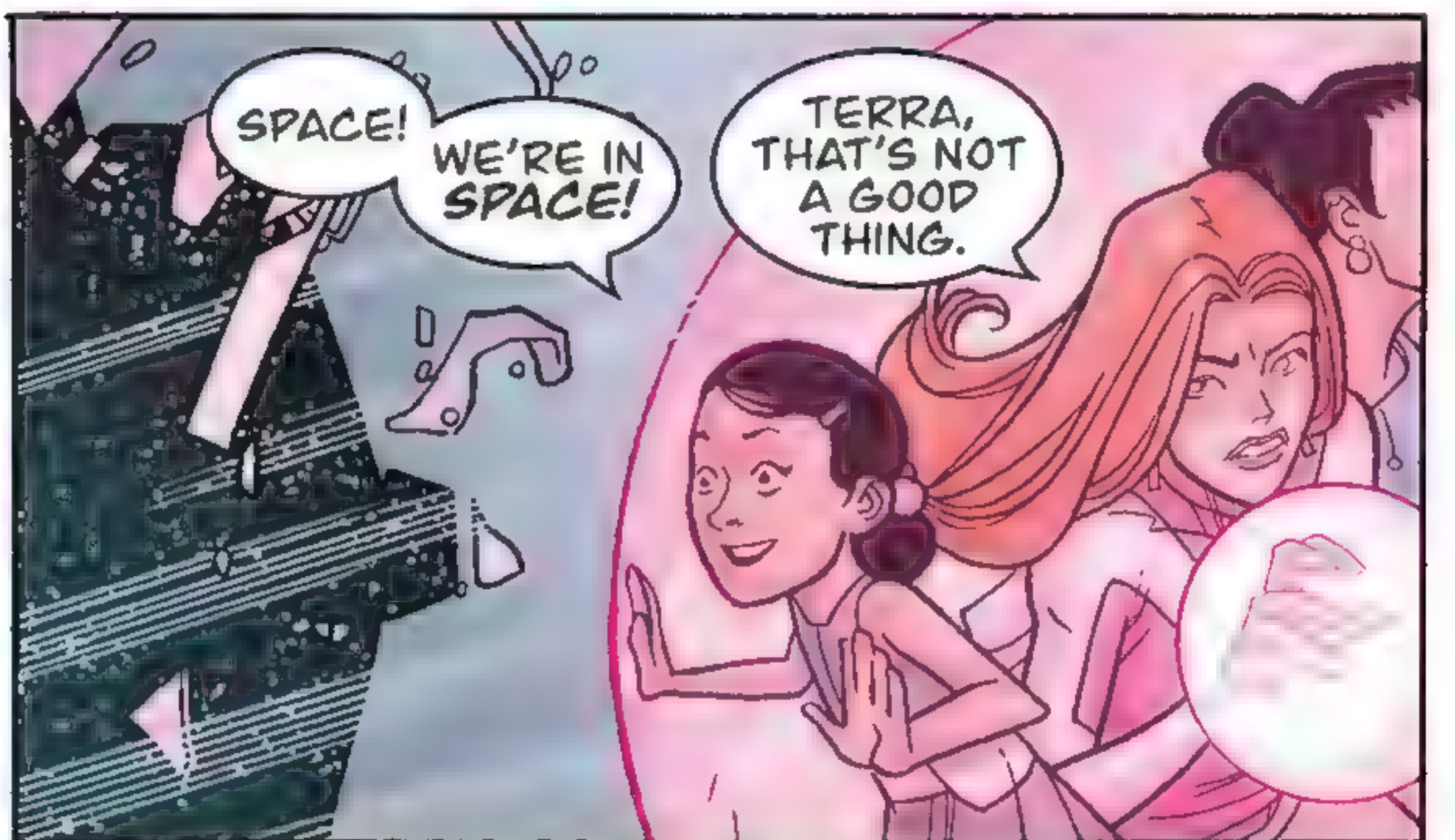
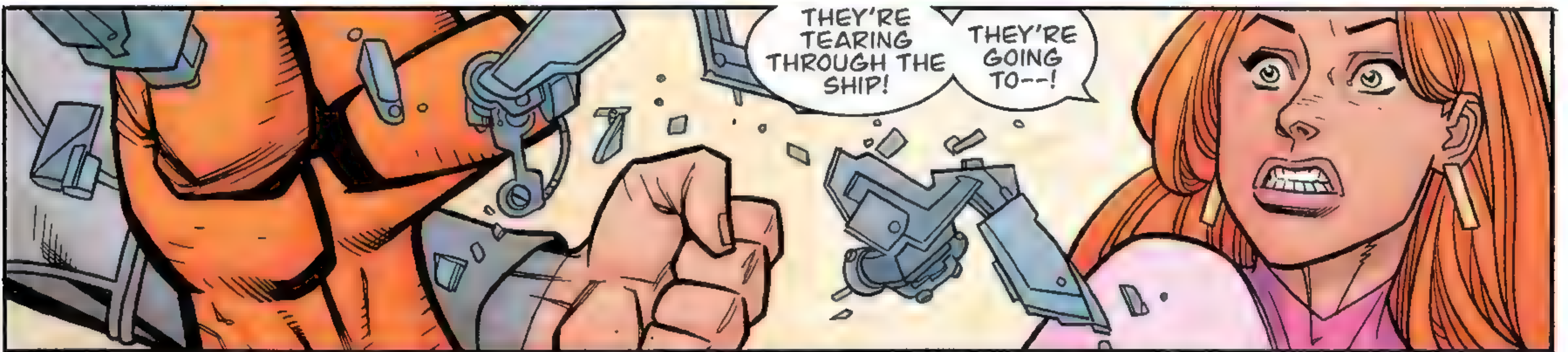
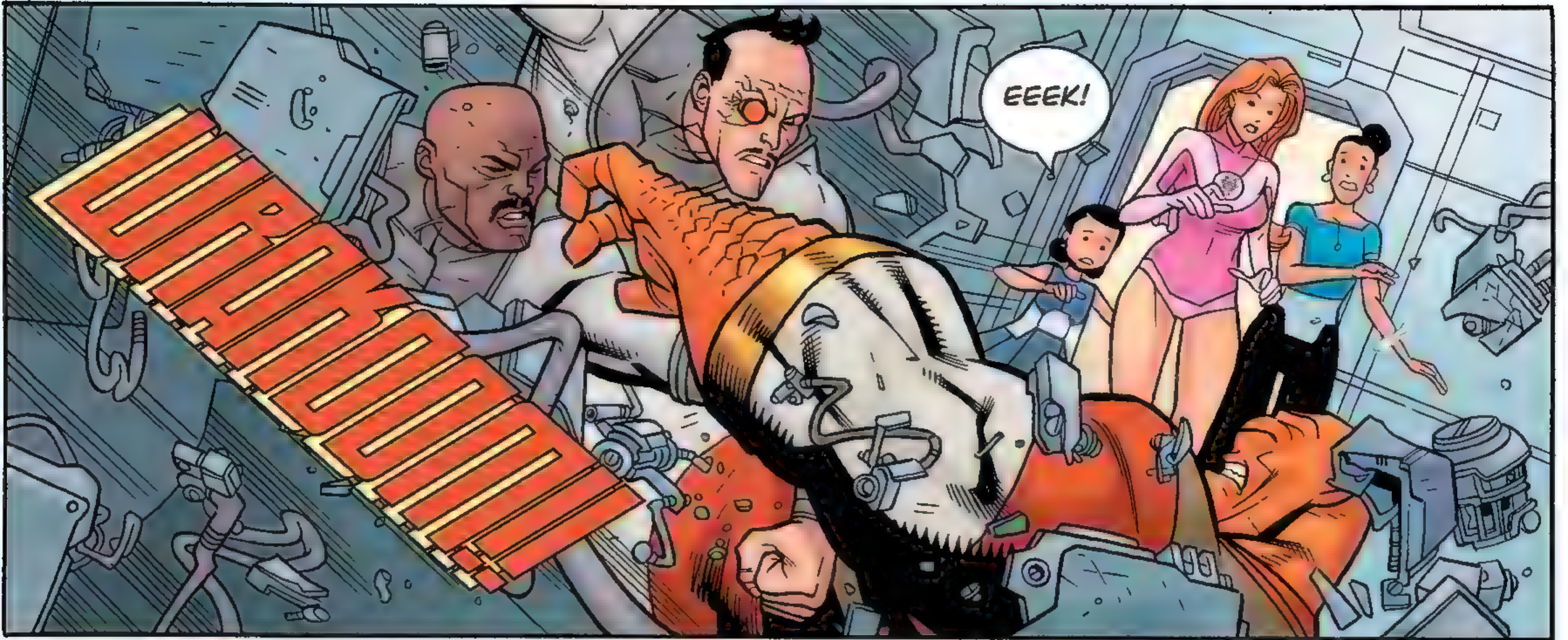
YOU THOUGHT OF EVERYTHING-- DIDN'T YOU?

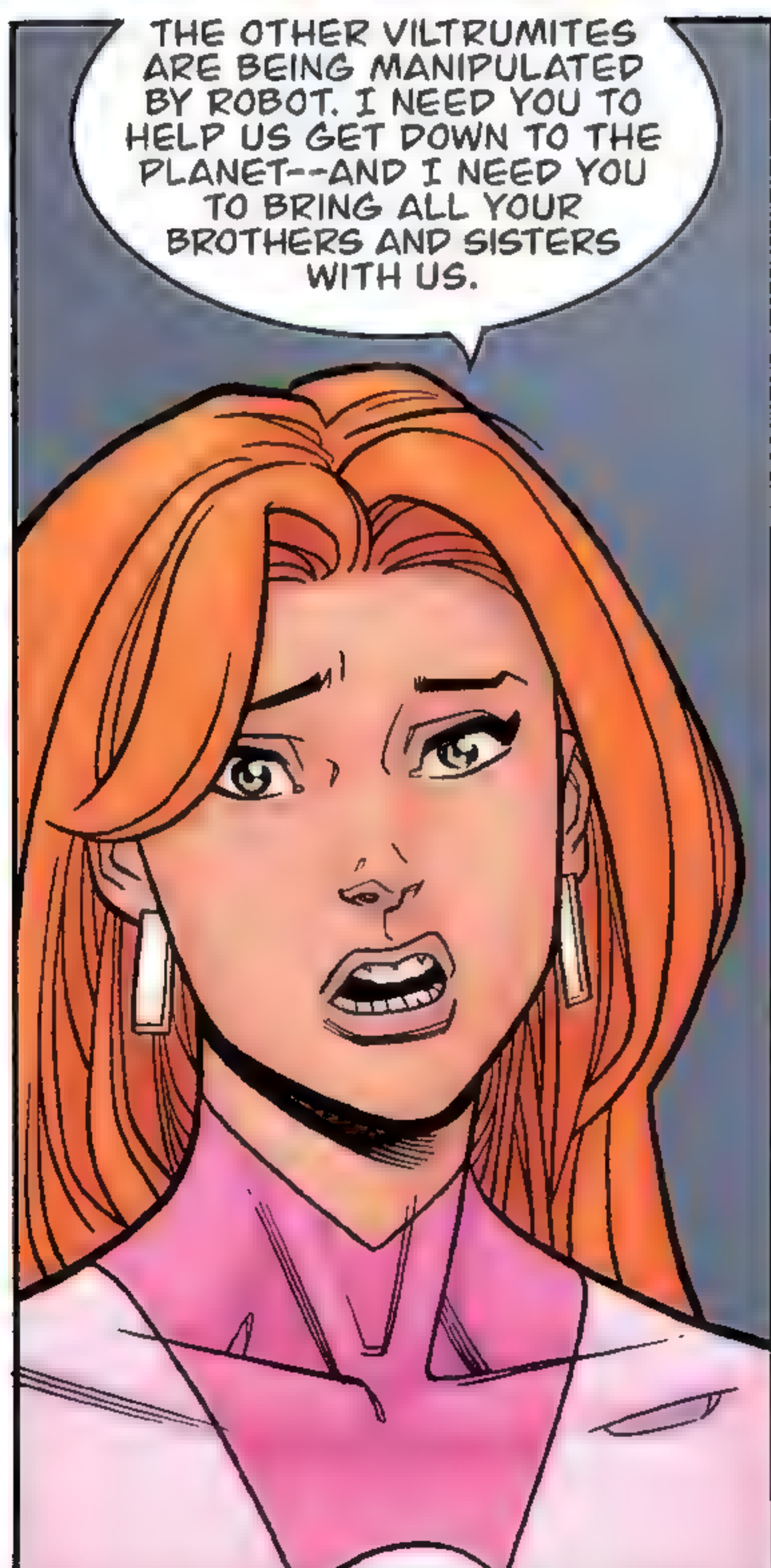
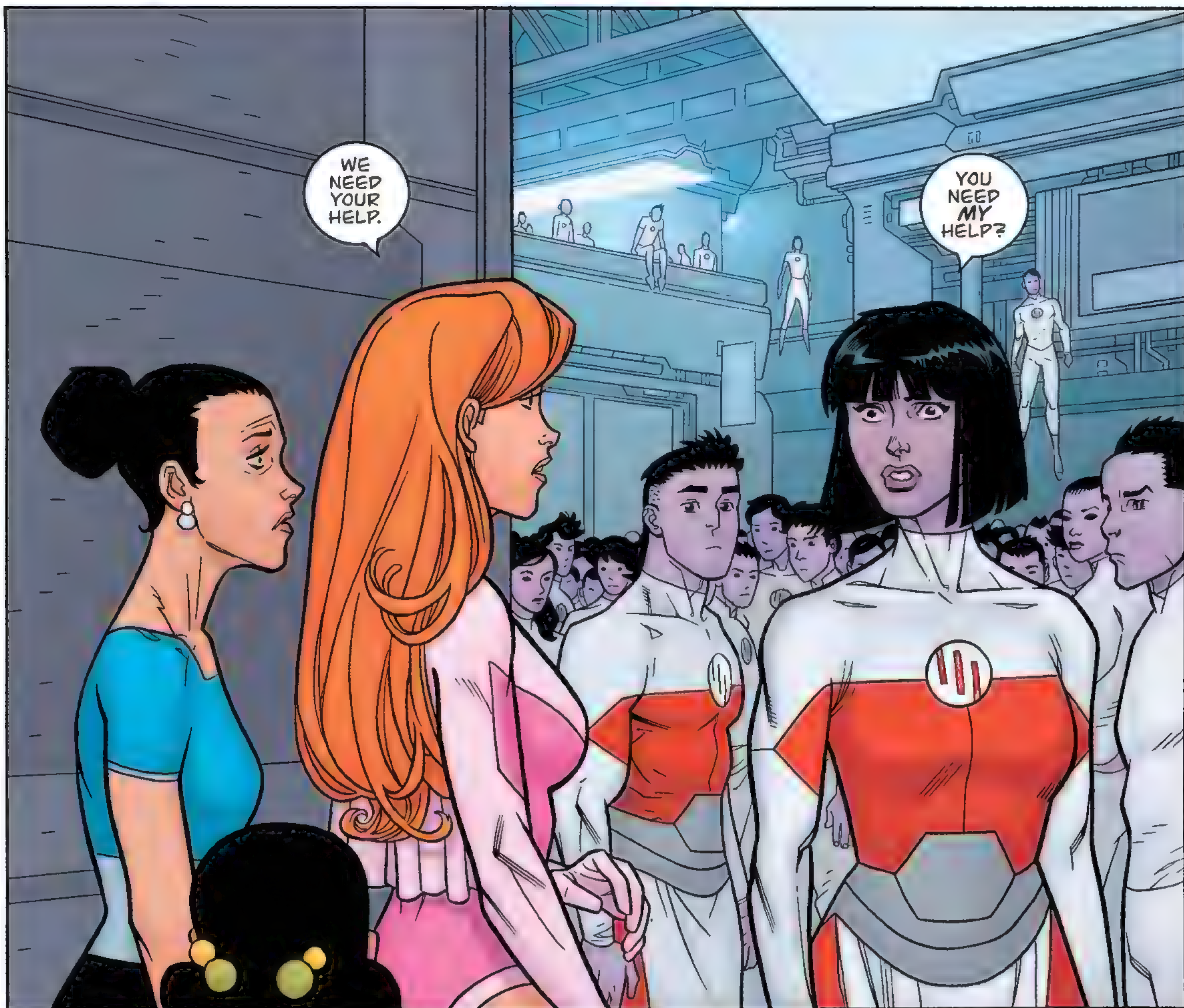


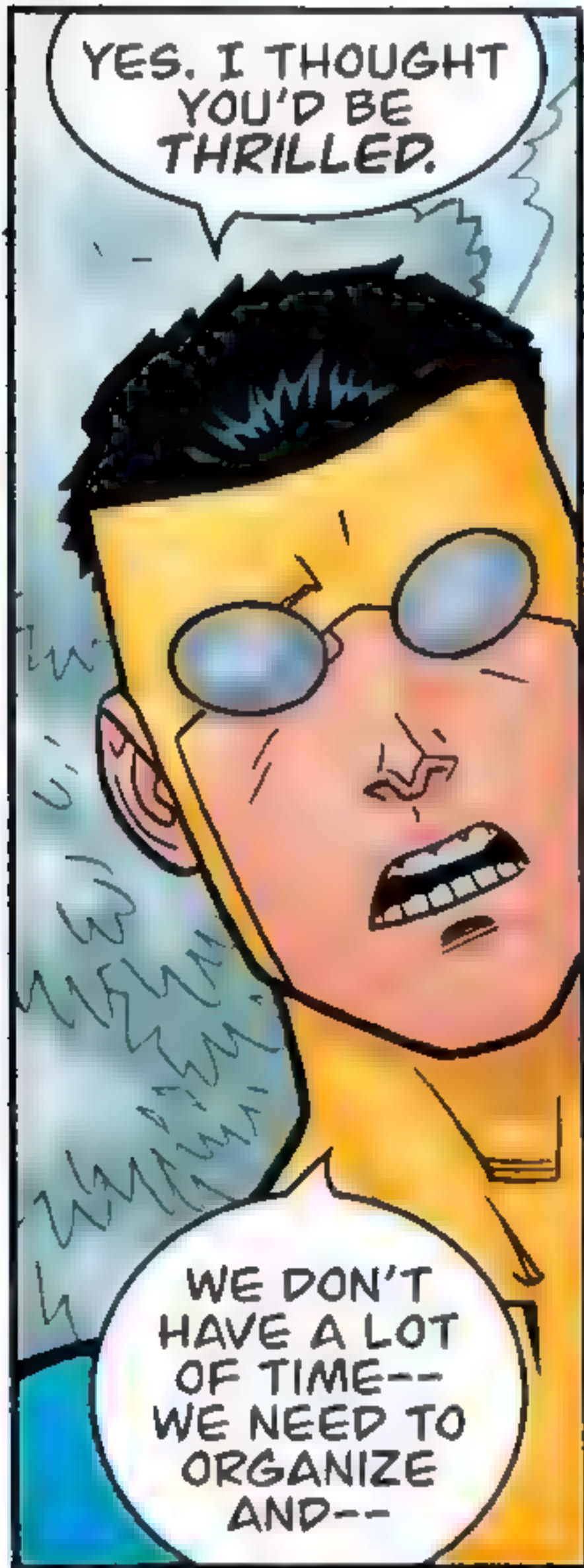
WE'LL SEE.

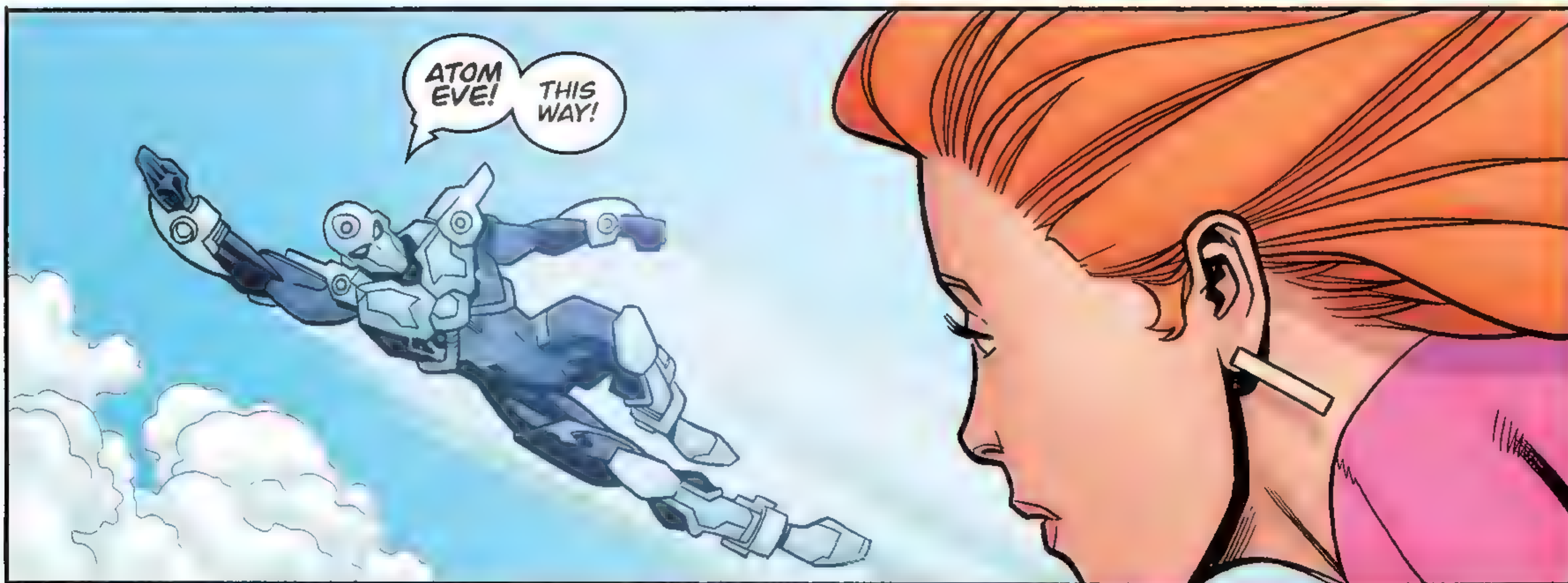
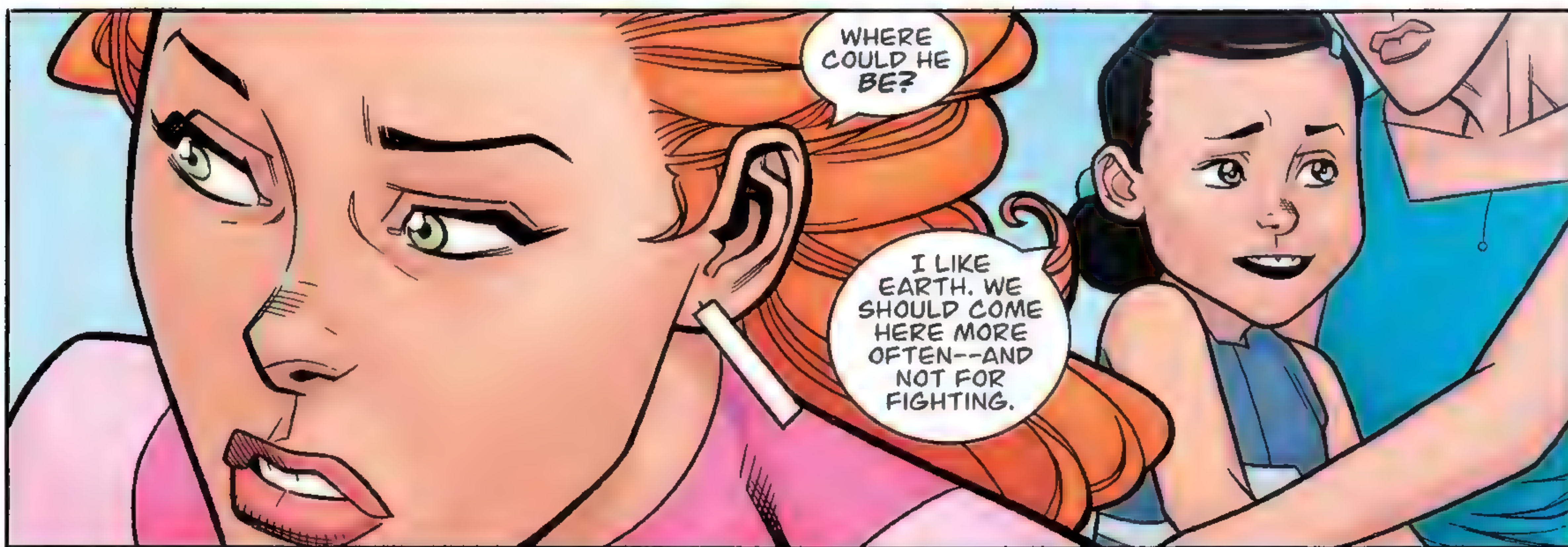
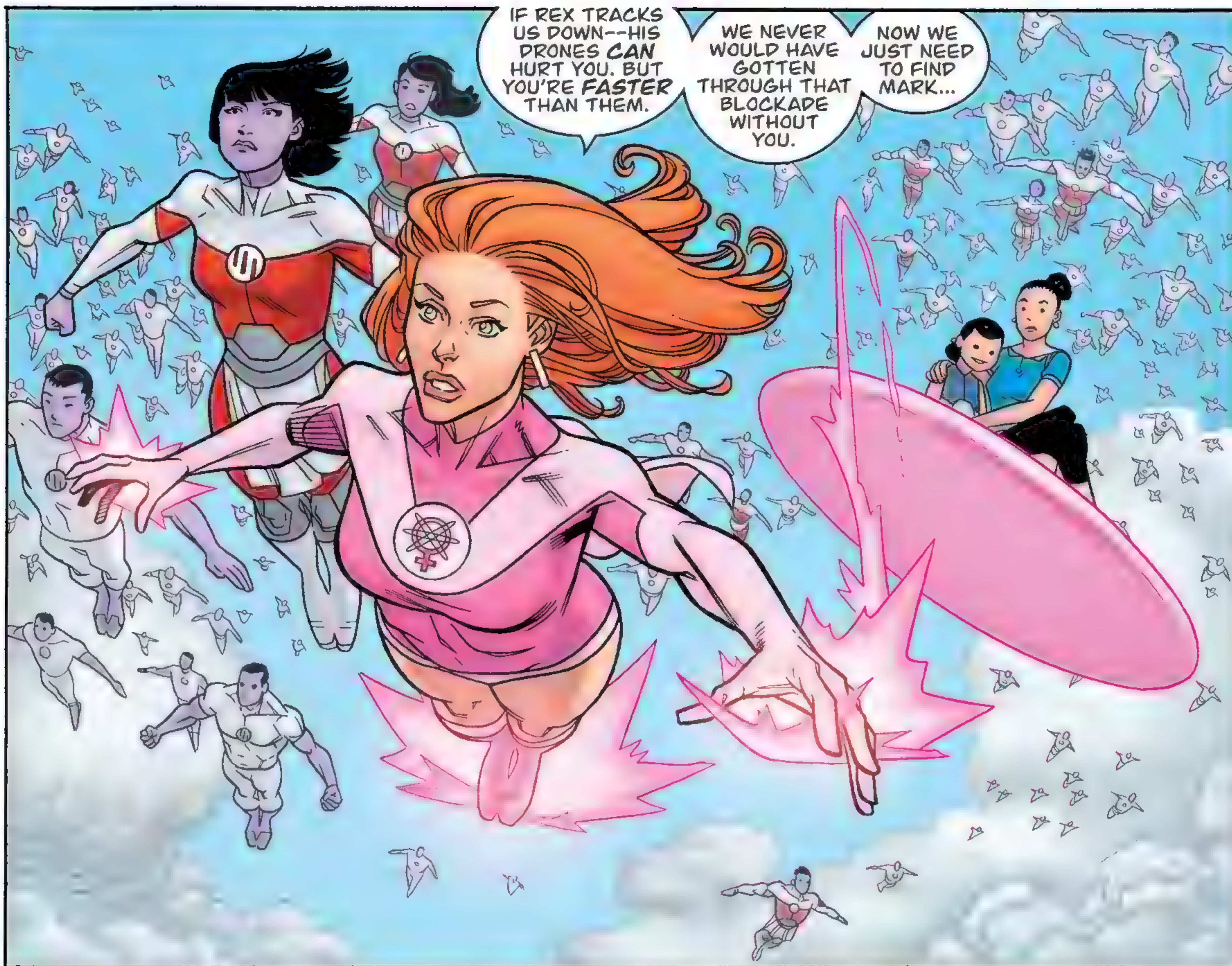


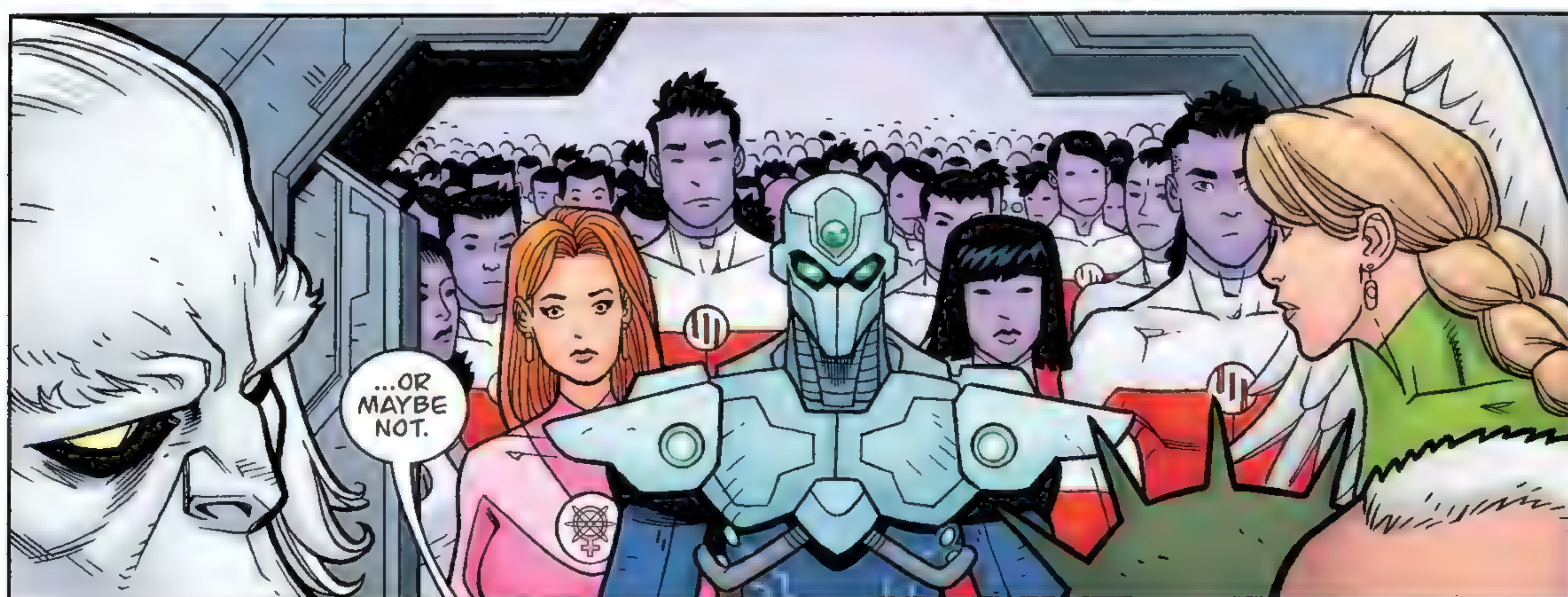
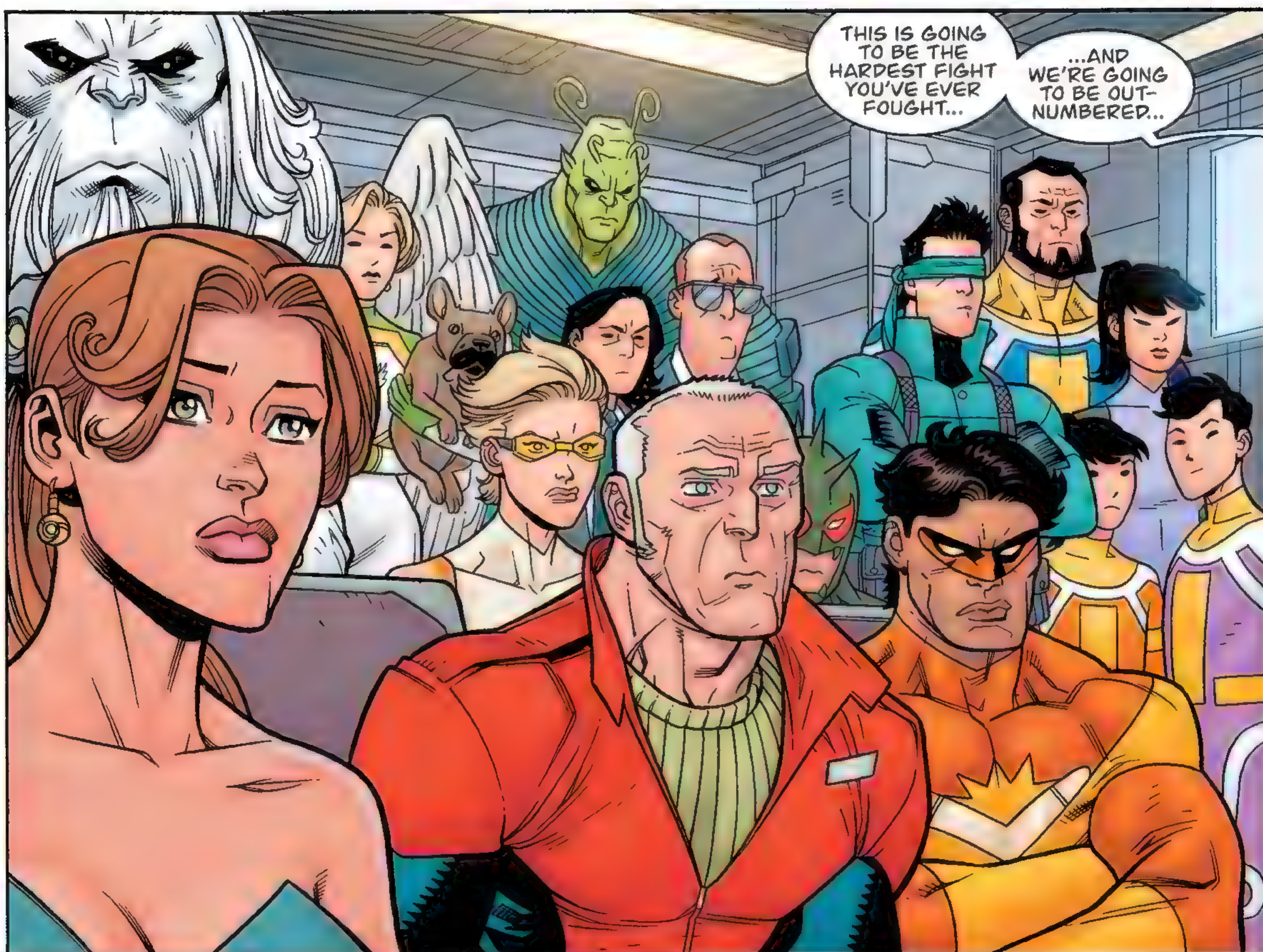
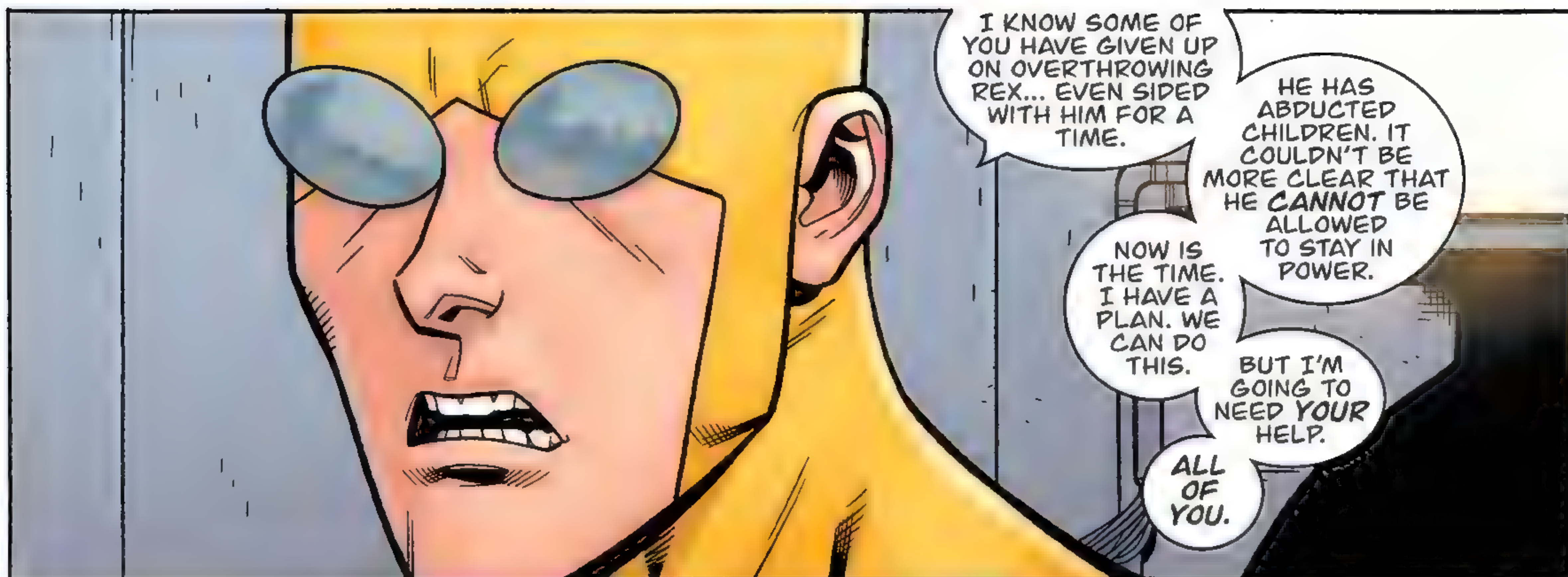


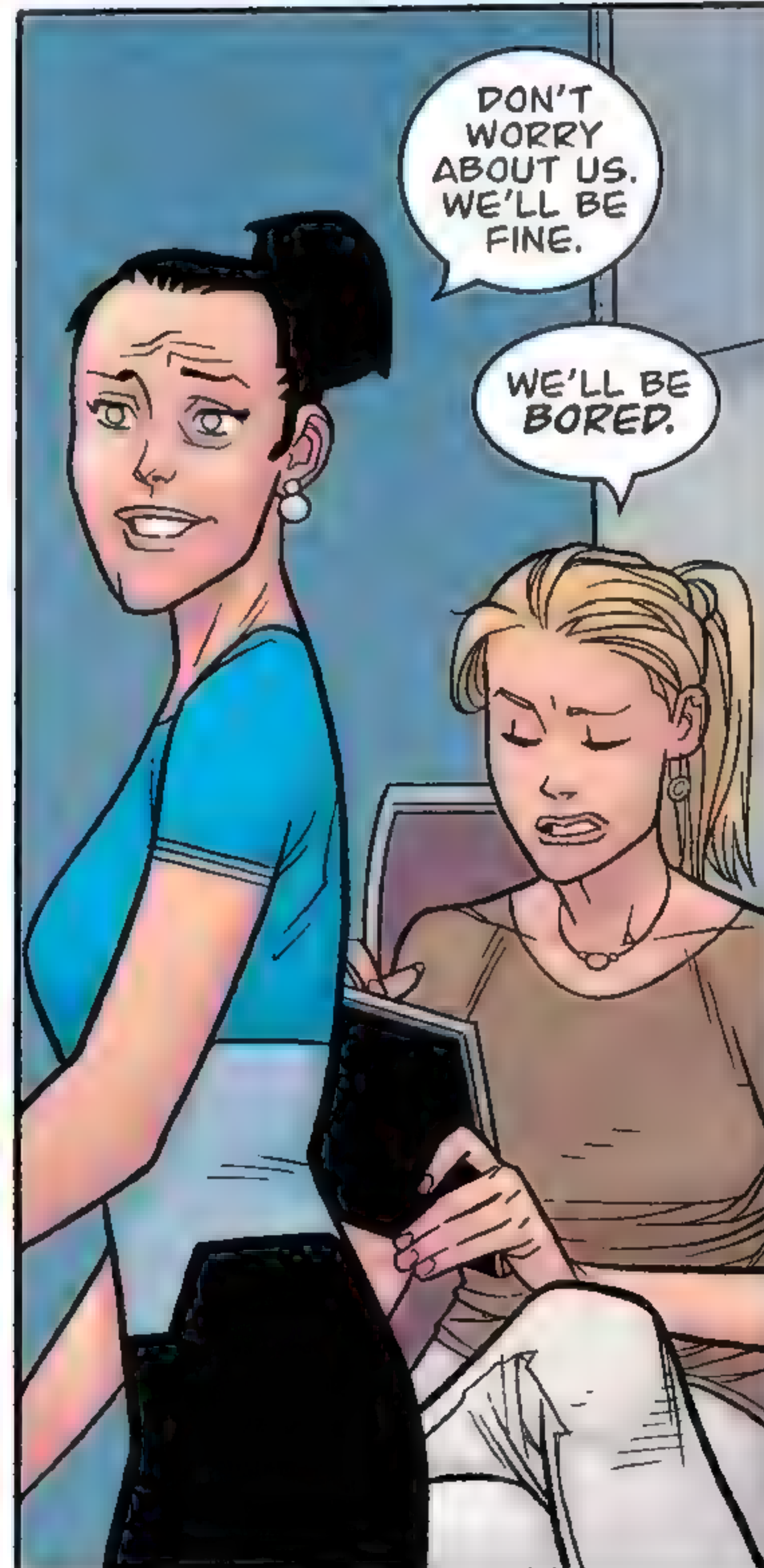
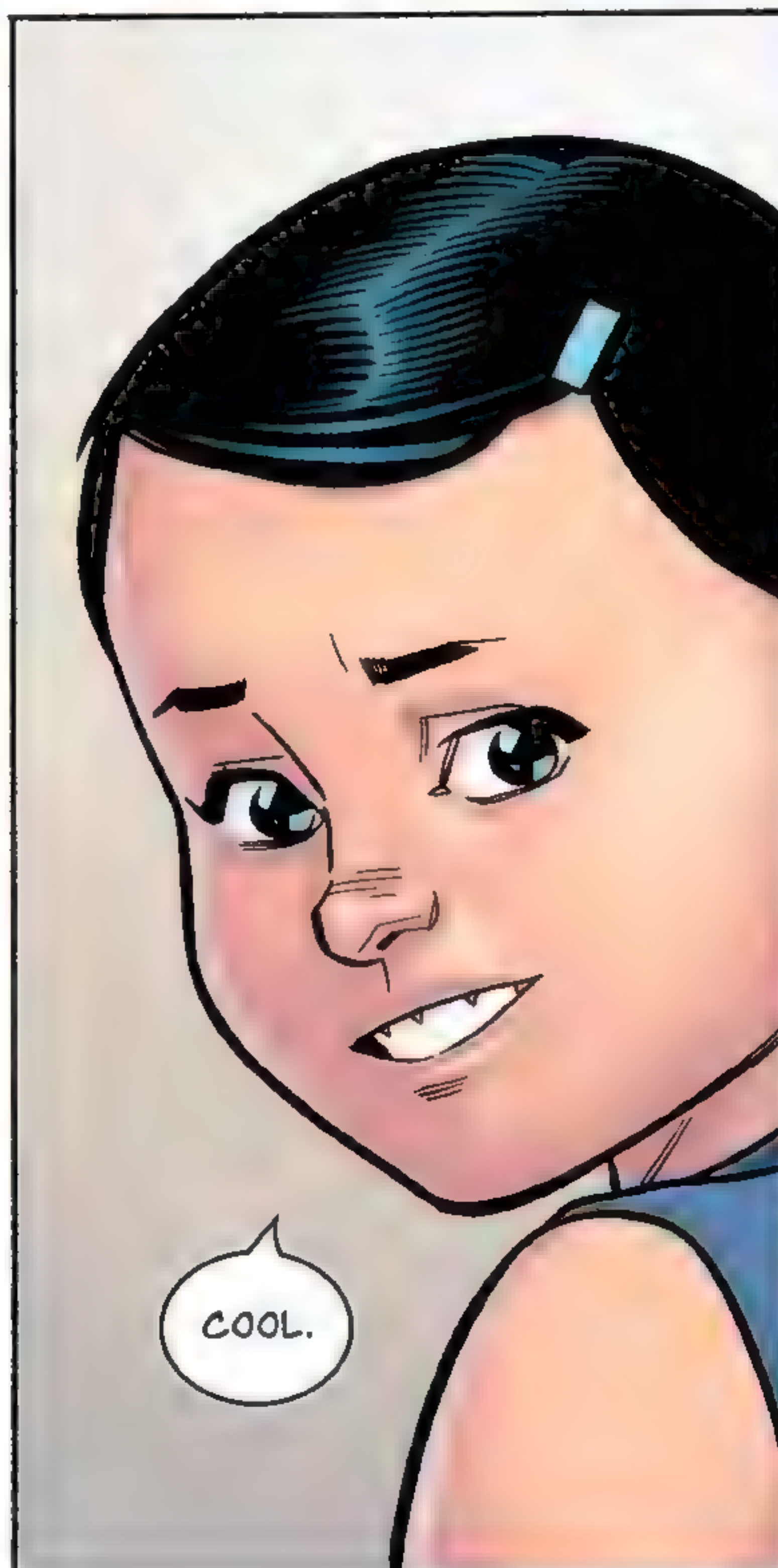
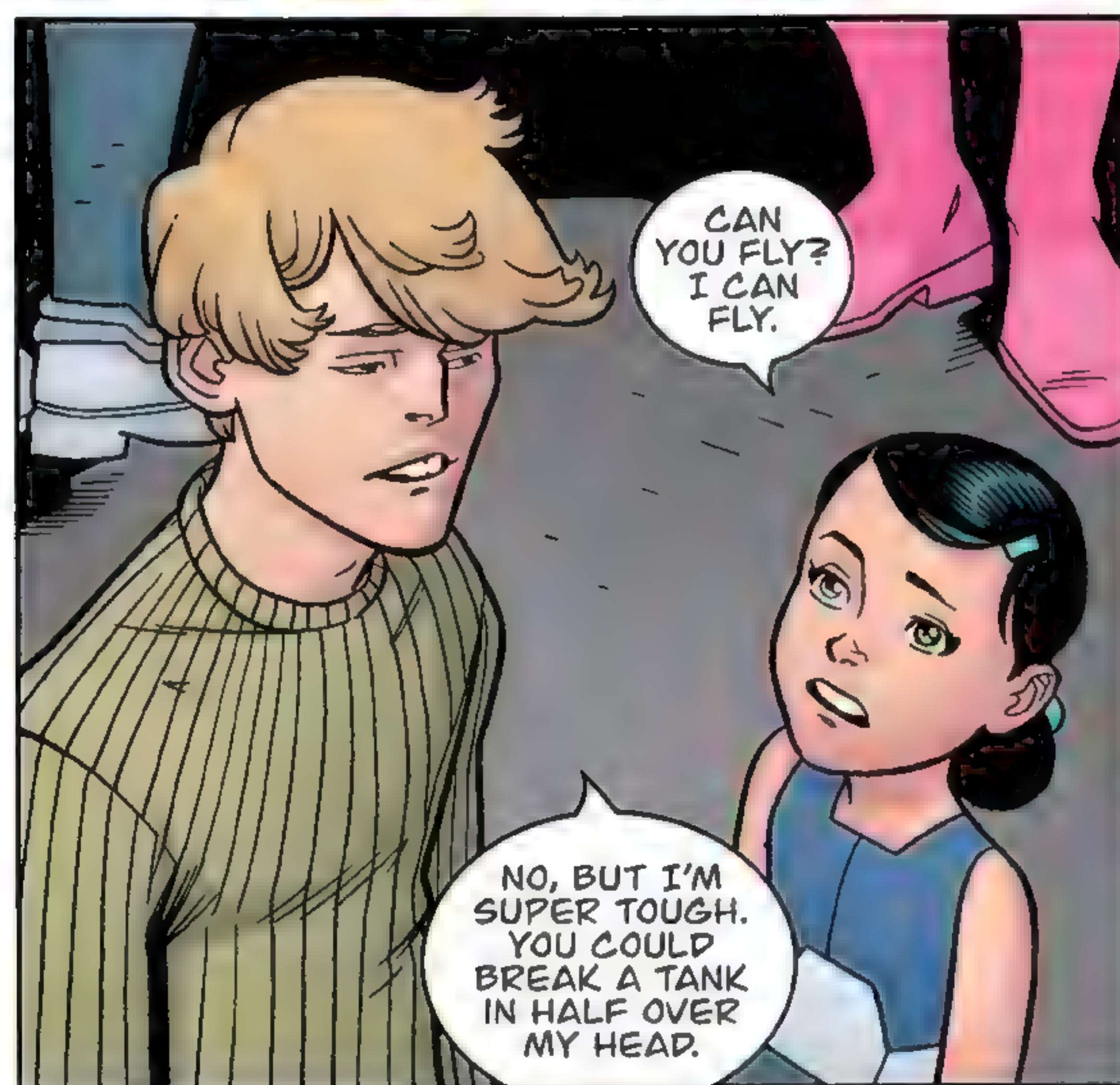
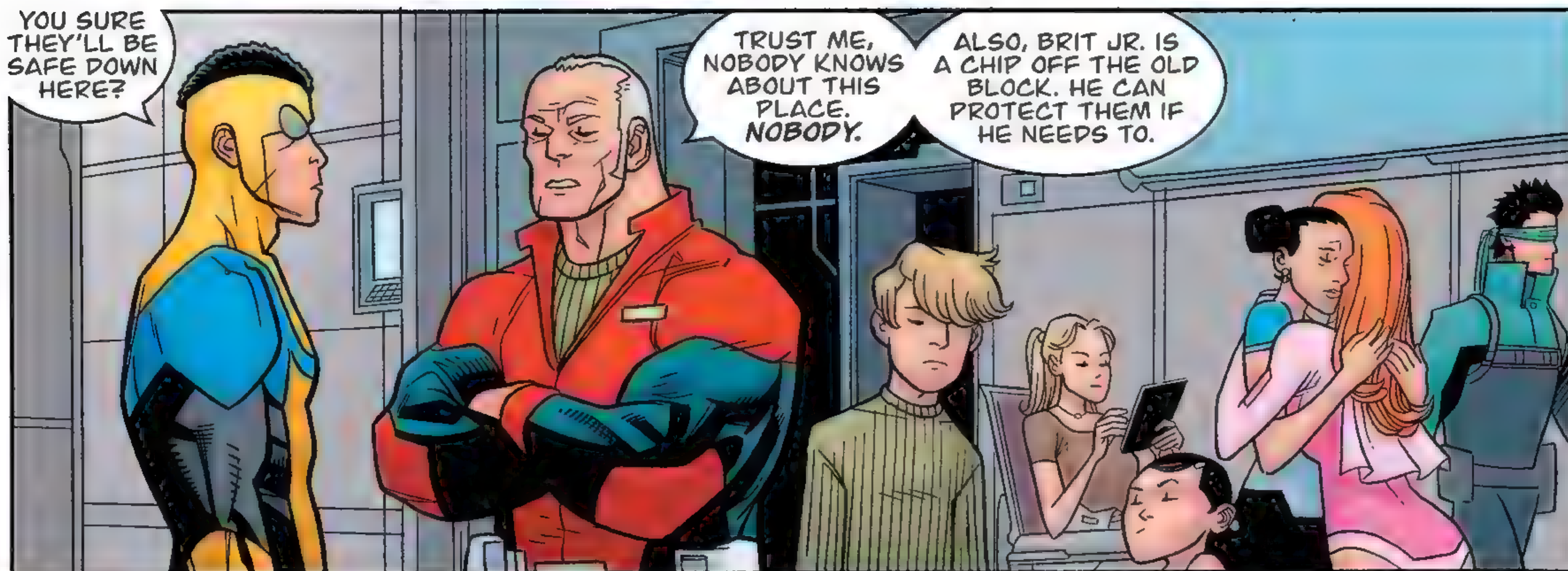






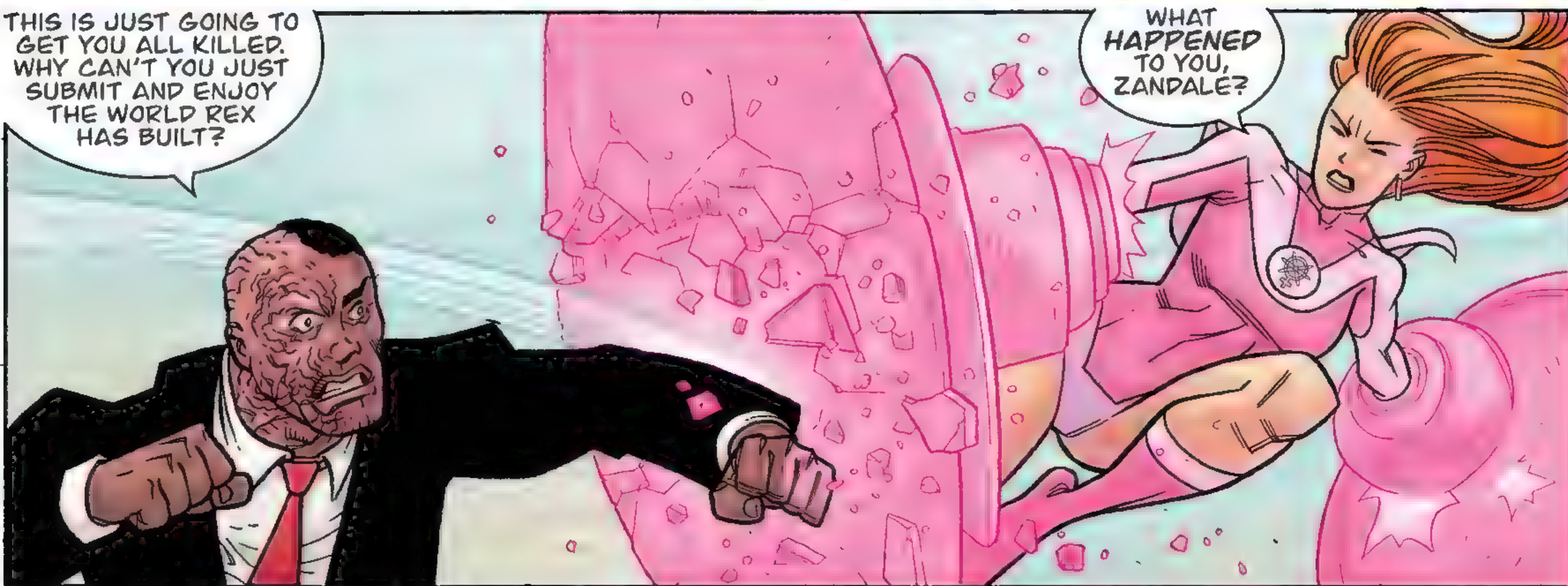
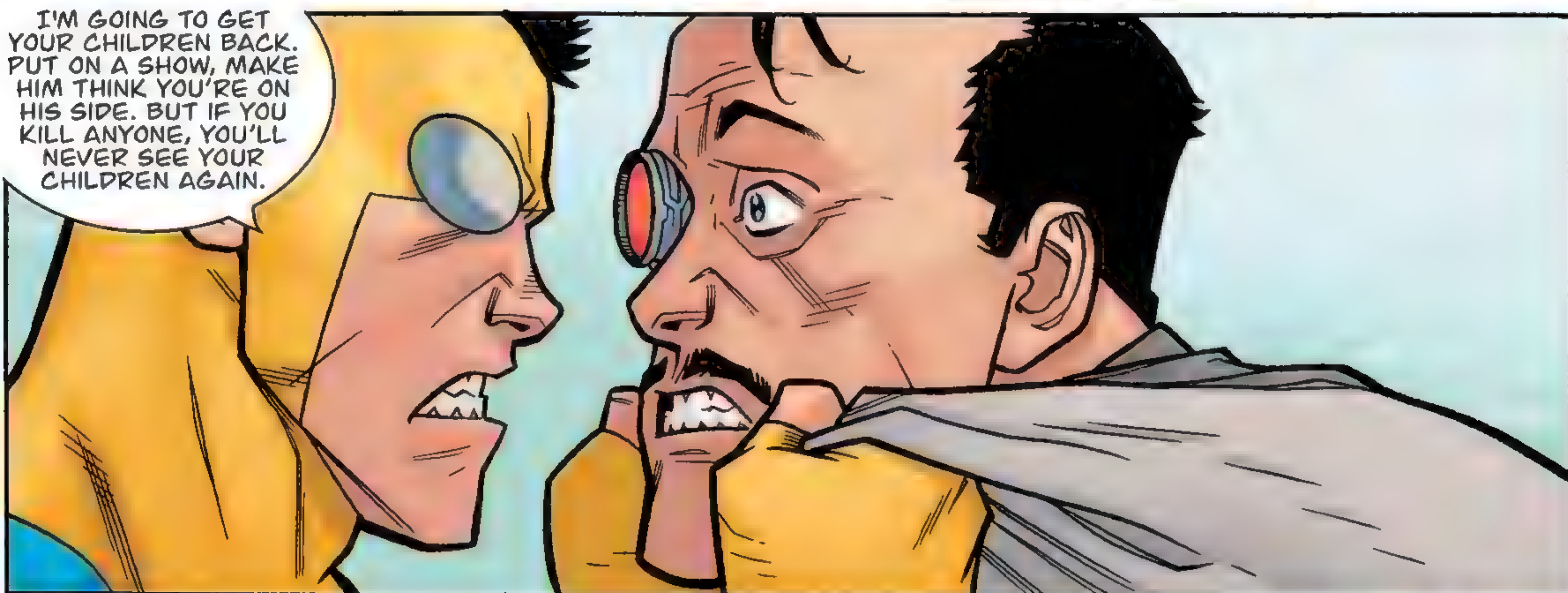














YOU
REALLY
COULDN'T
LEAVE WELL
ENOUGH
ALONE,
COULD
YOU?

YOU WON'T
GIVE UP UNTIL
EVERYONE YOU
CARE ABOUT
IS DEAD.

WHAT YOU DID
IS WRONG. WHAT
YOU'RE DOING IS
WRONG. I SHOULD
NEVER HAVE GIVEN
UP--I SHOULD HAVE
TAKEN YOU OUT
IMMEDIATELY.

THIS PLANET
ISN'T YOURS TO
MANIPULATE
AS YOU SEE
FIT!



YOU'RE
THE BATTERING
RAM--GET HER IN
THERE AND FIND
THOSE KIDS.
THEY'VE GOTTA
BE HERE.

I'M ON
IT. YOU
WITH
ME?

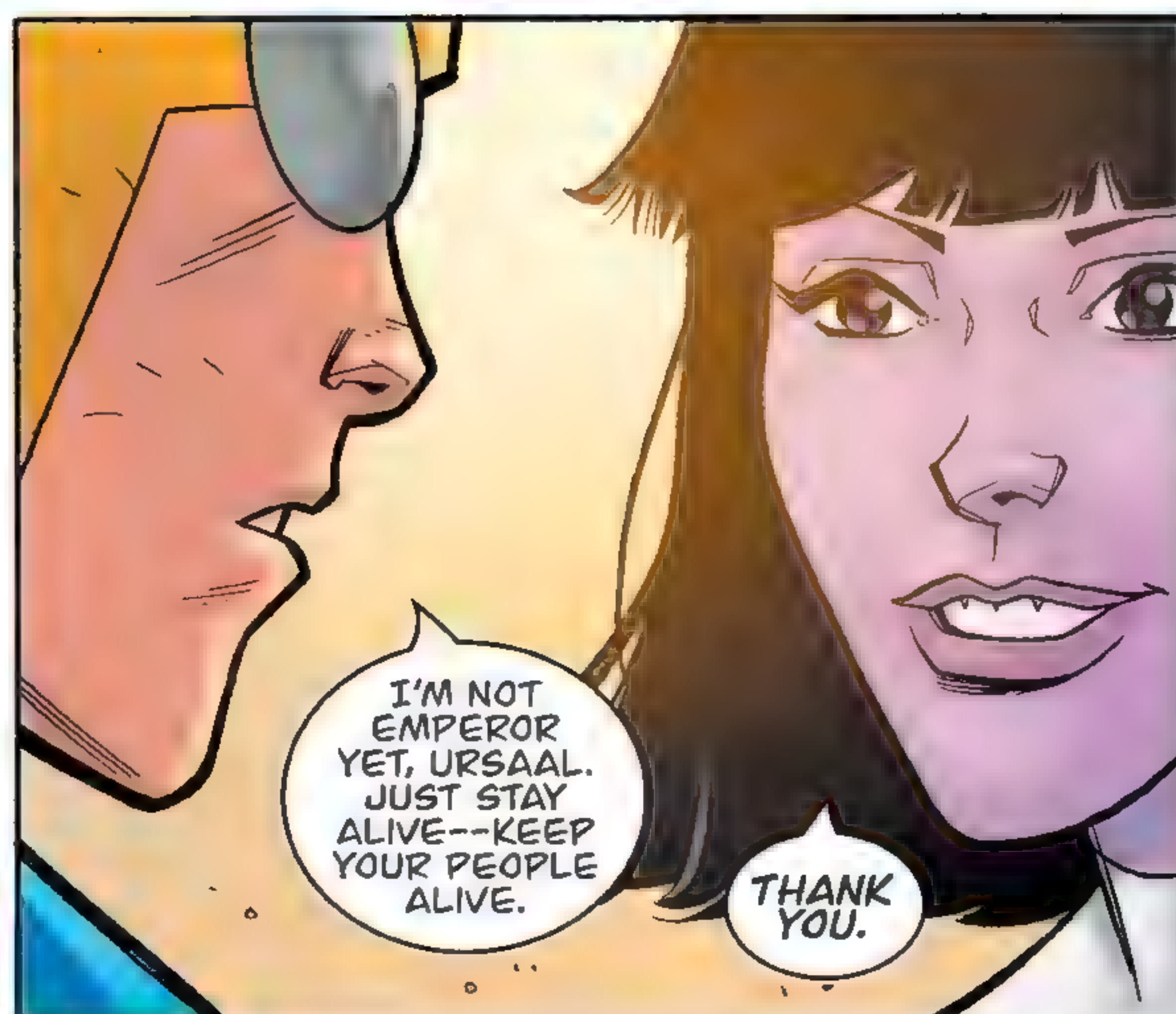
LET'S
GO.

WROKKA-CH OOM!!!

KEEP
GOING
DOWN!

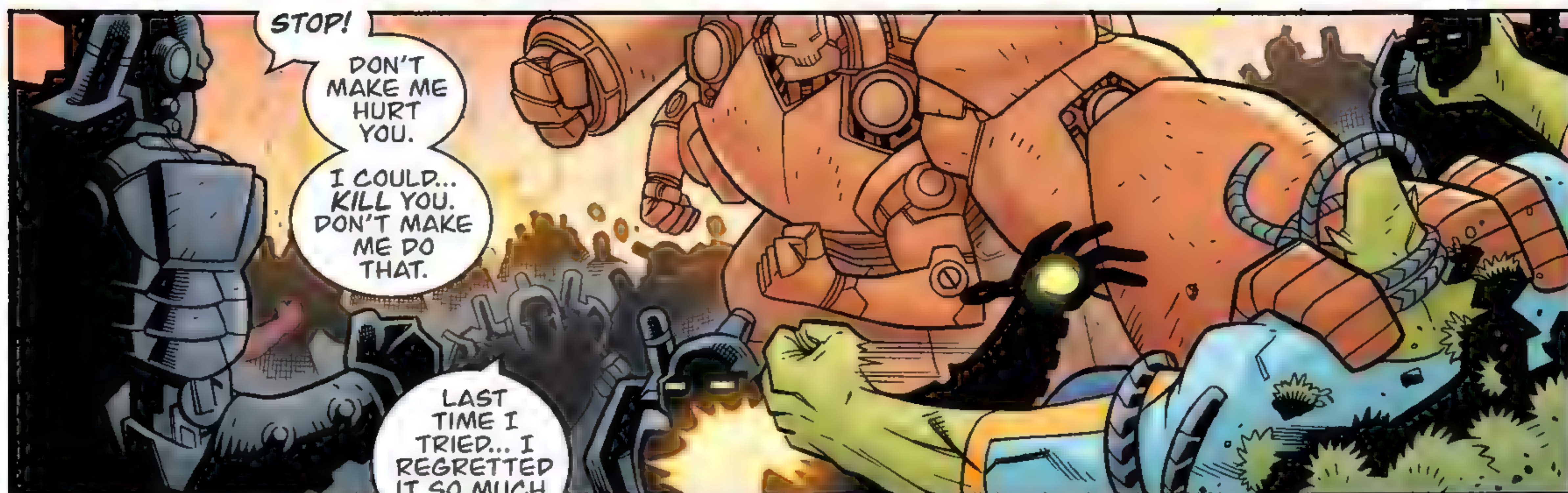
NOW,
FOLLOW
ME!

OKAY...
THIS MEANS
WE'RE
GETTING
CLOSE.









STOP!

DON'T
MAKE ME
HURT
YOU.

I COULD...
KILL YOU.
DON'T MAKE
ME DO
THAT.

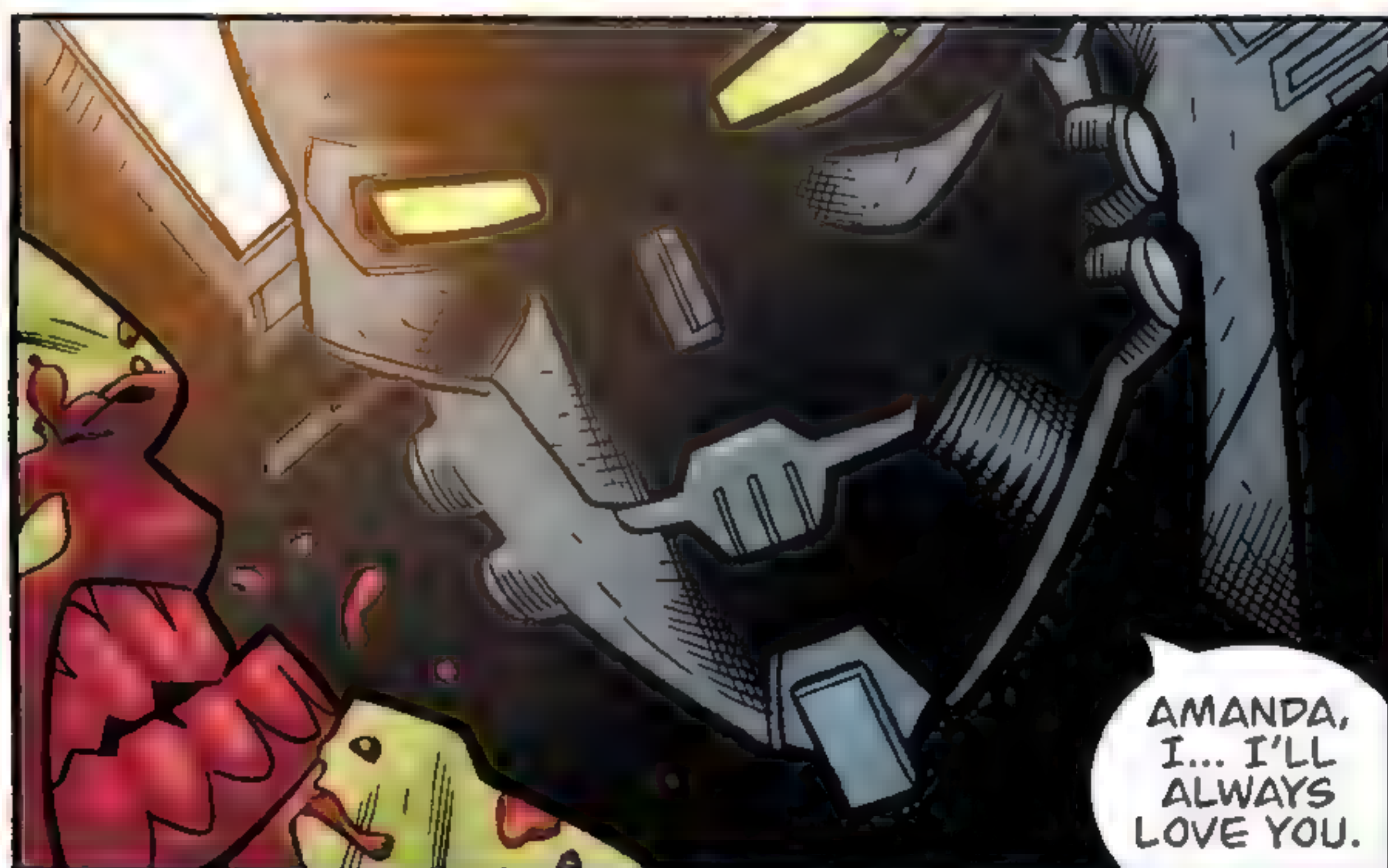
LAST
TIME I
TRIED... I
REGRETTED
IT SO MUCH.



DON'T--

KROKKI!

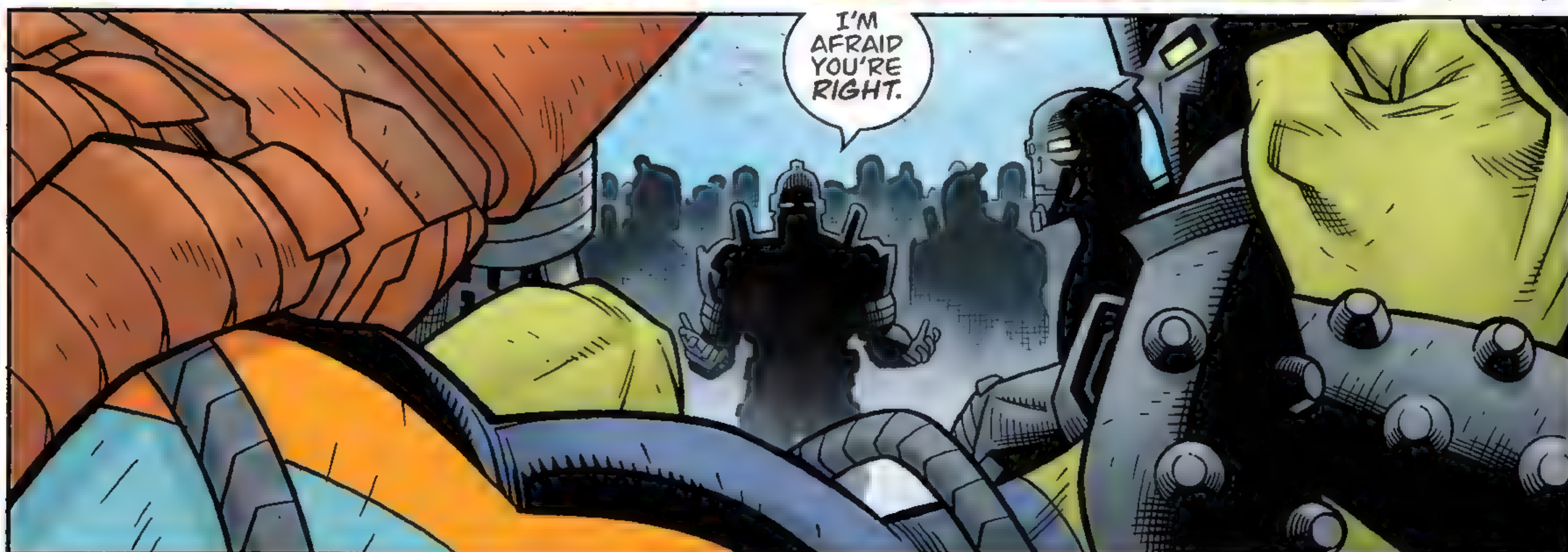
DON'T
MAKE ME
DO THAT
AGAIN.



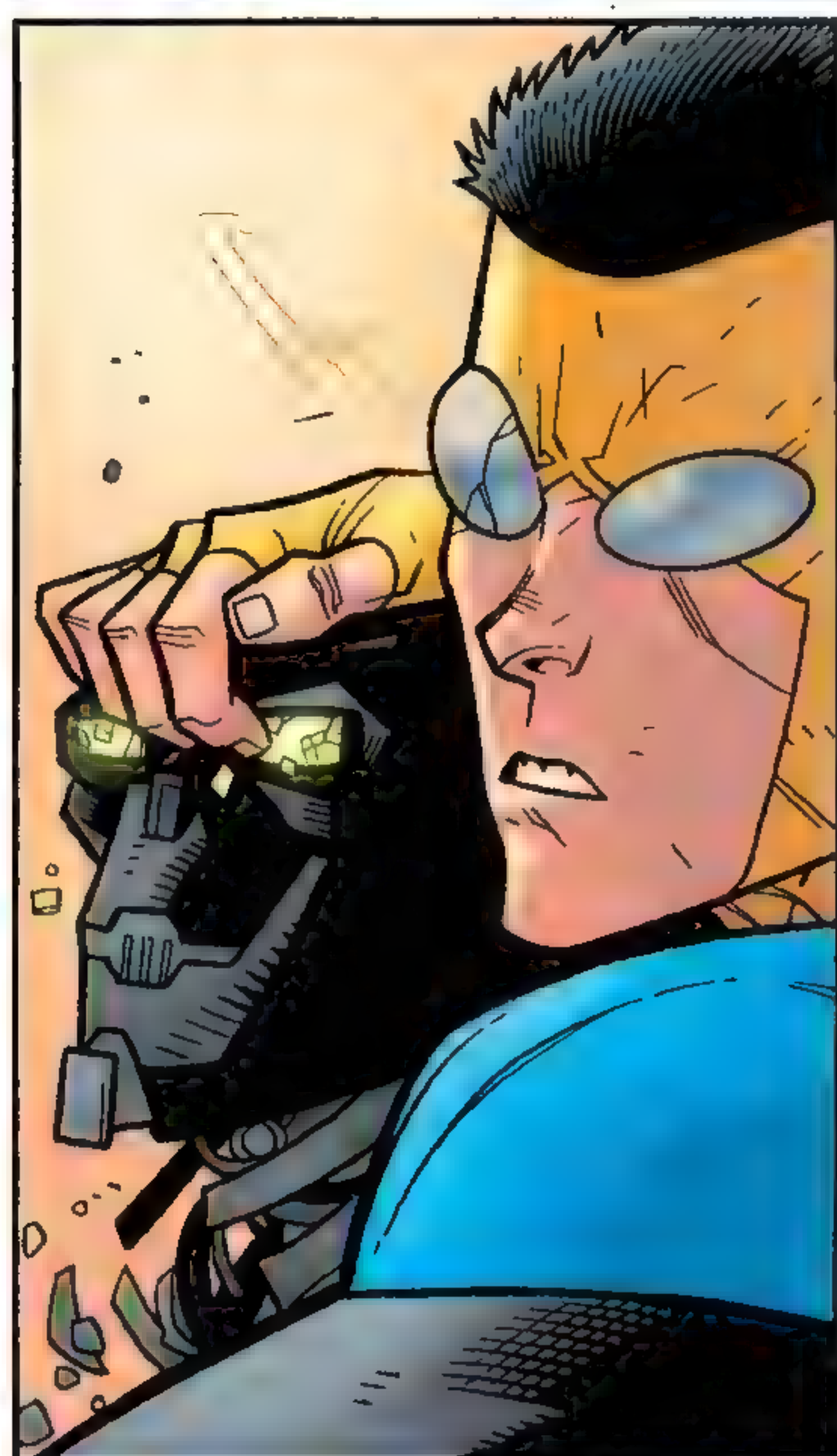
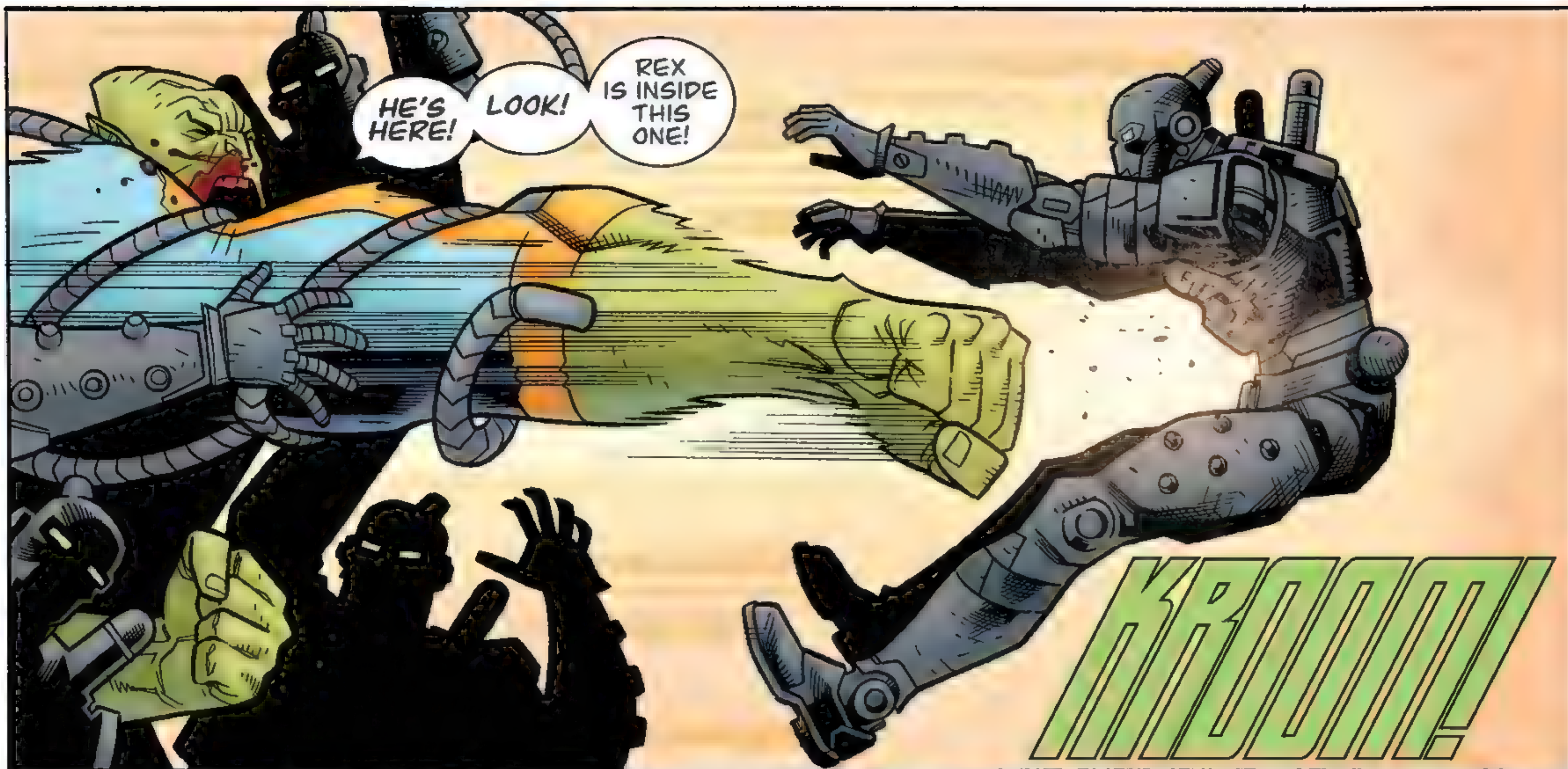
AMANDA,
I... I'LL
ALWAYS
LOVE YOU.

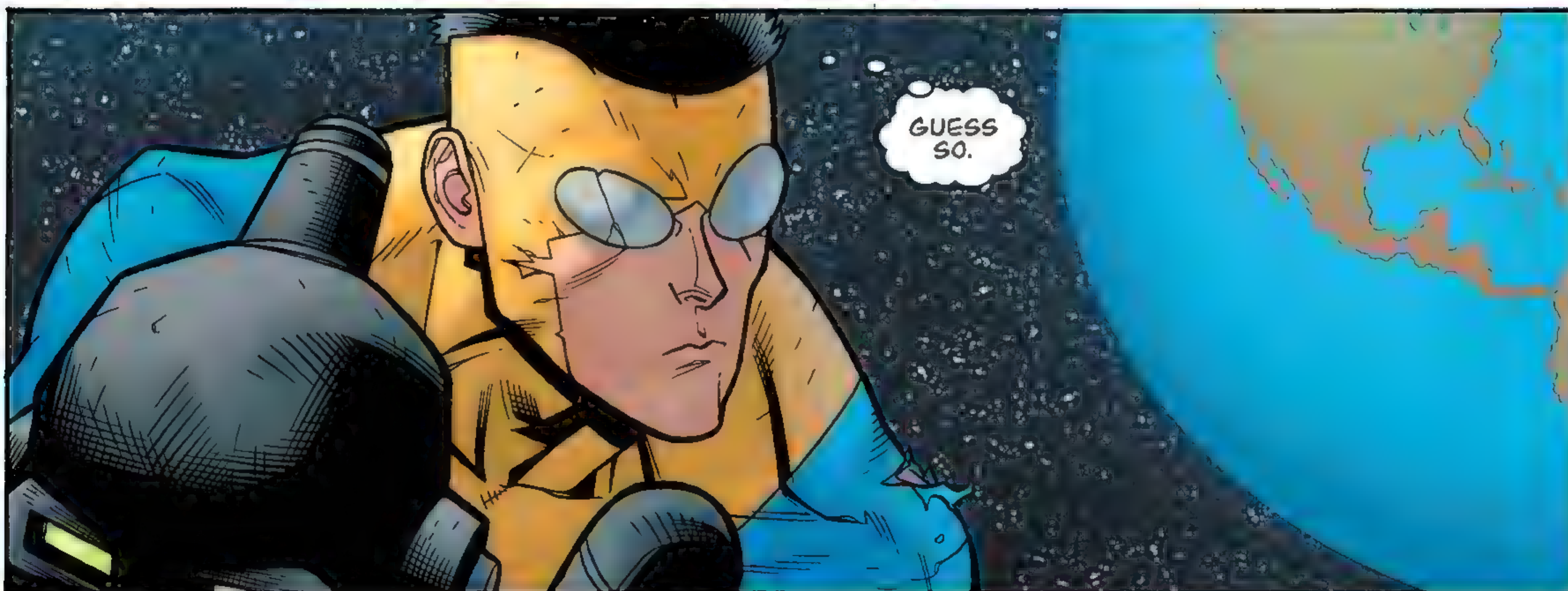


YOU DON'T
EVEN KNOW
WHAT
LOVE IS.



I'M
AFRAID
YOU'RE
RIGHT.







IT'S
BEAUTIFUL
OUT HERE.

YOU THINK
WE'RE
GOING TO
TALK?

WHY NOT?
HAVEN'T WE
KNOWN EACH
OTHER LONG
ENOUGH FOR
YOU TO GIVE
ME THIS? TO...
HEAR ME
OUT.

THEY CAN NEVER KNOW PEACE
LIKE THIS. YOU CAN'T... NO ONE
CAN. BECAUSE IT DOESN'T
EXIST WITHOUT **EMPTYNESS**.

YOU'RE NOT
EMPTY, YOU'RE
EVIL. YOU
WANT TO
CONTROL, YOU
WANT TO BE
IN CHARGE.
THAT'S WHAT
THIS IS.

DON'T TRY TO TURN
THIS INTO SOME SAD
STORY ABOUT HOW
DIFFERENT YOU ARE
AND HOW THAT MAKES
YOU SPECIAL... HOW
WE **NEED** YOU.
WE DON'T.

SO KILL ME,
THEN. THAT'S
WHAT YOU
CAME HERE
TO DO.

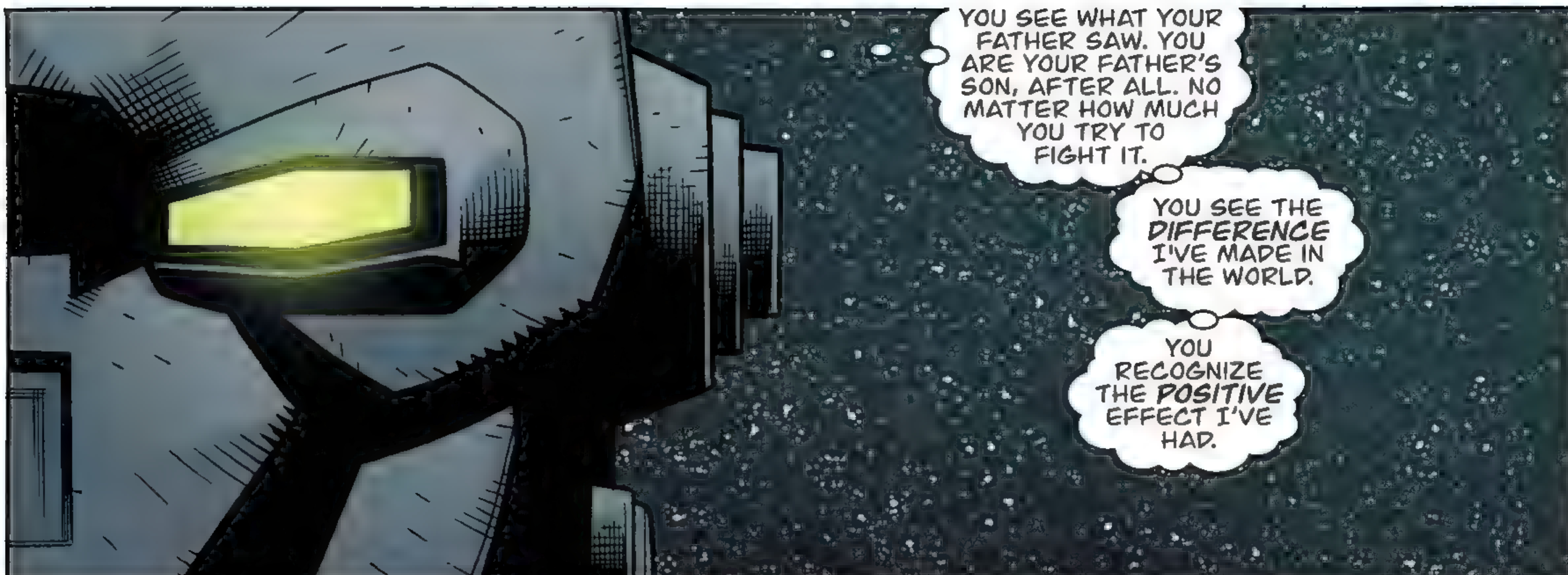
AND
YET, YOU
HESITATE.

THAT'S WHY I GOT
US CLOSER THAN
WE'VE EVER GOTTEN
BEFORE... BECAUSE
I'M **EMPTY**, MARK.

WE NEED
TO BE
FREE... OF
YOU.

BECAUSE
YOU KNOW...
DEEP DOWN...
I'M **RIGHT**.

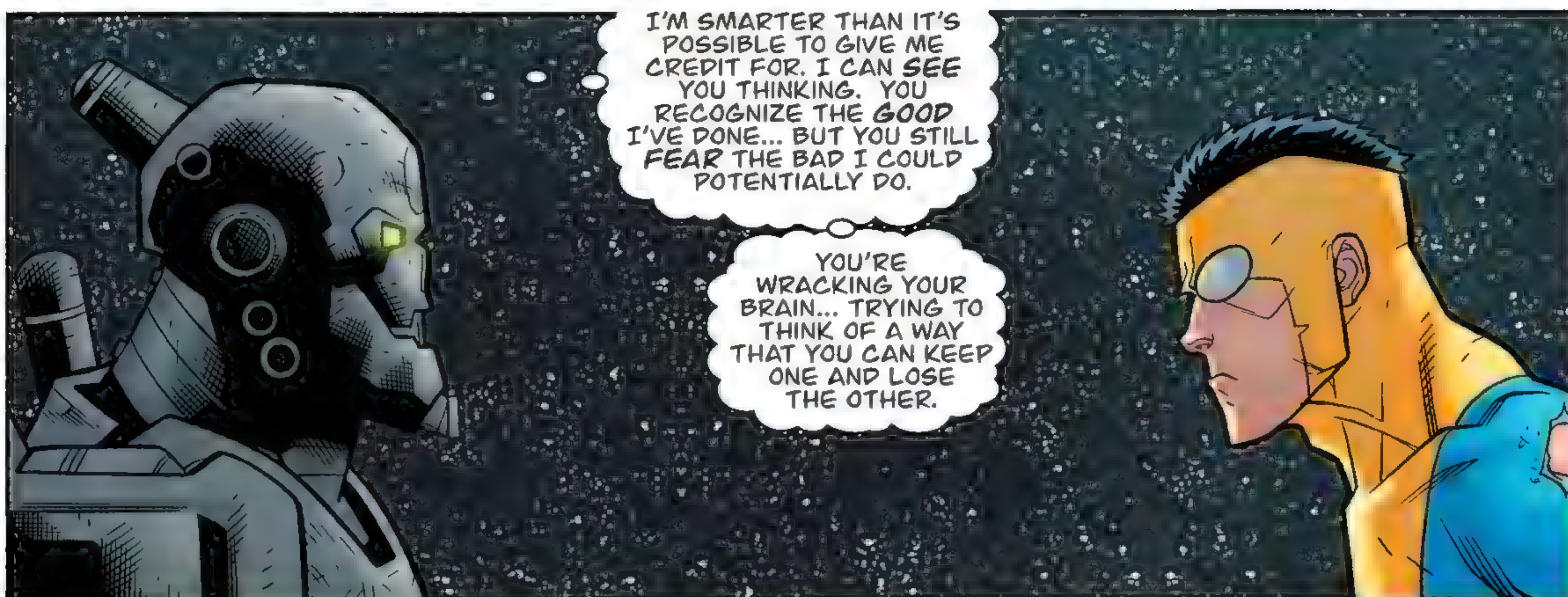




YOU SEE WHAT YOUR FATHER SAW. YOU ARE YOUR FATHER'S SON, AFTER ALL. NO MATTER HOW MUCH YOU TRY TO FIGHT IT.

YOU SEE THE DIFFERENCE I'VE MADE IN THE WORLD.

YOU RECOGNIZE THE POSITIVE EFFECT I'VE HAD.



I'M SMARTER THAN IT'S POSSIBLE TO GIVE ME CREDIT FOR. I CAN SEE YOU THINKING. YOU RECOGNIZE THE GOOD I'VE DONE... BUT YOU STILL FEAR THE BAD I COULD POTENTIALLY DO.

YOU'RE WRACKING YOUR BRAIN... TRYING TO THINK OF A WAY THAT YOU CAN KEEP ONE AND LOSE THE OTHER.



AREN'T YOU?

YES. I AM.



AND I'VE FIGURED IT OUT.





I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHAT YOU'RE PROPOSING.



CLEARLY, IT'S GOOD TO HAVE SOMEONE LOOKING AT THE BIG PICTURE... MONITORING THE GOVERNMENTS OF THE WORLD, ADVISING... EVEN DICTATING POLICY. KEEPING THE PEOPLE'S BEST INTERESTS IN MIND.

REX WAS RIGHT... HE DID MAKE THE WORLD A BETTER PLACE. HE DID MAKE THE WORLD MORE PEACEFUL. WE NEED SOMEONE TO MAINTAIN THAT PEACE.

I CAN'T THINK OF ANYONE BETTER THAN YOU.



I SEE YOUR LOGIC... I CAN'T ARGUE WITH IT... BUT, MARK... I JUST DON'T KNOW IF I'M UP TO THE TASK.



I THOUGHT YOU MIGHT SAY THAT... BUT DON'T WORRY, YOU'LL HAVE HELP.

THE POD IS COMPLETE. HE CAN ONLY SEND OUT VERBAL COMMANDS. HE'S COMPLETELY IMMOBILE, AND HE'S BLOCKED FROM SENDING ANY COMMANDS OUT TO ANY DRONES HE MAY STILL HAVE HIDDEN OUT THERE.

THIS IS ABOUT AS SECURE AS IT GETS.

SO HERE IT IS. REX... ROBOT... ALL HIS IDEAS, ALL HIS PLANS... ALL THE GOOD HE WANTS TO BRING TO THIS WORLD IS AT YOUR FINGERTIPS.

AND IT GETS FILTERED THROUGH YOU.

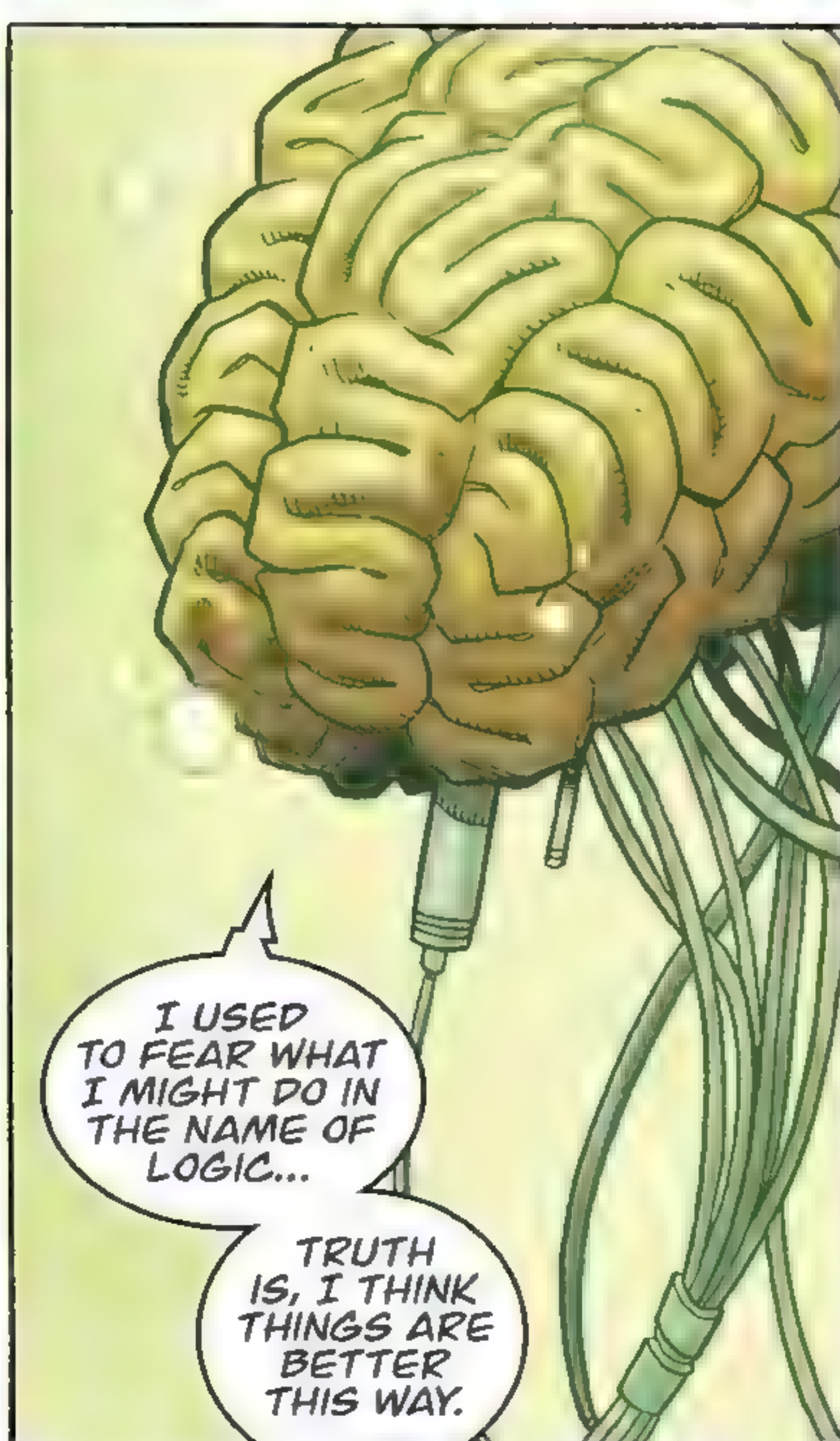


I CAN WORK WITH THIS.



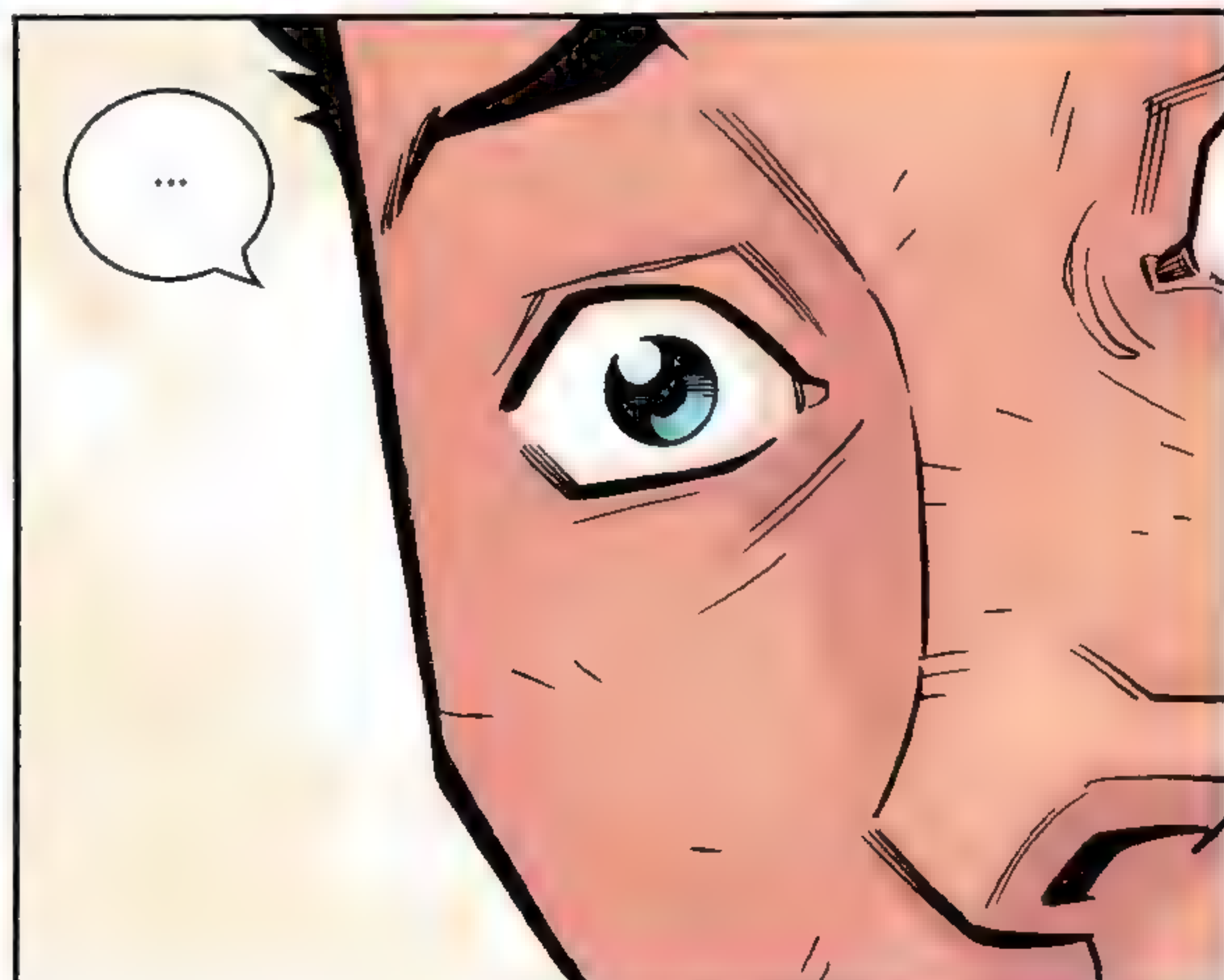
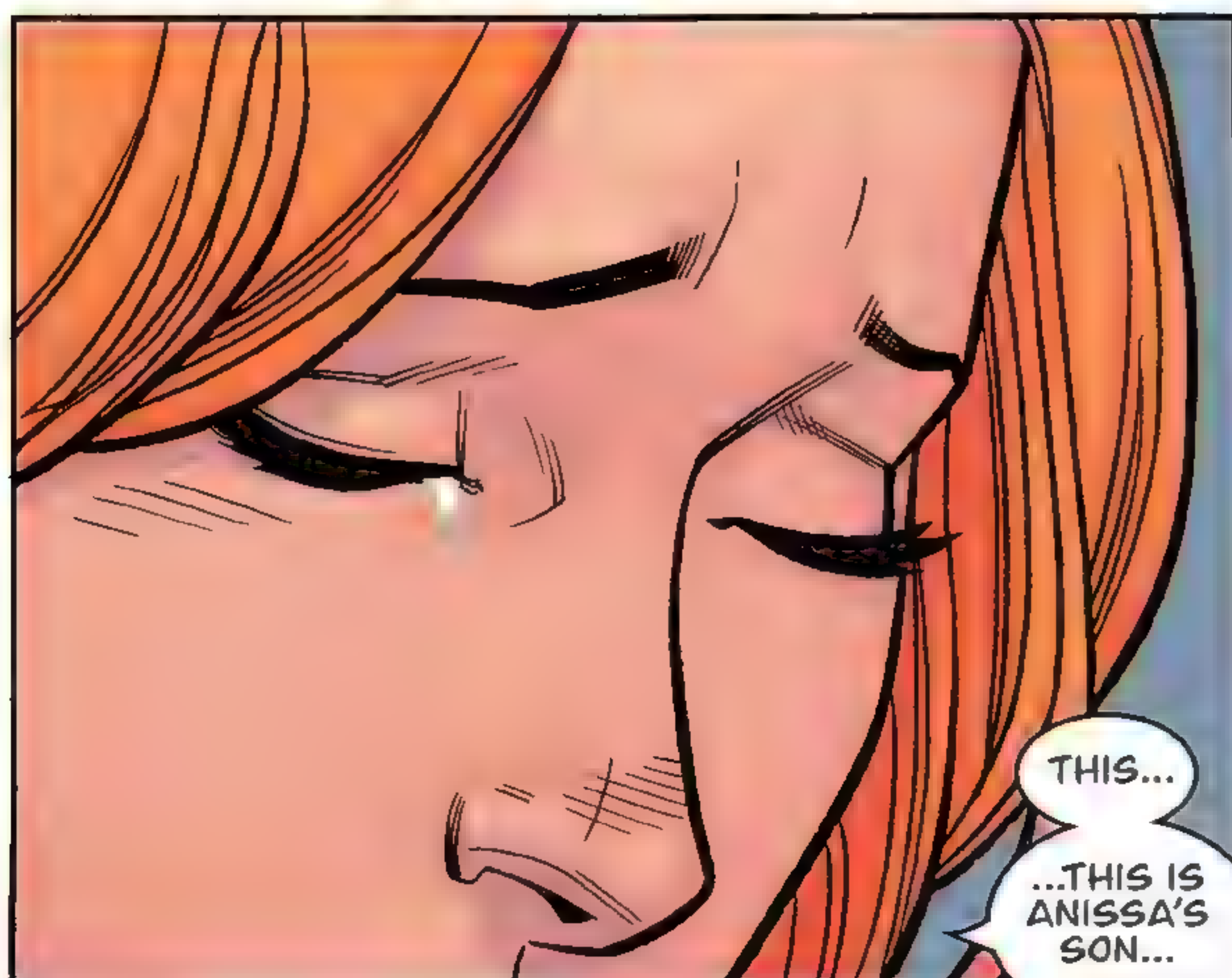
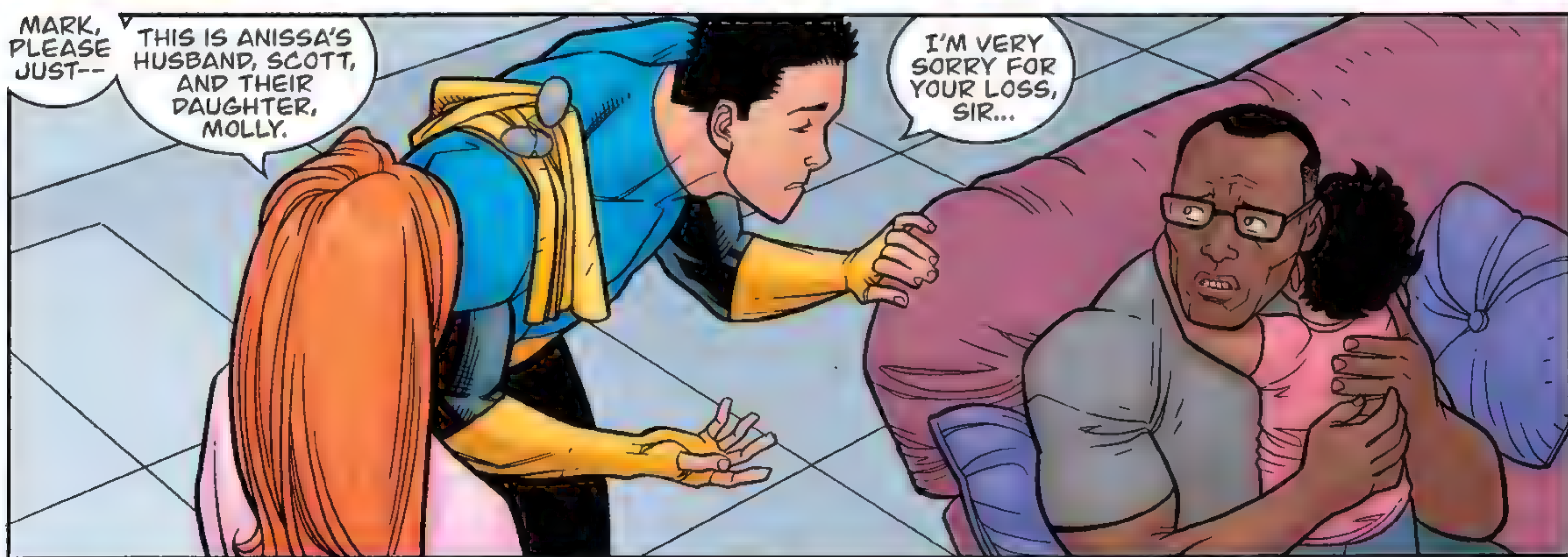
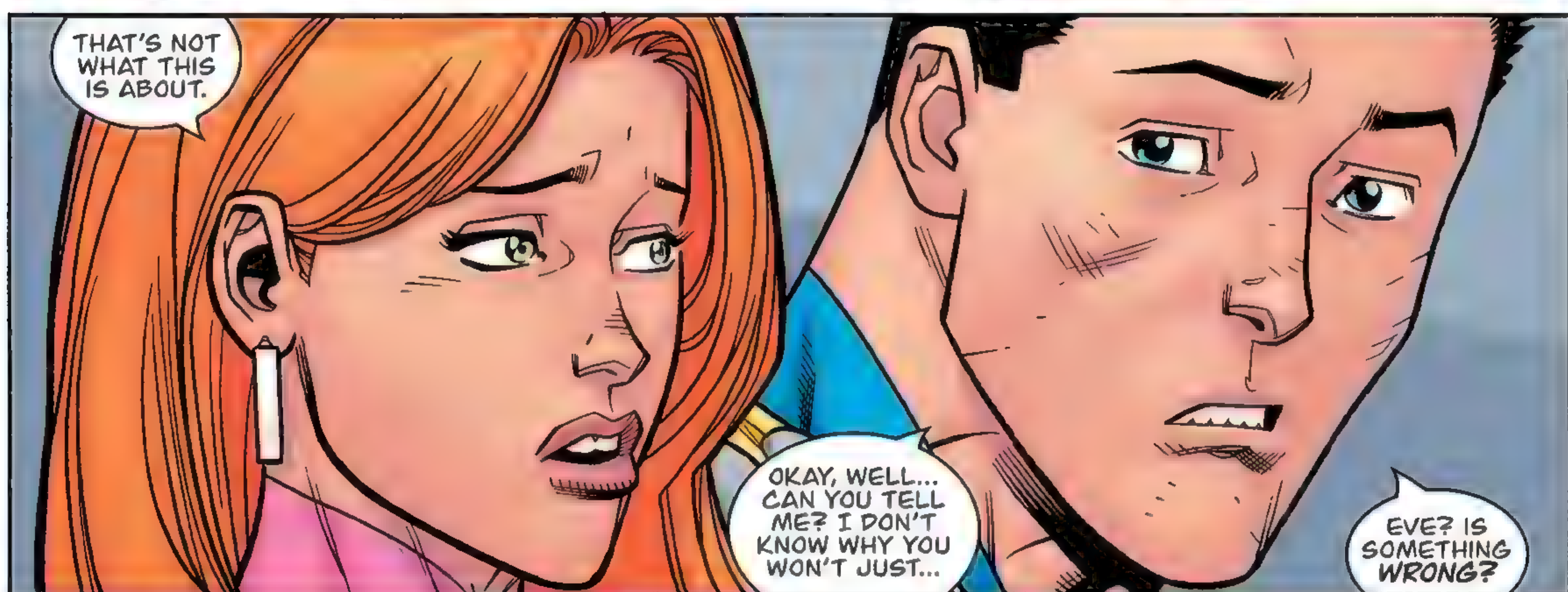
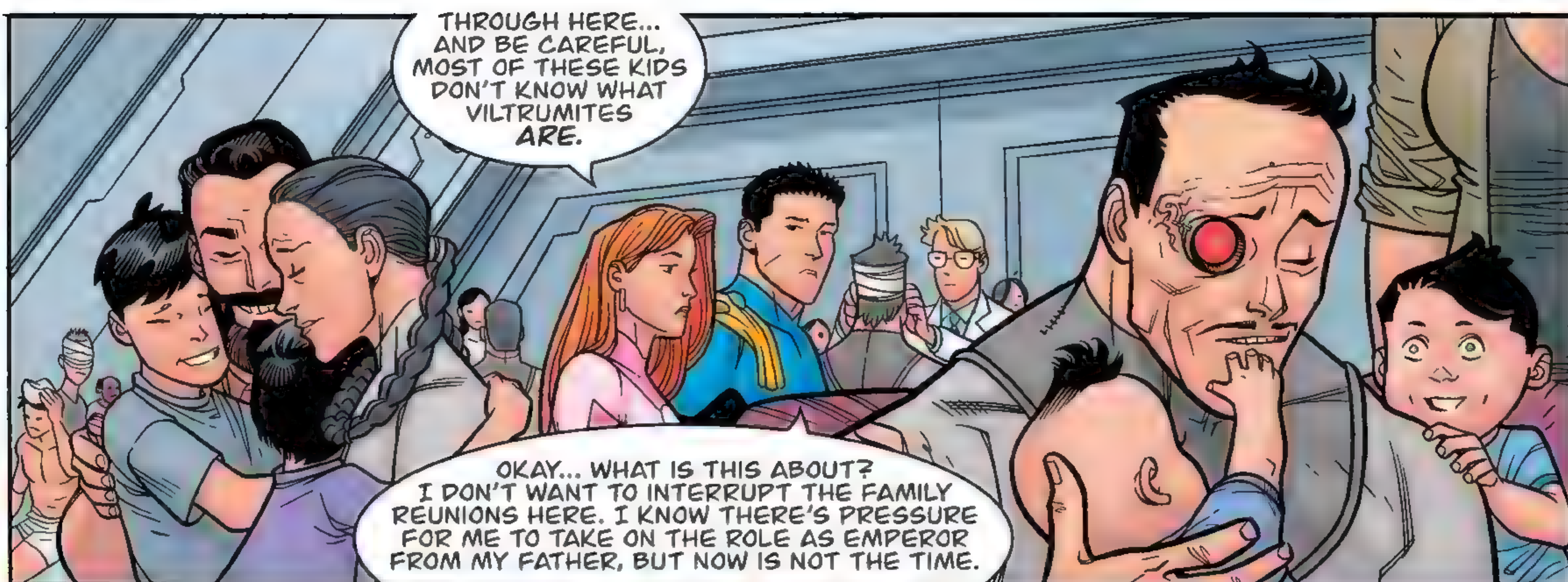
I USED TO FEAR WHAT I MIGHT DO IN THE NAME OF LOGIC...

TRUTH IS, I THINK THINGS ARE BETTER THIS WAY.



ALREADY OFF TO A GOOD START!







...MARKY.

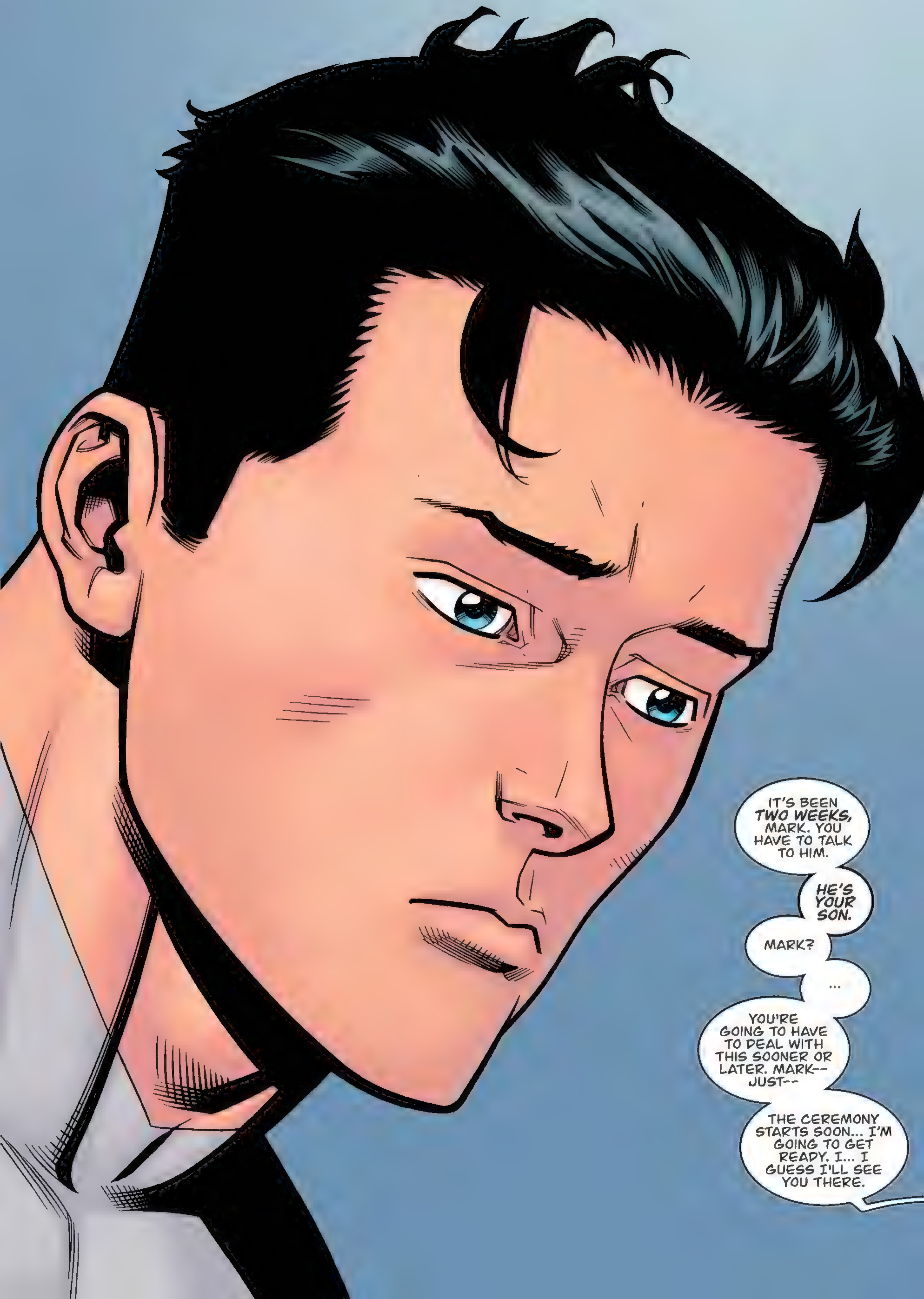
IS MY
MOM
REALLY
DEAD?



CHAPTER 143



KOTZLEY



IT'S BEEN
TWO WEEKS,
MARK. YOU
HAVE TO TALK
TO HIM.

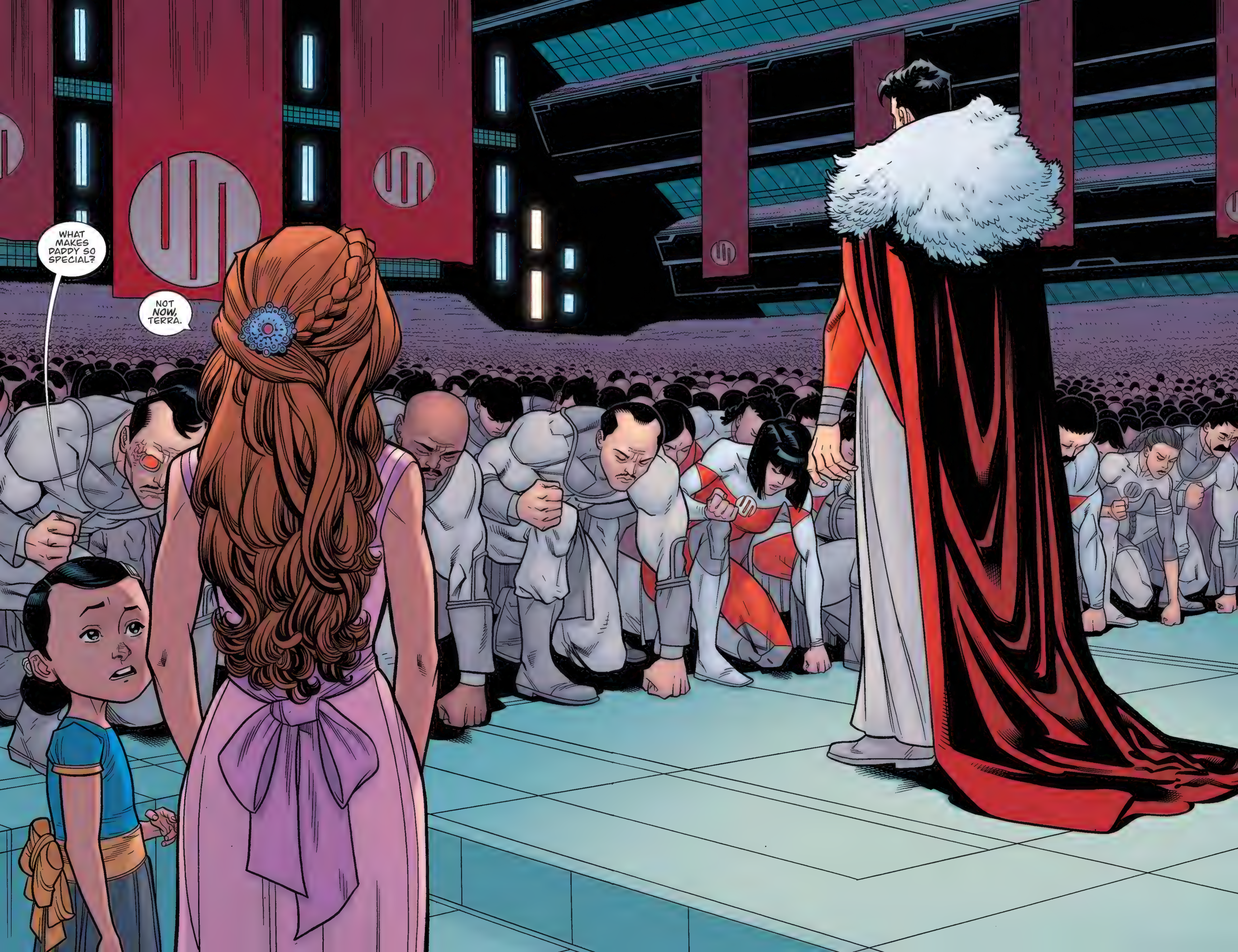
HE'S
YOUR
SON.

MARK?

...

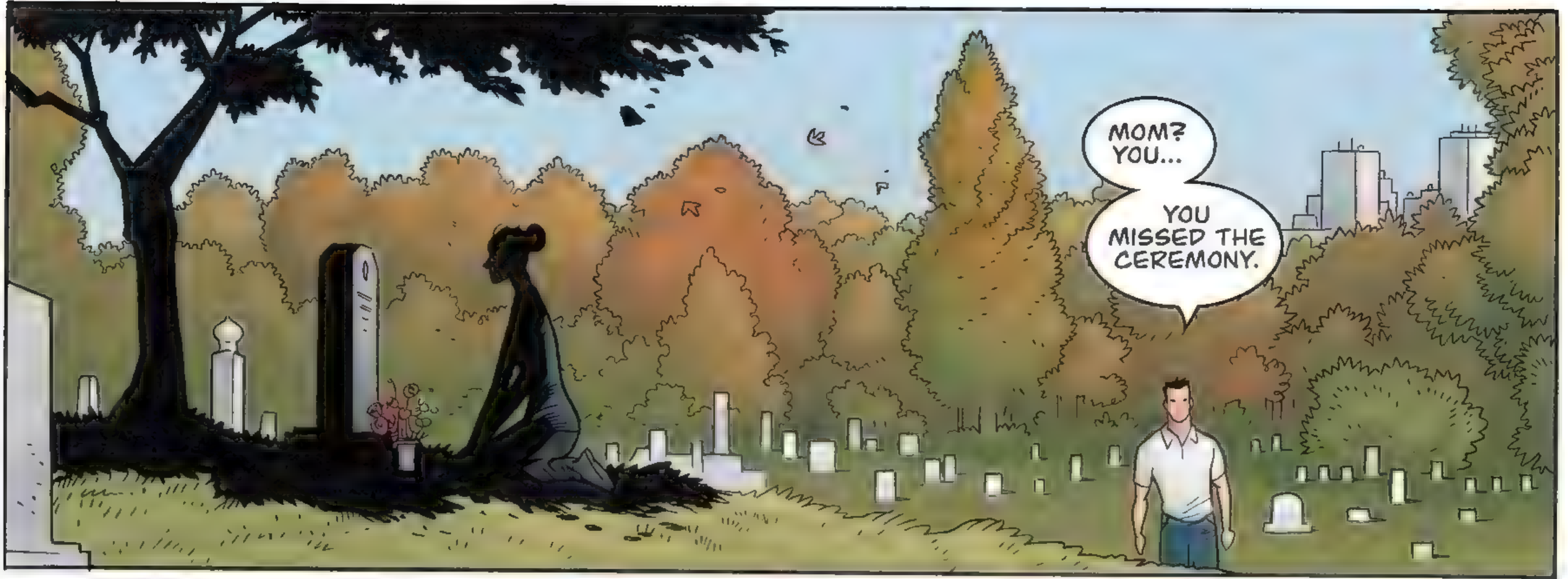
YOU'RE
GOING TO HAVE
TO DEAL WITH
THIS SOONER OR
LATER. MARK--
JUST--

THE CEREMONY
STARTS SOON... I'M
GOING TO GET
READY. I... I
GUESS I'LL SEE
YOU THERE.

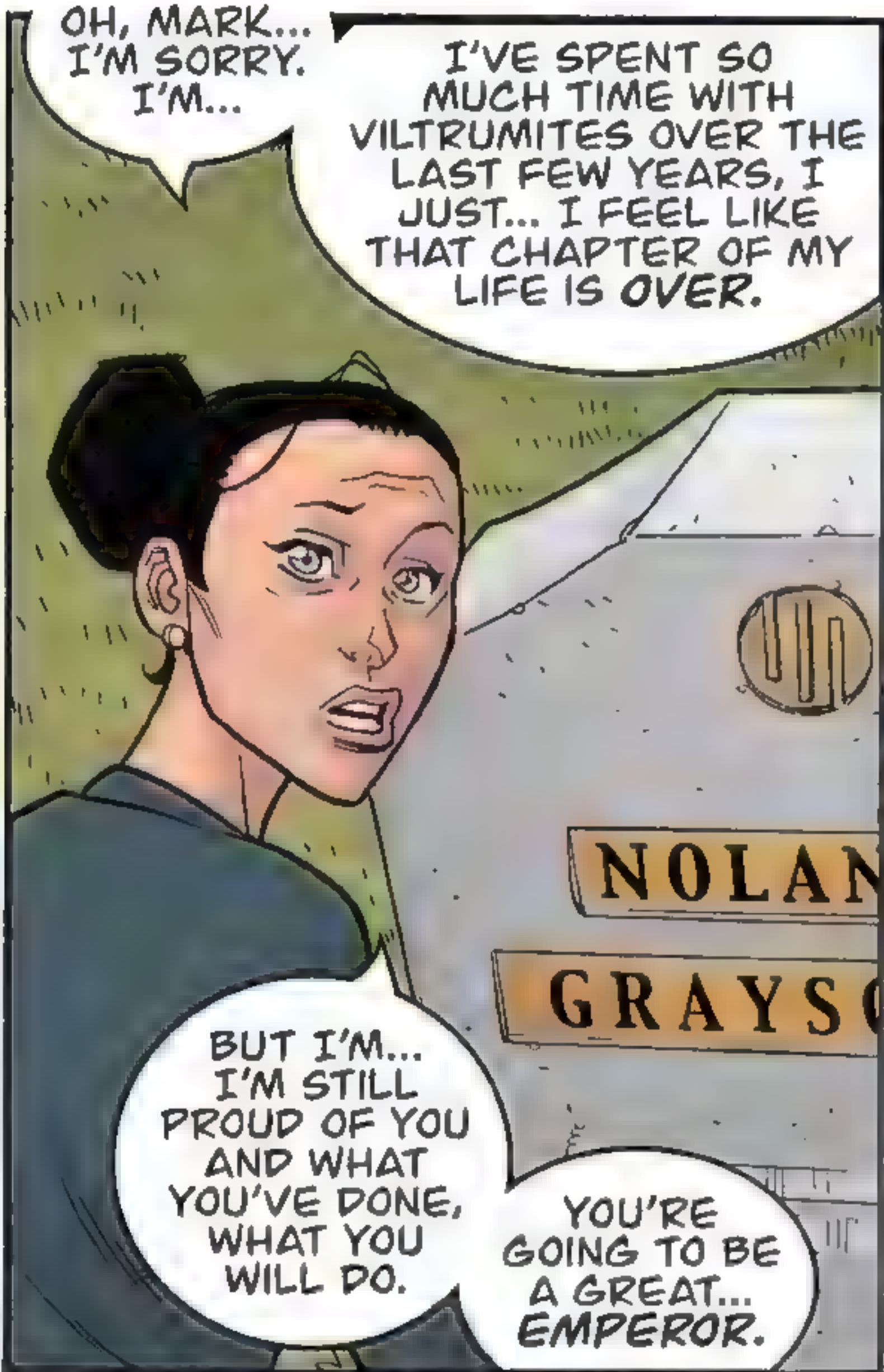


WHAT
MAKES
DADDY SO
SPECIAL?

NOT
NOW,
TERRA.



MOM?
YOU...
YOU
MISSED THE
CEREMONY.



OH, MARK...
I'M SORRY.
I'M...

I'VE SPENT SO
MUCH TIME WITH
VILTRUMITES OVER THE
LAST FEW YEARS, I
JUST... I FEEL LIKE
THAT CHAPTER OF MY
LIFE IS OVER.

NOLAN
GRAYSON

BUT I'M...
I'M STILL
PROUD OF YOU
AND WHAT
YOU'VE DONE,
WHAT YOU
WILL DO.

YOU'RE
GOING TO BE
A GREAT...
EMPEROR.



IT'S
HARD TO
THINK ABOUT
IT WITHOUT
CHUCKLING,
RIGHT?

IT FEELS
LIKE JUST
YESTERDAY YOU
WERE YELLING AT
ME FOR READING
COMICS IN THE
BATHROOM.



OUR LIVES HAVE
CERTAINLY TAKEN
A FEW TURNS I
NEVER COULD
HAVE EXPECTED.
THAT IS FOR
SURE.

SOME
GOOD...
SOME...

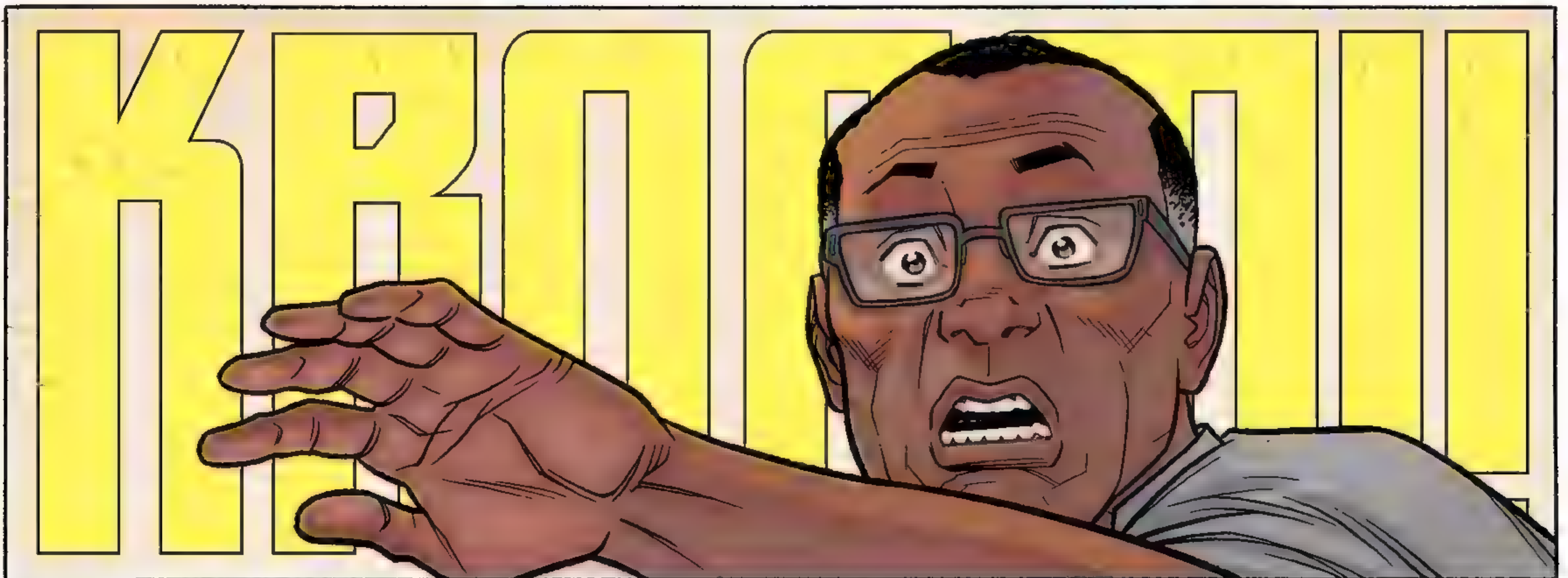
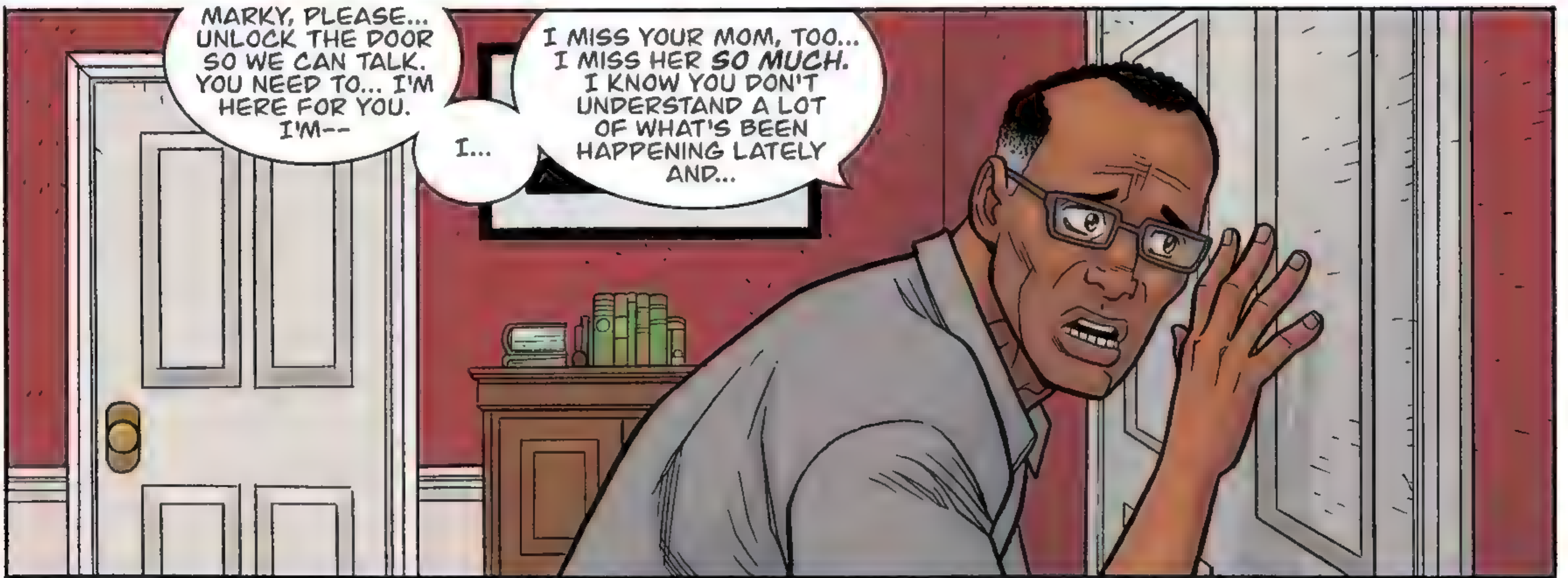
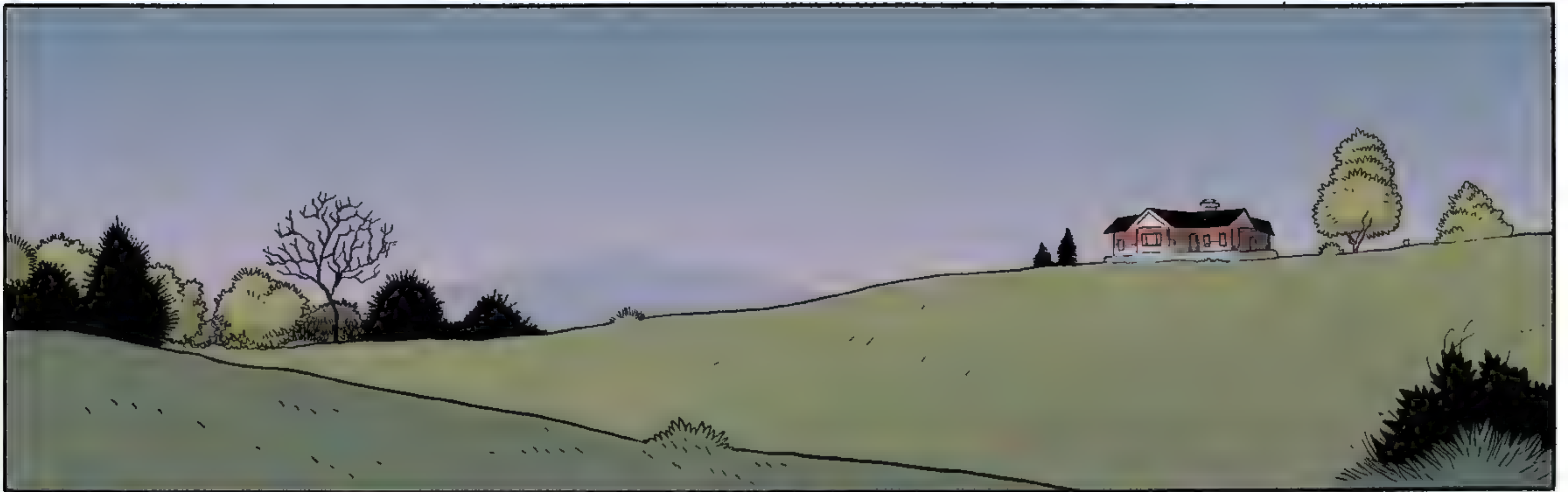
NOT
SO
GOOD.



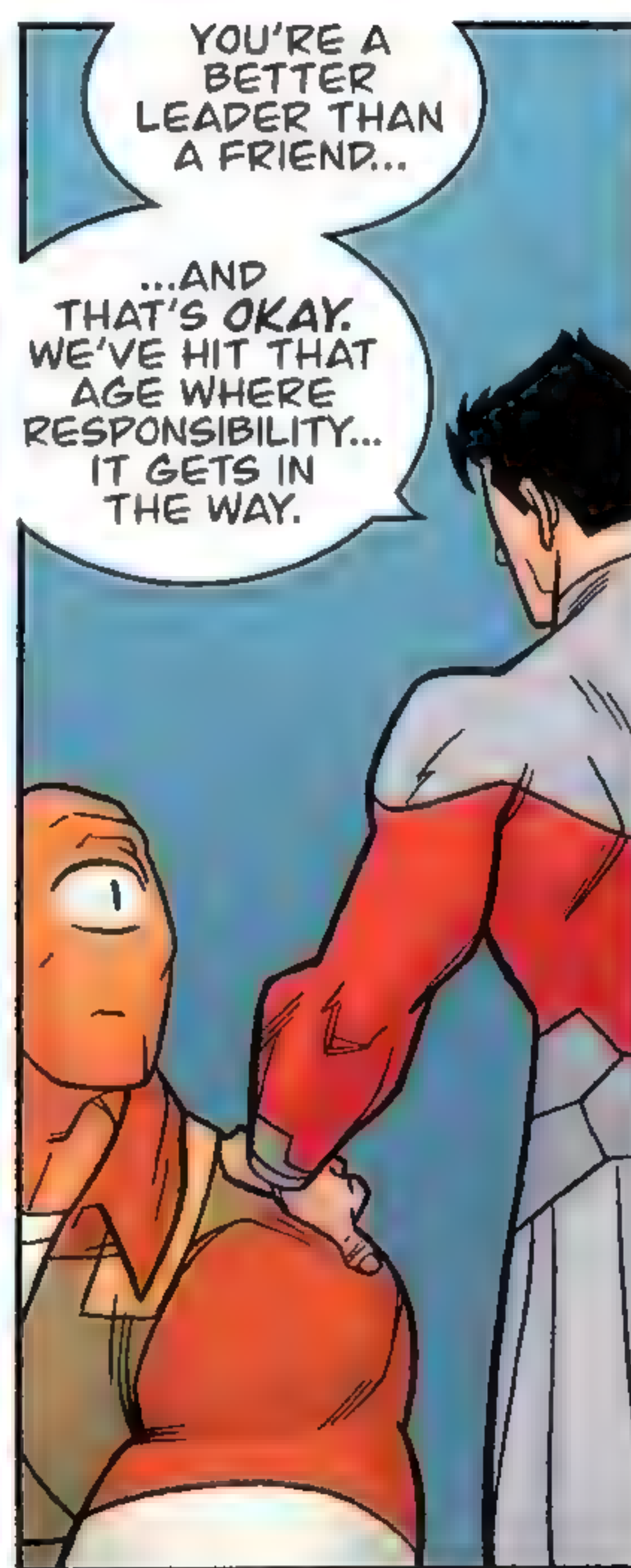
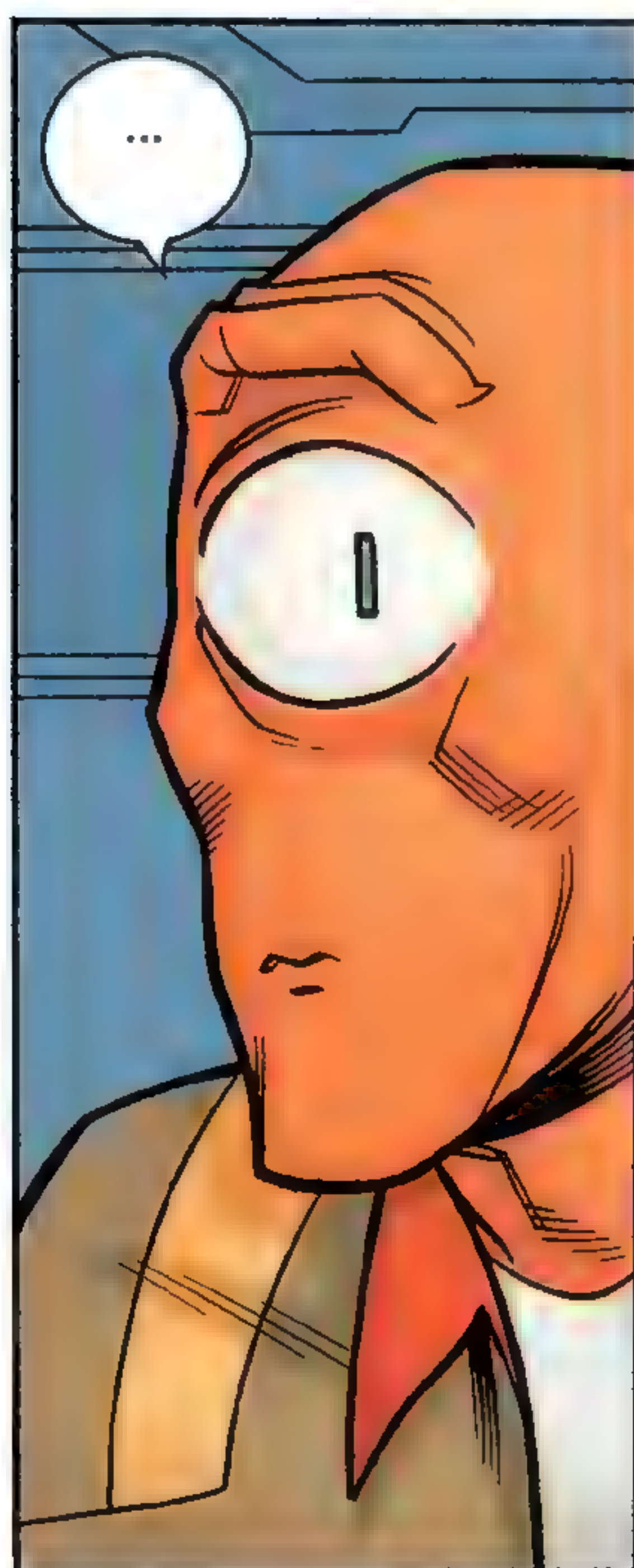
YOUR
FATHER... HE
WOULD BE
SO PROUD OF
YOU, SON.

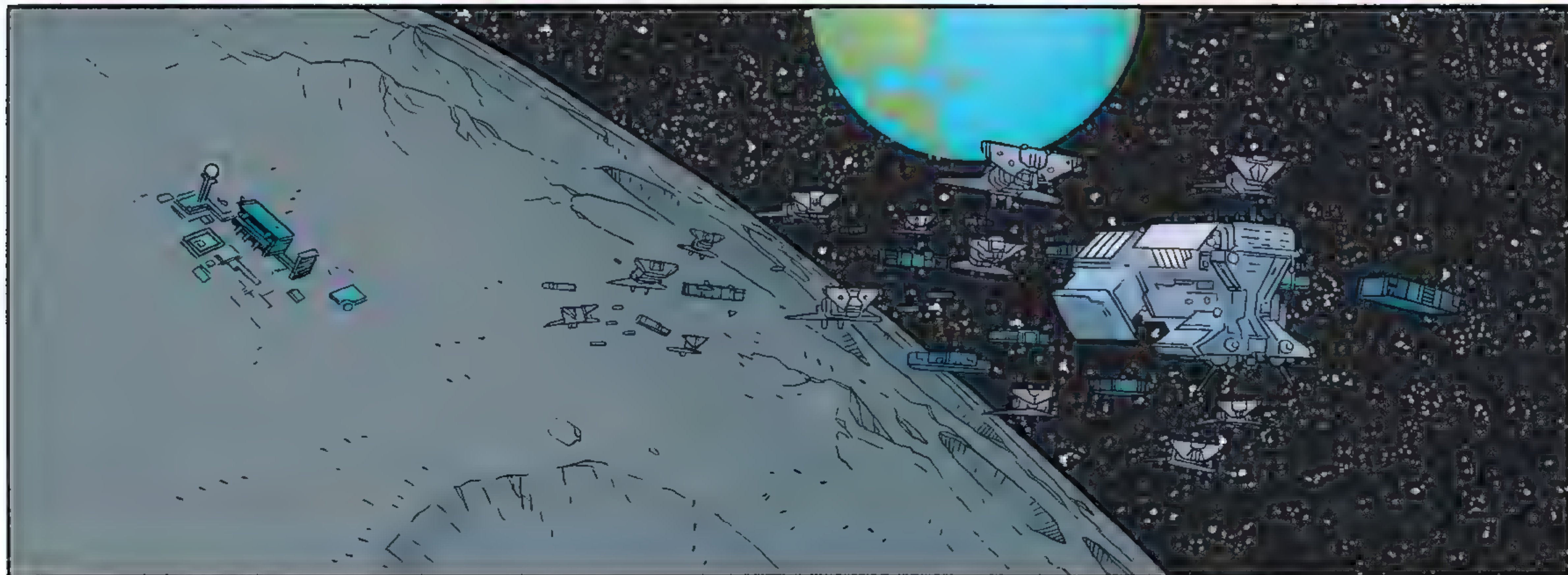
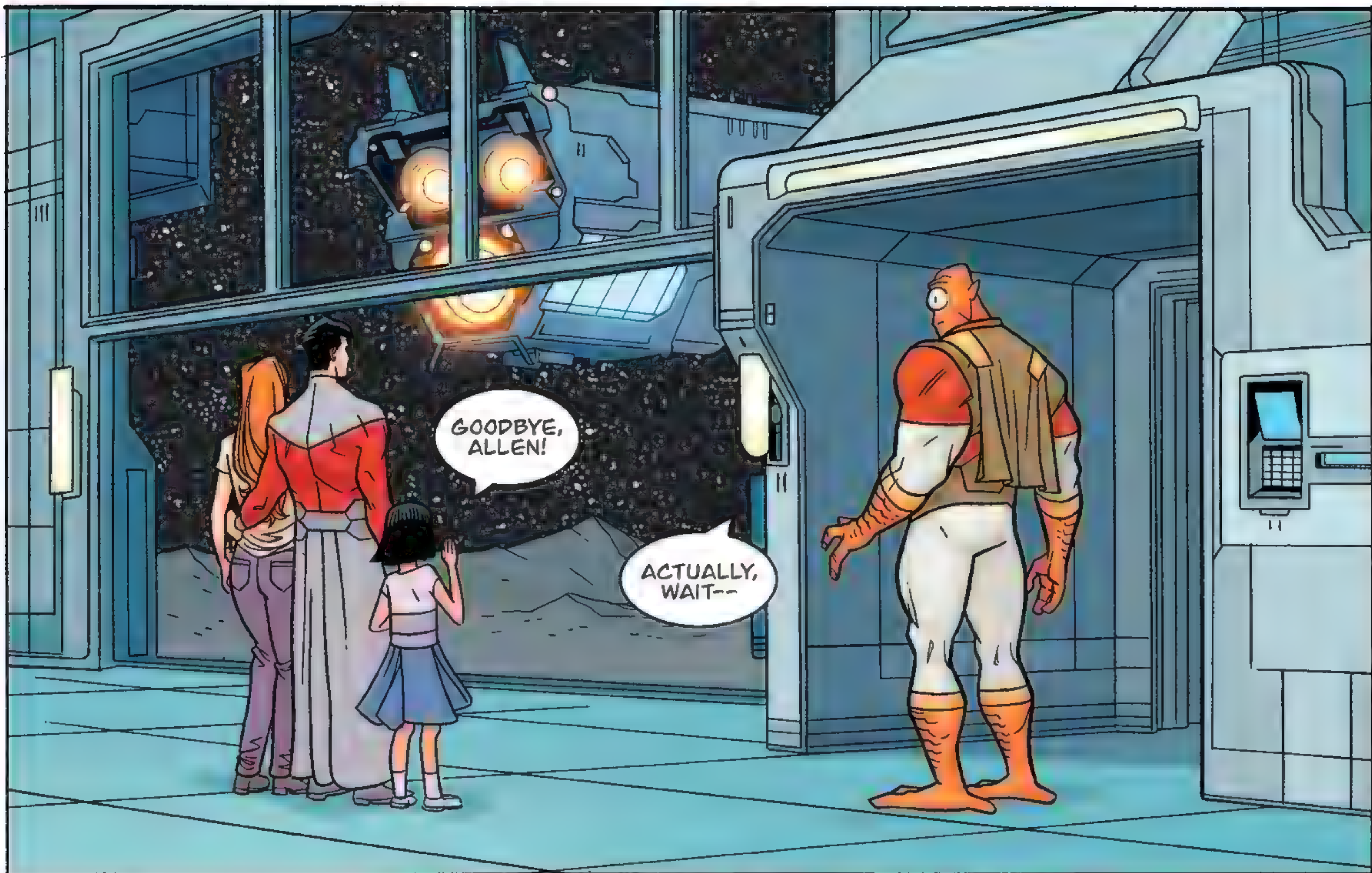
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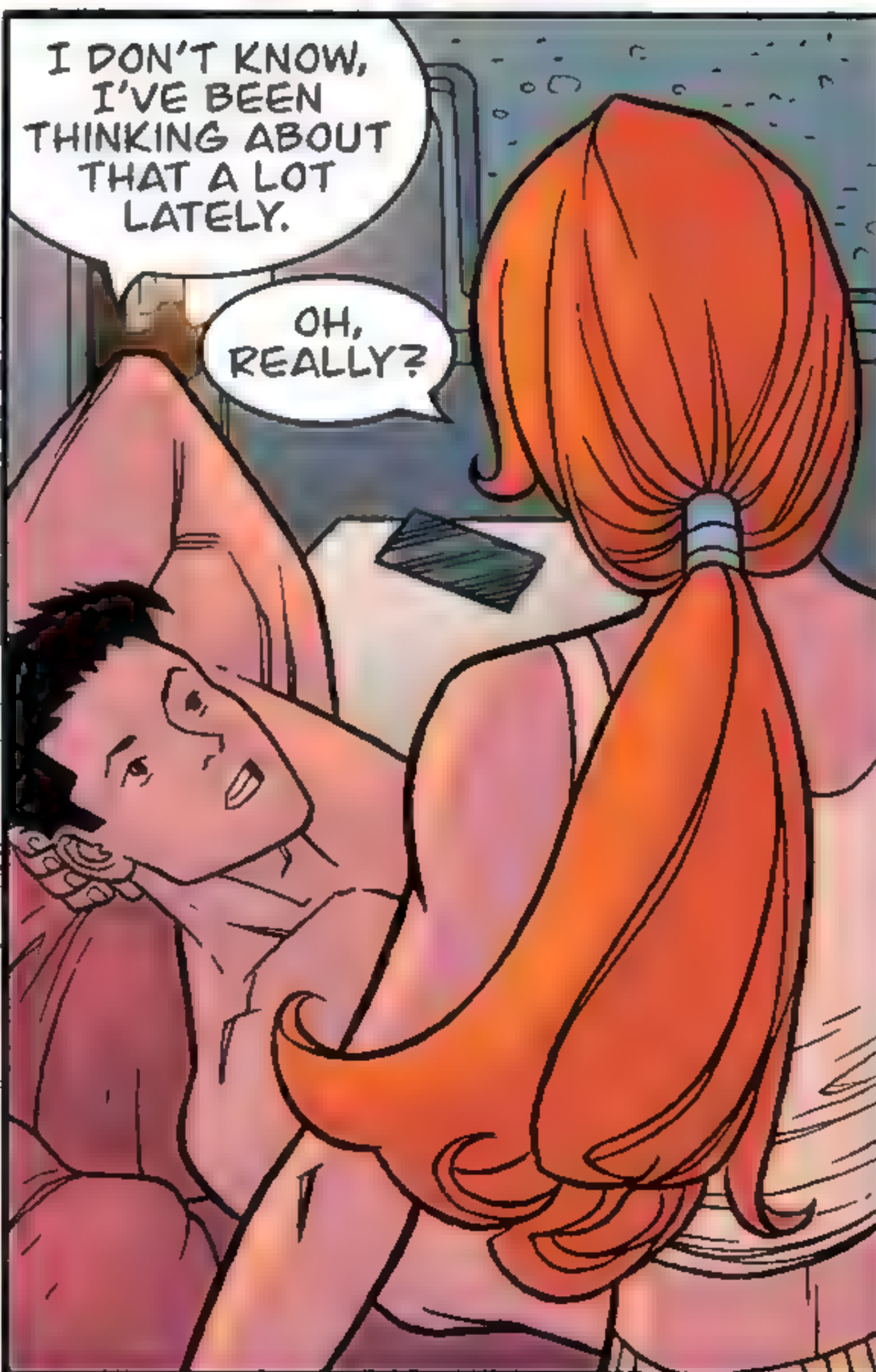
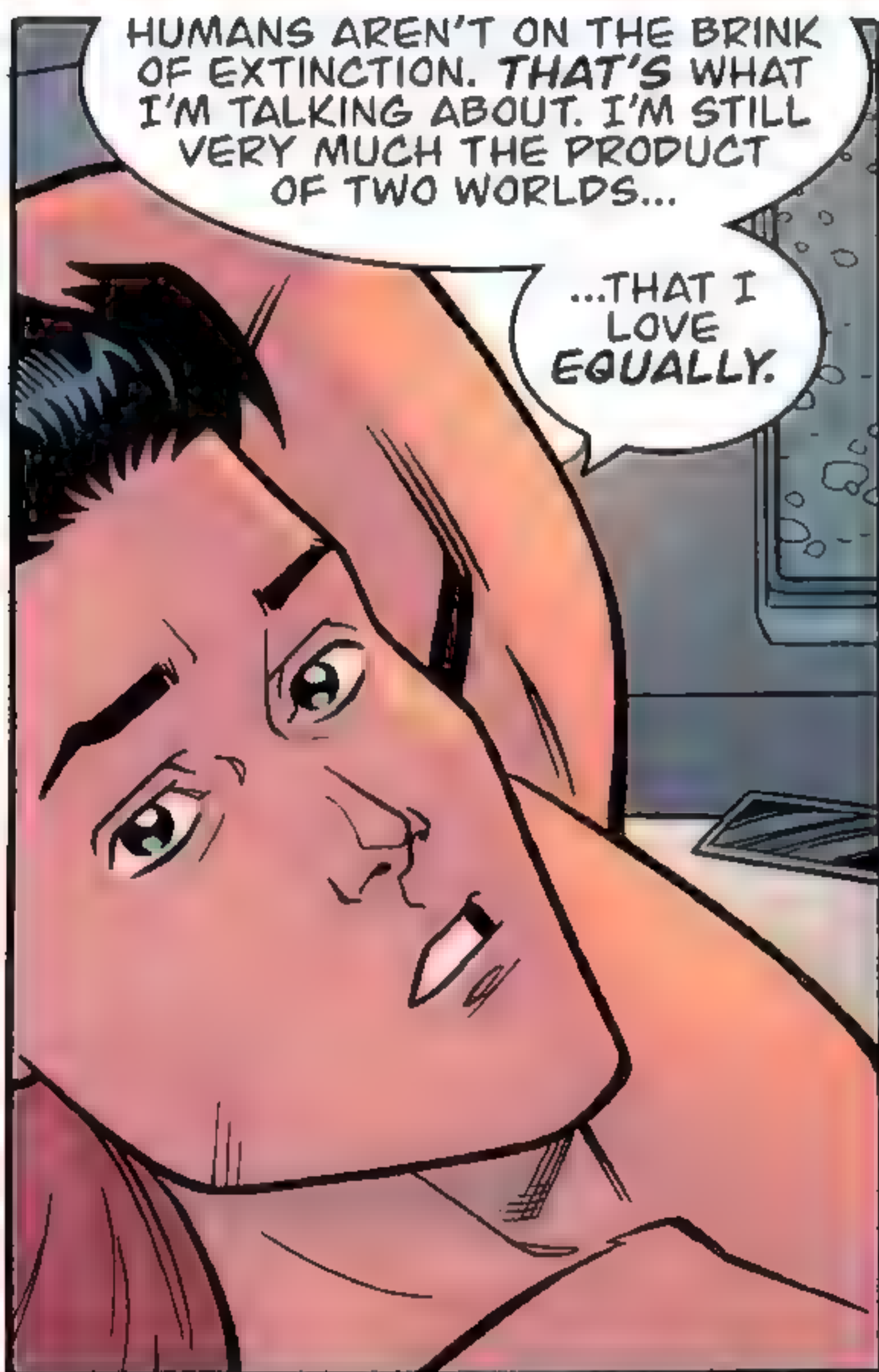
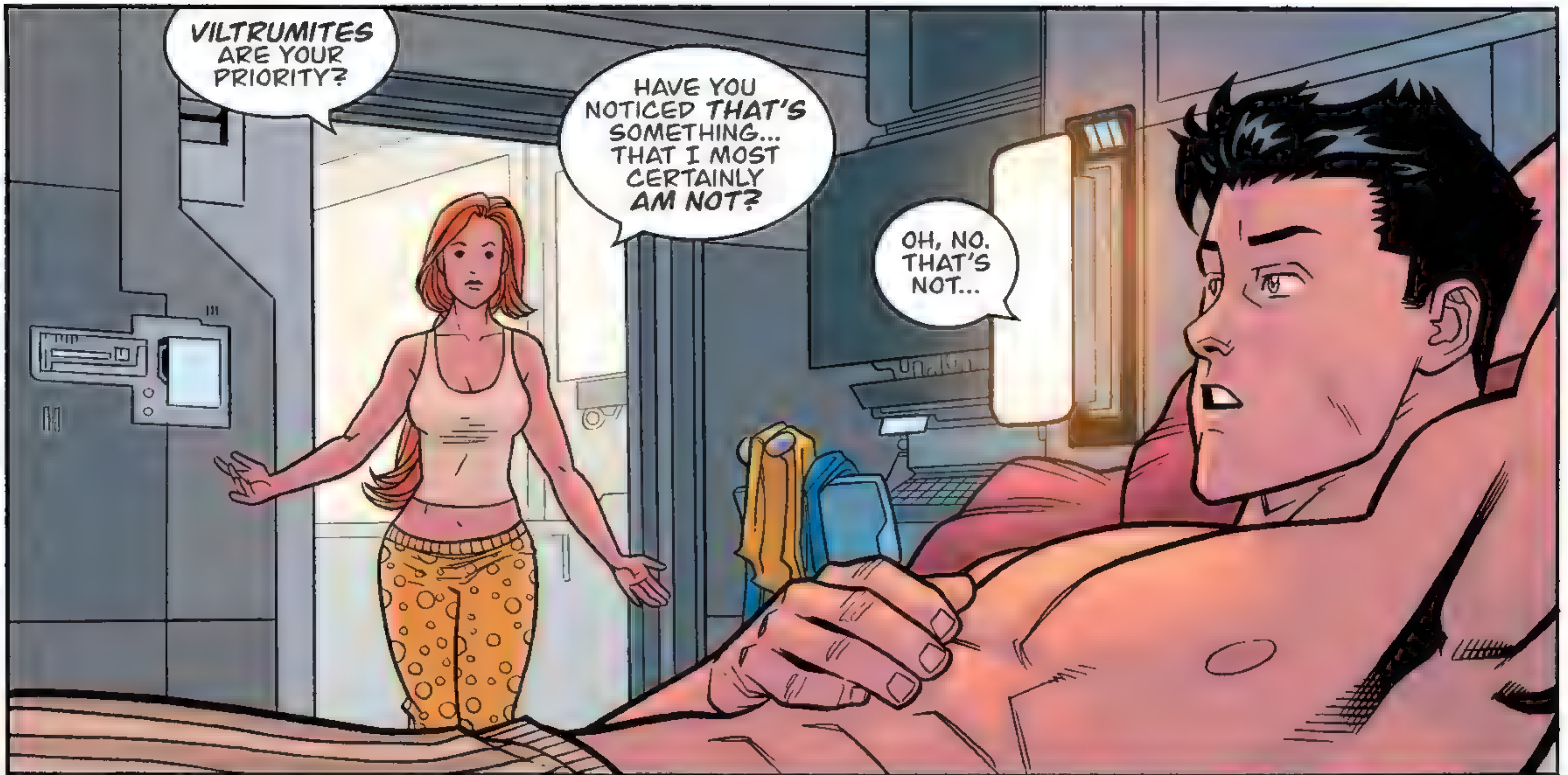
I KNOW.

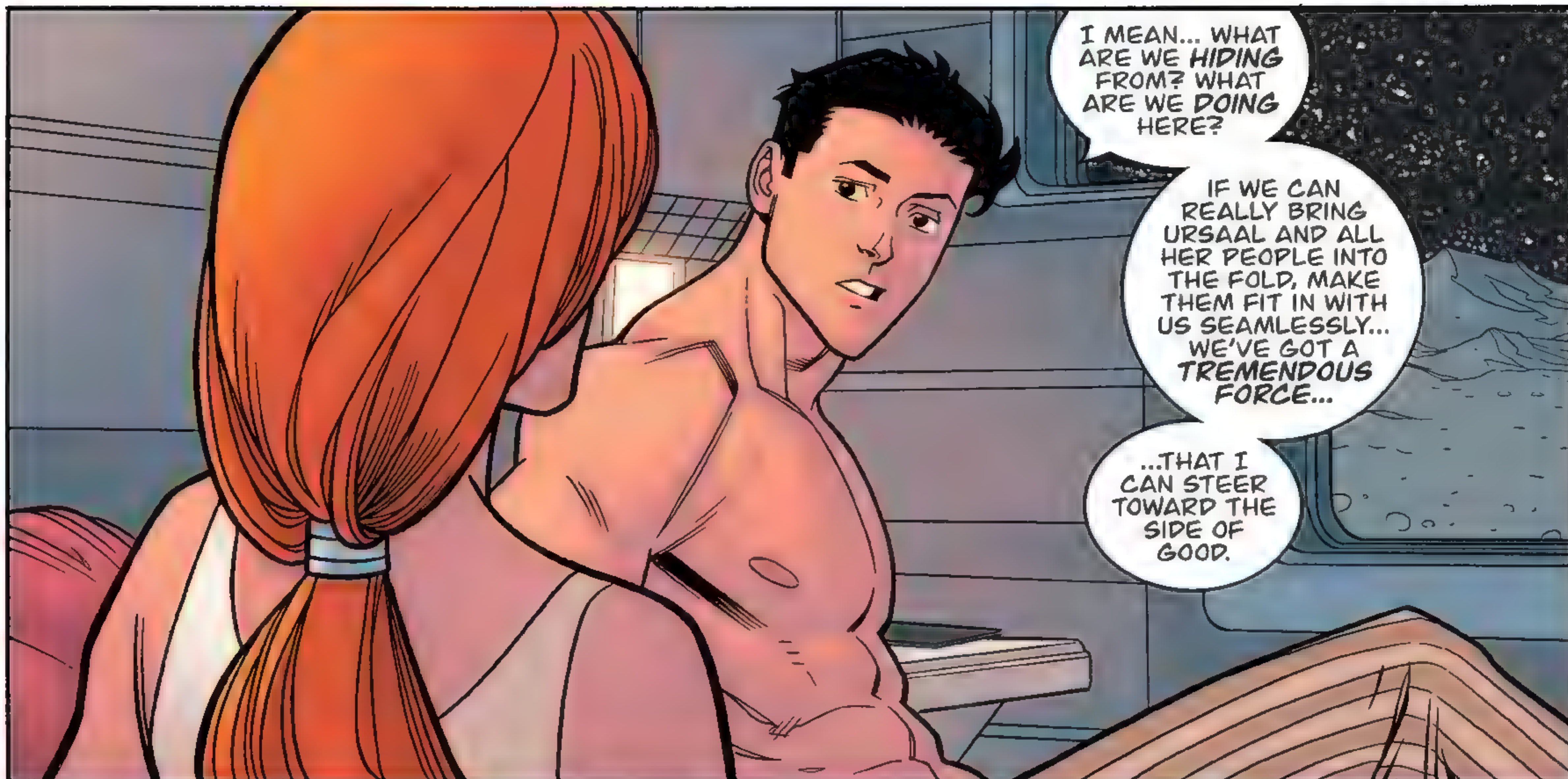








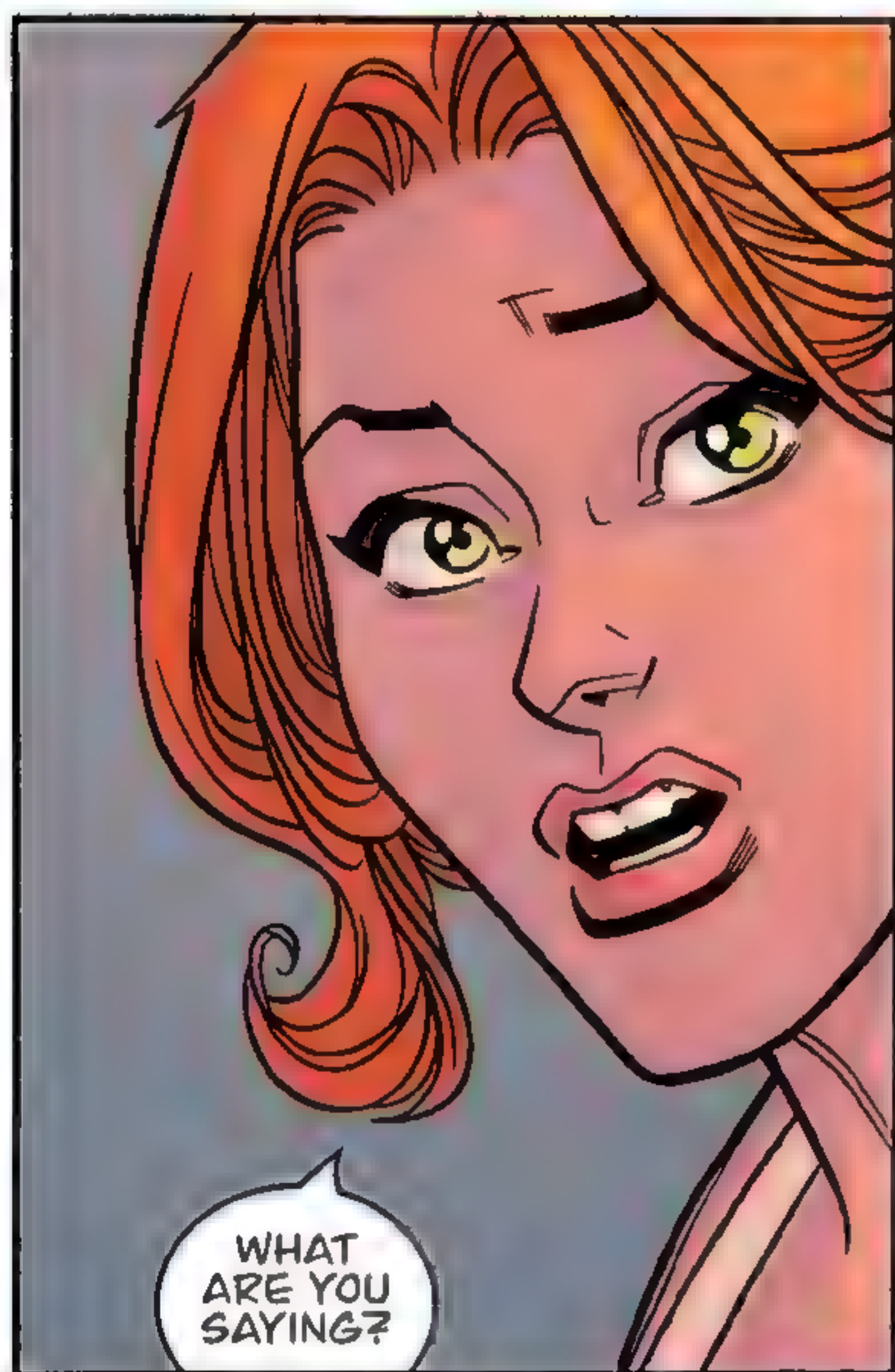




I MEAN... WHAT ARE WE HIDING FROM? WHAT ARE WE DOING HERE?

IF WE CAN REALLY BRING URSAAL AND ALL HER PEOPLE INTO THE FOLD, MAKE THEM FIT IN WITH US SEAMLESSLY... WE'VE GOT A TREMENDOUS FORCE...

...THAT I CAN STEER TOWARD THE SIDE OF GOOD.



WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?



I'M NOT SAYING ANYTHING YET. I'M JUST THINKING...

I'M THINKING WE MIGHT BE WASTED HERE... WHEN WE'RE NEEDED...



...OUT THERE.



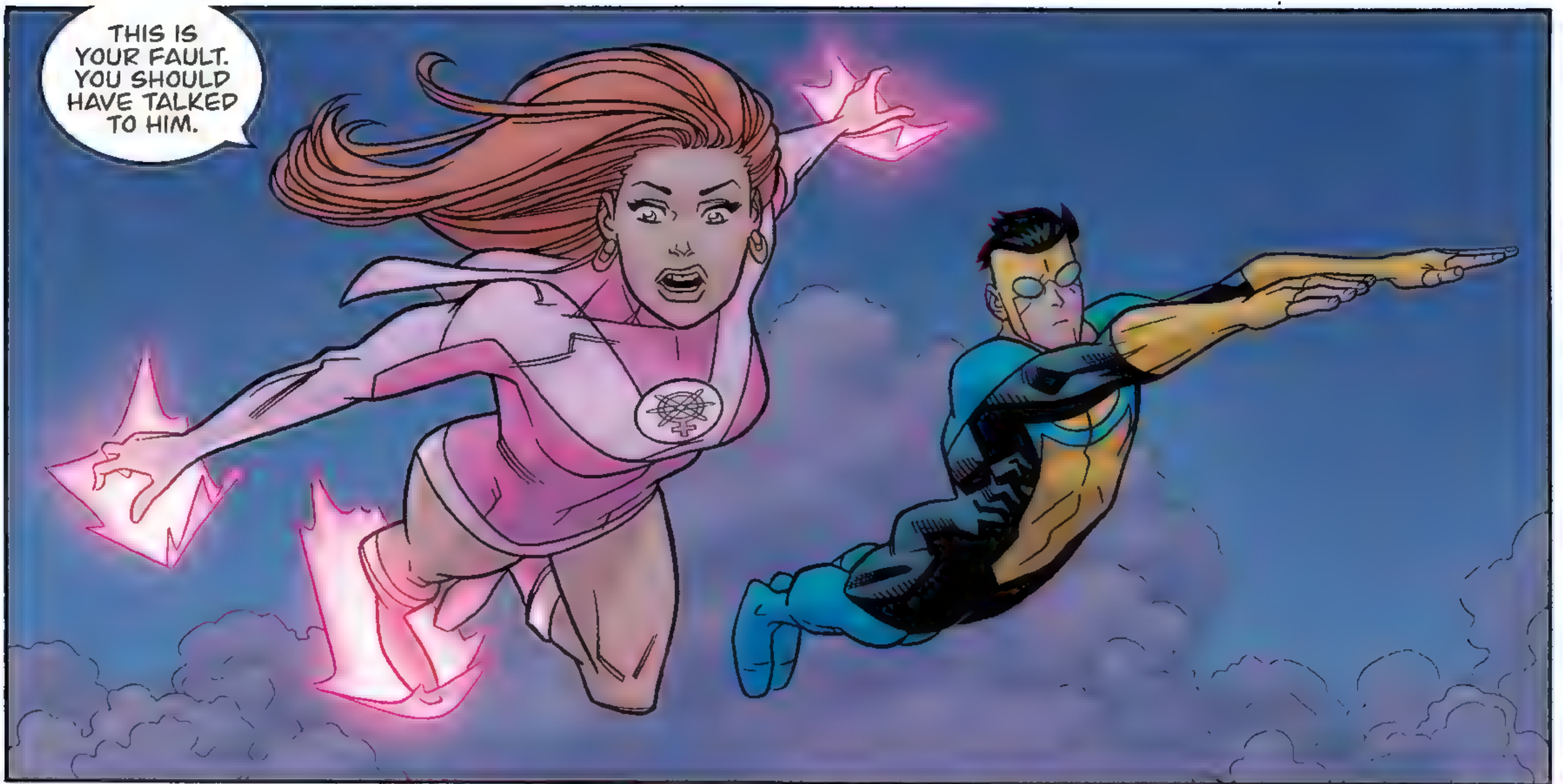
I WAS KIND OF LOOKING FORWARD TO SPENDING MORE TIME HERE NOW THAT ROBOT HAS BEEN TAKEN CARE OF, BUT--

BEEP!
BEEP!



IMMORTAL? WHAT IS IT?

THERE'S A SITUATION THAT I THINK YOU MIGHT WANT TO HANDLE PERSONALLY.



THIS IS YOUR FAULT. YOU SHOULD HAVE TALKED TO HIM.



IT'S COMPLICATED. I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT TO SAY. HOW DO I LOOK HIM IN THE EYE AND TELL HIM WHY I WASN'T AROUND? WHY HE DOESN'T KNOW ME... HOW HE WAS CONCEIVED.



WE'VE NEVER TOLD TERRA HOW SHE WAS CONCEIVED.



...



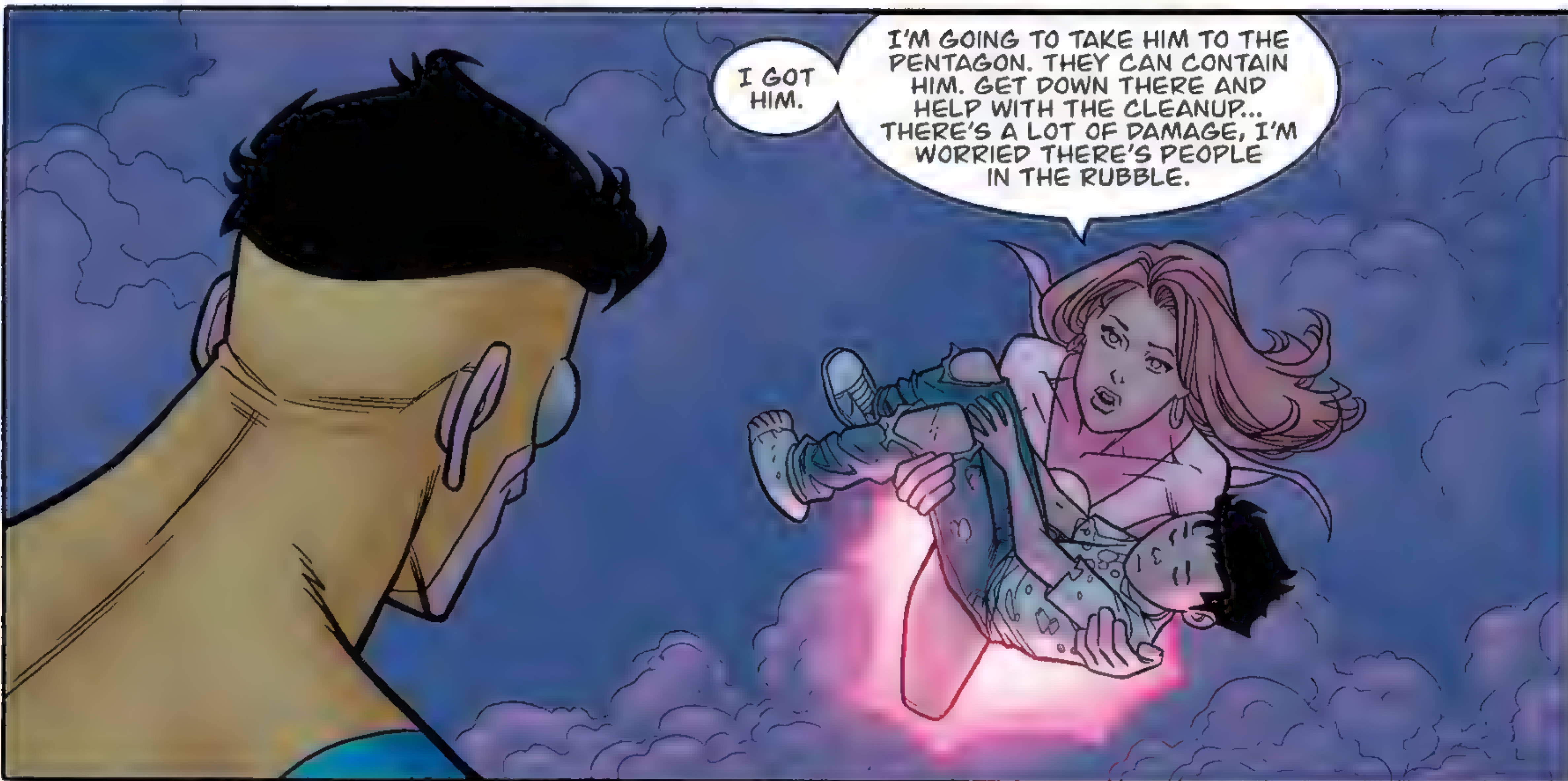
IT'S COMPLICATED. HE DOESN'T EVEN KNOW HE'S A VILTRUMITE.

HE DEFINITELY KNOWS SOMETHING...











OKAY,
GUYS--LET'S
MAKE THIS
QUICK.

WE HAVE EVERY INTENTION
TO DO SO, INVINCIBLE. OUR
SEEKER DRONES WILL SCAN
THE RUBBLE FOR ANY
SURVIVORS.

WHILE DOING
SO, THEY CAN MAP
THE STABILITY OF THE
RUBBLE AND AN
EXTRACTION PATH WE
CAN USE FOR
RESCUE.

I'M HOPING
WE'LL HAVE ALL
SURVIVORS FREE
AND BE STARTING
CLEANUP IN
LESS THAN AN
HOUR.

OR WAIT...
WERE YOU
PLANNING ON...
FIGHTING
US?



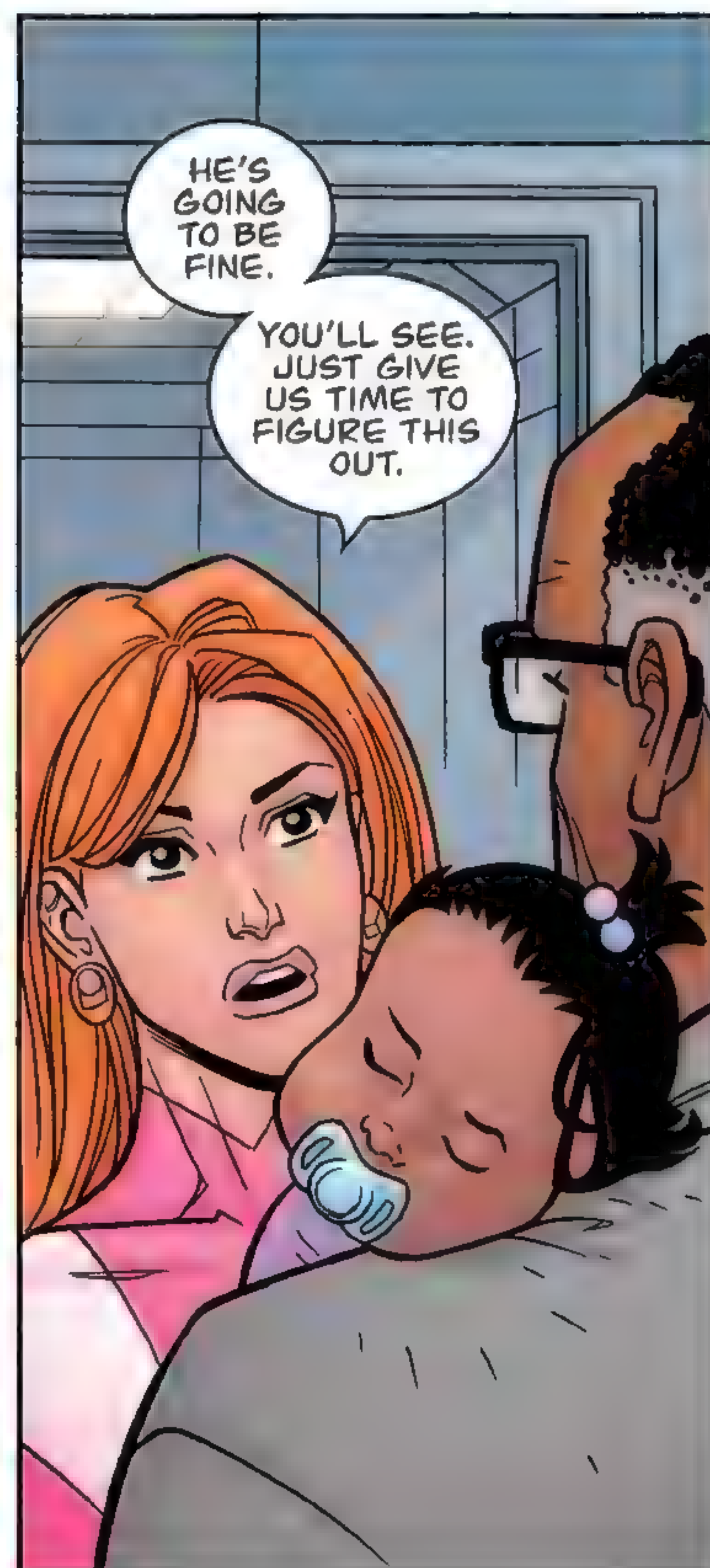
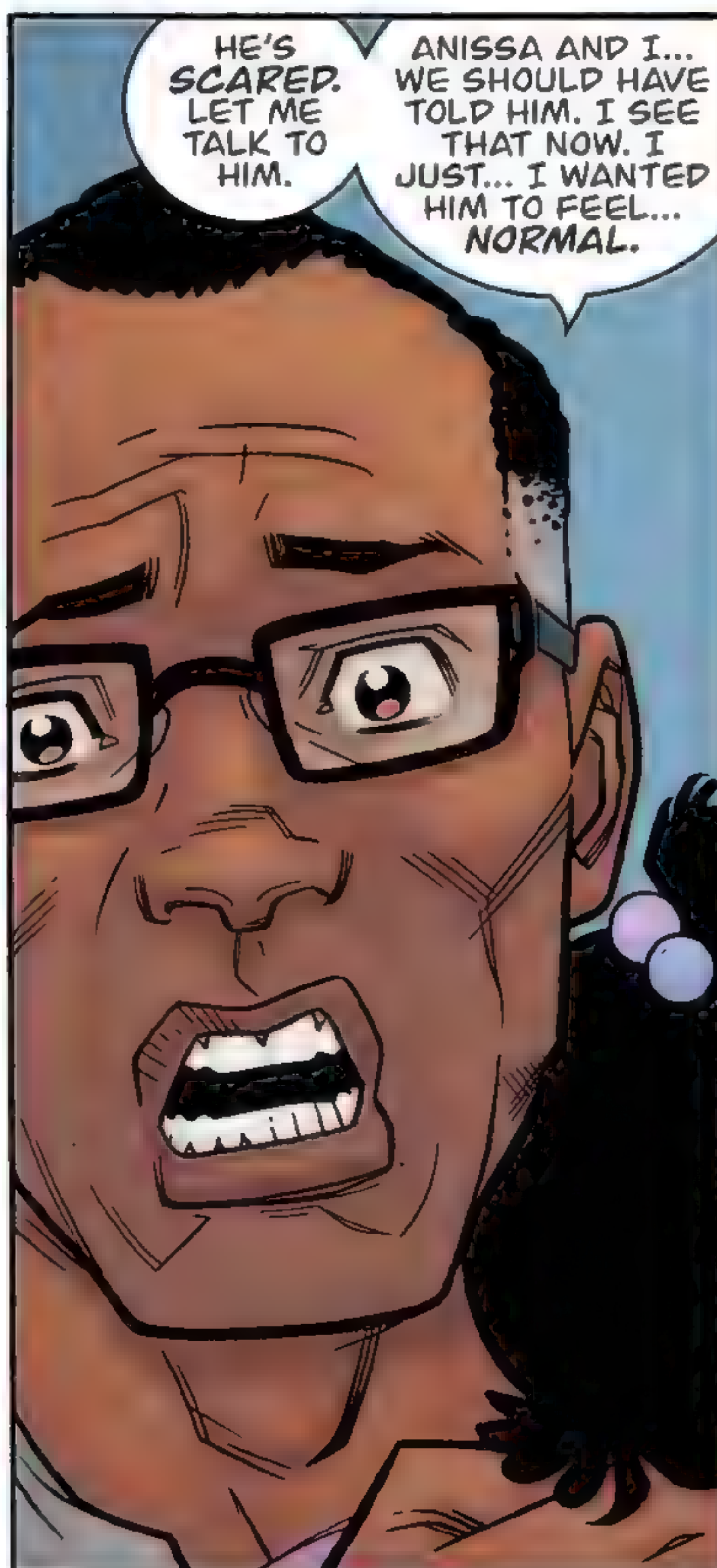
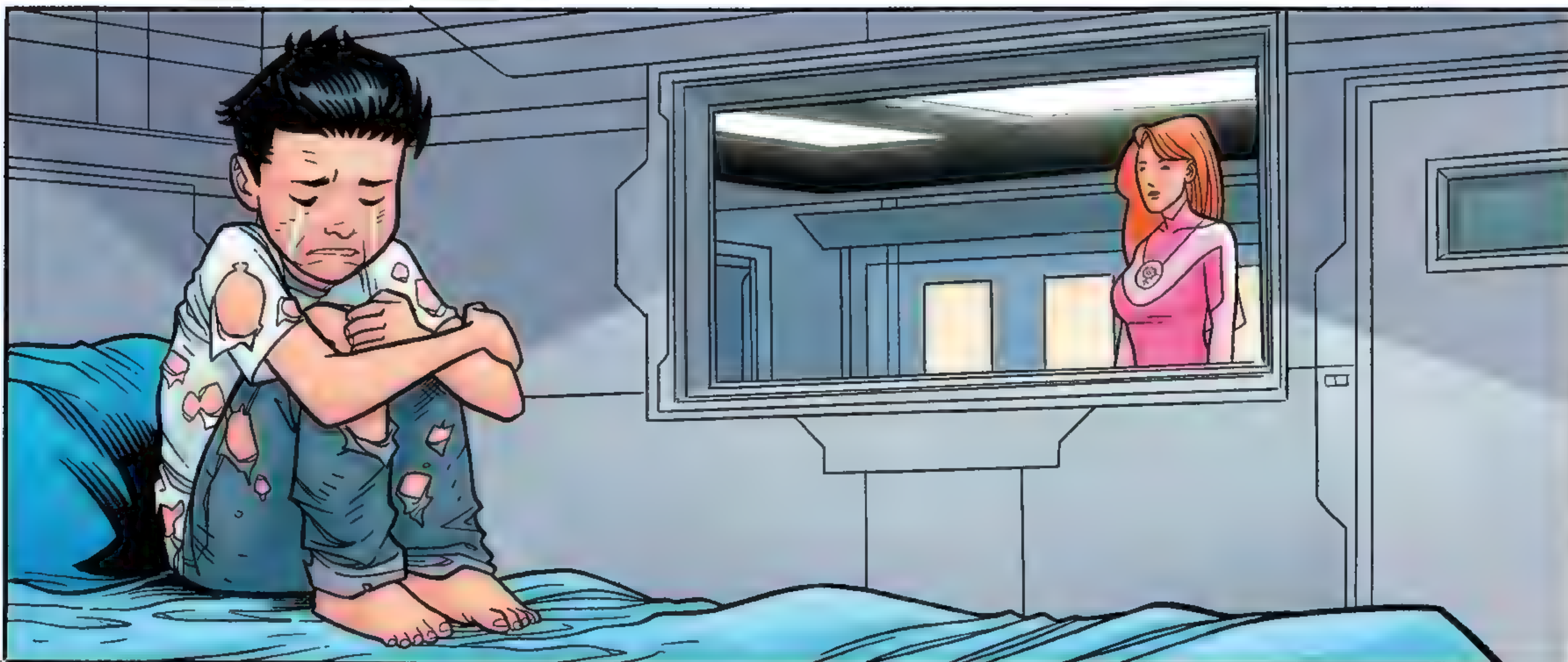
UM...

WE HAVE ALL THE
RESOURCES NEEDED
FOR OUR EXPERIMENTS,
AND OUR WORK HAS
HELPED CHANGE THE
WORLD. WE ARE
CONTENT.

WE NO
LONGER HAVE
A REASON TO
WORK ON THE
OTHER SIDE OF
THE LAW.

WE ASSIST
IN ANY
CLEANUP
EFFORTS AS A
WAY TO GIVE
BACK...

...AND
ATONE FOR
OUR PAST
DEEDS.



THE VILTRUMITES HAVE TO LEAVE THE PLANET.

THIS INCIDENT IS ONLY THE BEGINNING. MARKY IS ONE OF THE FIRST VILTRUMITE CHILDREN TO DEVELOP HIS POWERS.

THE REST ARE TICKING TIME BOMBS WAITING TO GO OFF. WE CAN'T AFFORD THE DISRUPTION THIS COULD CAUSE.

THAT'S ABSURD. NOT EVERY CHILD IS GOING TO REACT THE WAY MARKY DID. WE CAN TRAIN THEM. WE CAN PREPARE THEM. MARKY DOESN'T EVEN KNOW HE IS A VILTRUMITE.

WE CAN DEVELOP A SYSTEM. WE CAN MAKE IT WORK.

NO. I AGREE WITH REX.

WHAT?!

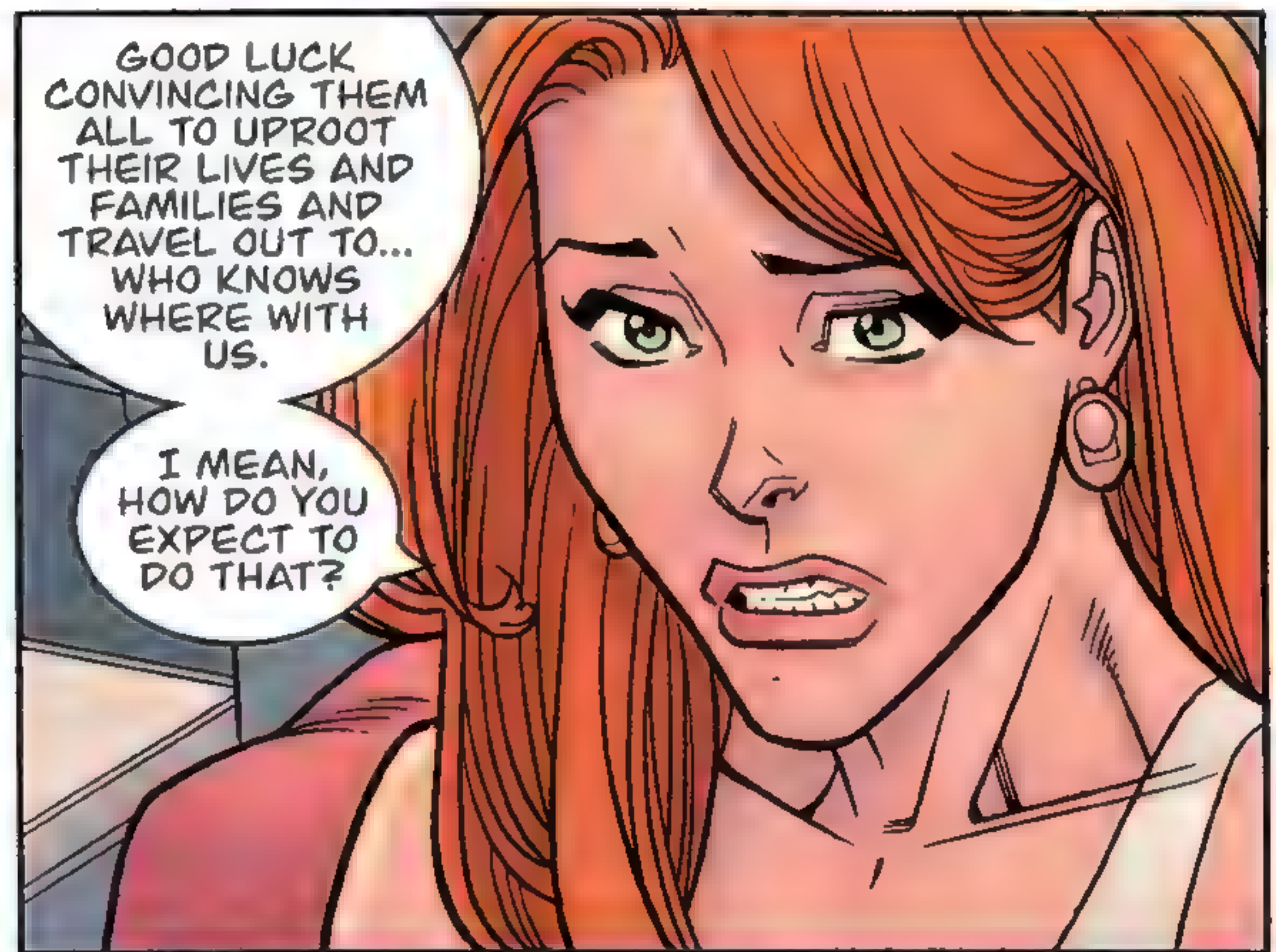
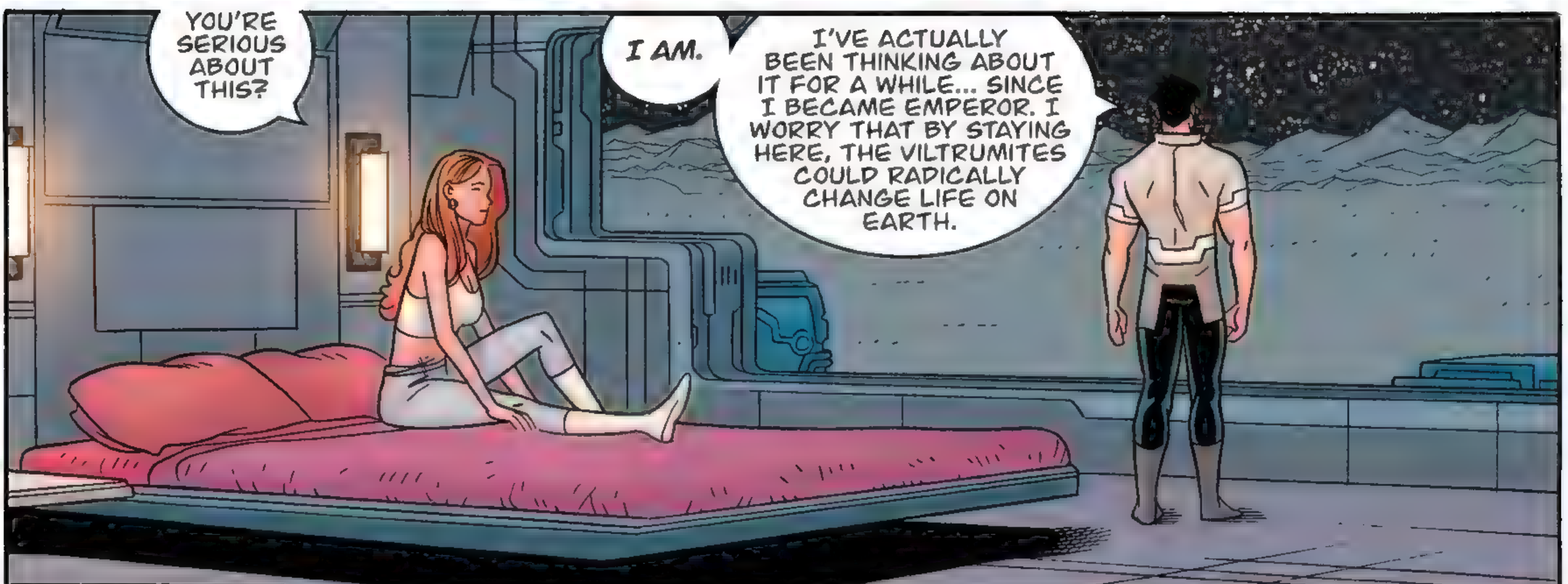
REX HAS ESTABLISHED PEACE HERE. THE IMMORTAL IS GOING TO MAINTAIN THAT, EVEN IMPROVE ON IT.

WITH THRAGG'S OFFSPRING, THERE ARE SO MANY OF US... KEEPING US HERE... IT'S ONLY GOING TO CAUSE TROUBLE.

IT'S AN UNMANAGEABLE SITUATION.

THE TRUTH IS... WE DON'T BELONG HERE.

NONE OF US DO.





UM...
MARK?

SCOTT,
RIGHT?
WHAT CAN
I DO FOR
YOU?


I'M
SORRY, I
DON'T WANT
TO CAUSE
ANY
TROUBLE...

...BUT
MARKY,
MOLLY AND
ME... WE'RE
NOT GOING
WITH YOU.



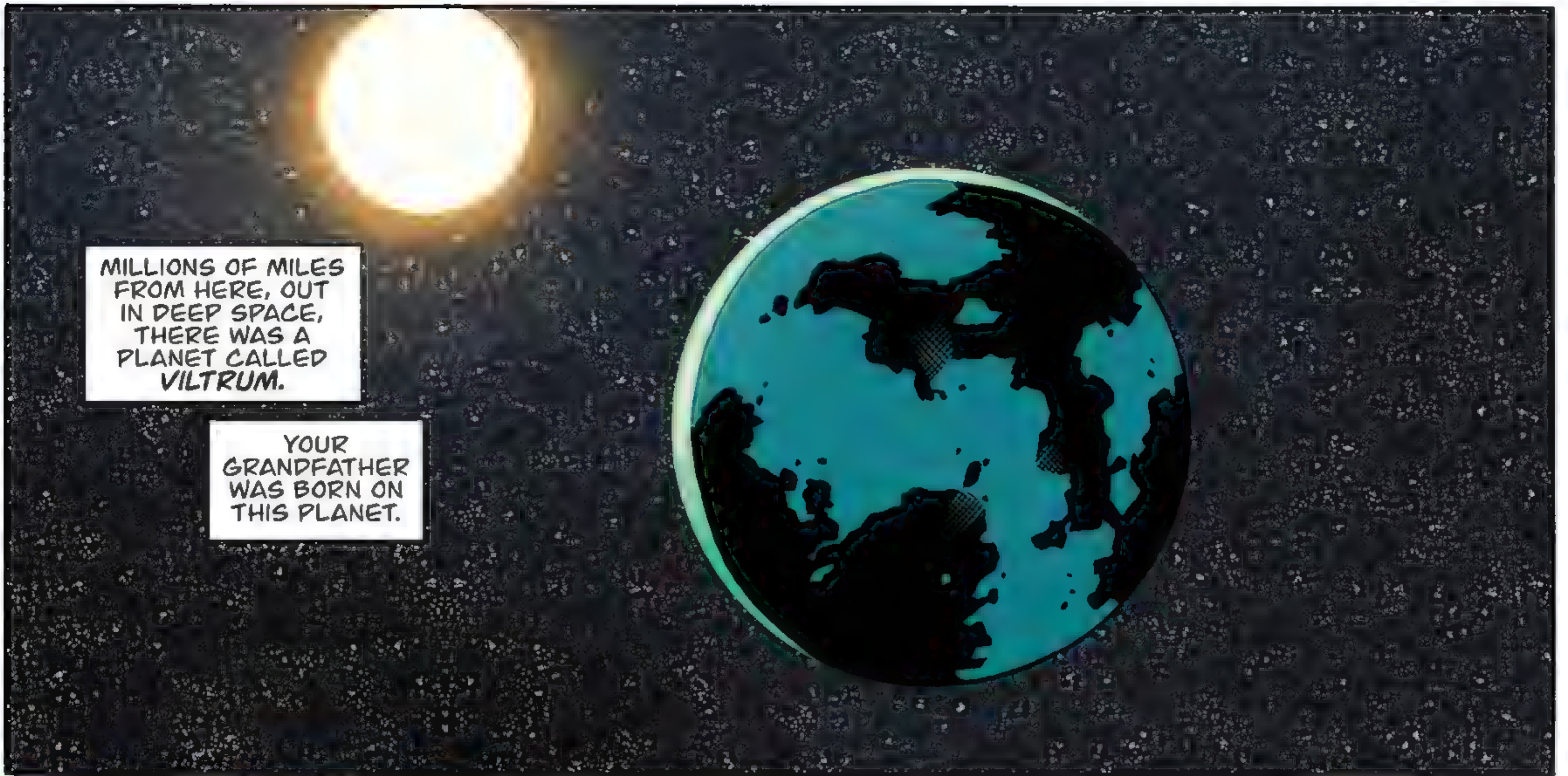
CHAPTER 144





MARKY, I KNOW
YOU'VE NOTICED BY
NOW YOU'RE NOT LIKE
NORMAL KIDS. YOUR
MOTHER CHOSE TO
AVOID THE SUBJECT,
BUT NOW THAT SHE'S
GONE AND YOU'VE
GOTTEN YOUR
POWERS... IT'S TIME
YOU KNEW THE
TRUTH.

YOU'RE
OLD ENOUGH
FOR ME TO TELL
YOU WHERE YOU
REALLY COME
FROM.



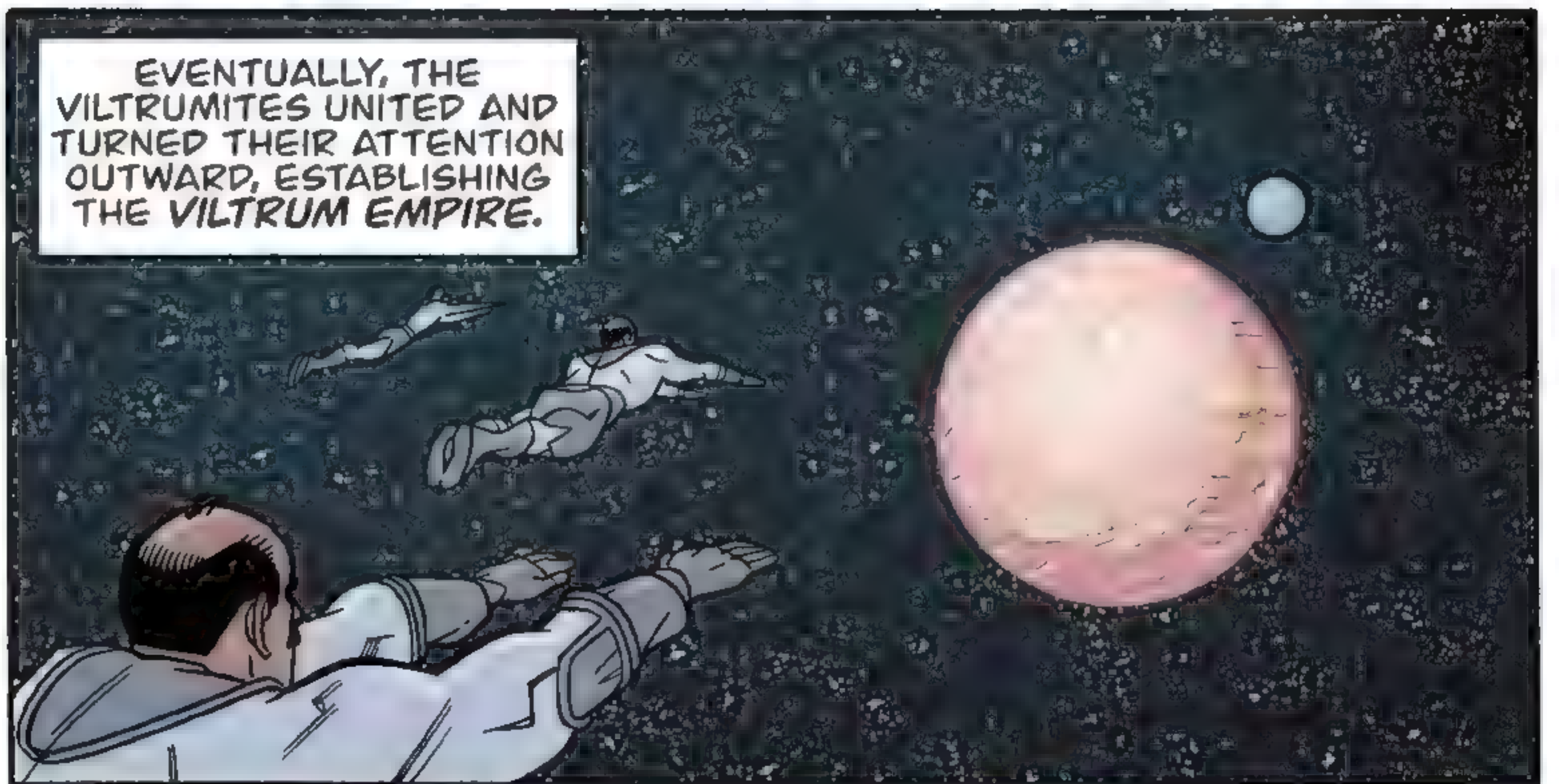
MILLIONS OF MILES FROM HERE, OUT IN DEEP SPACE, THERE WAS A PLANET CALLED VILTRUM.

YOUR GRANDFATHER WAS BORN ON THIS PLANET.



VILTRUMITES WERE A VIOLENT RACE WHO VALUED **STRENGTH** ABOVE ALL ELSE.

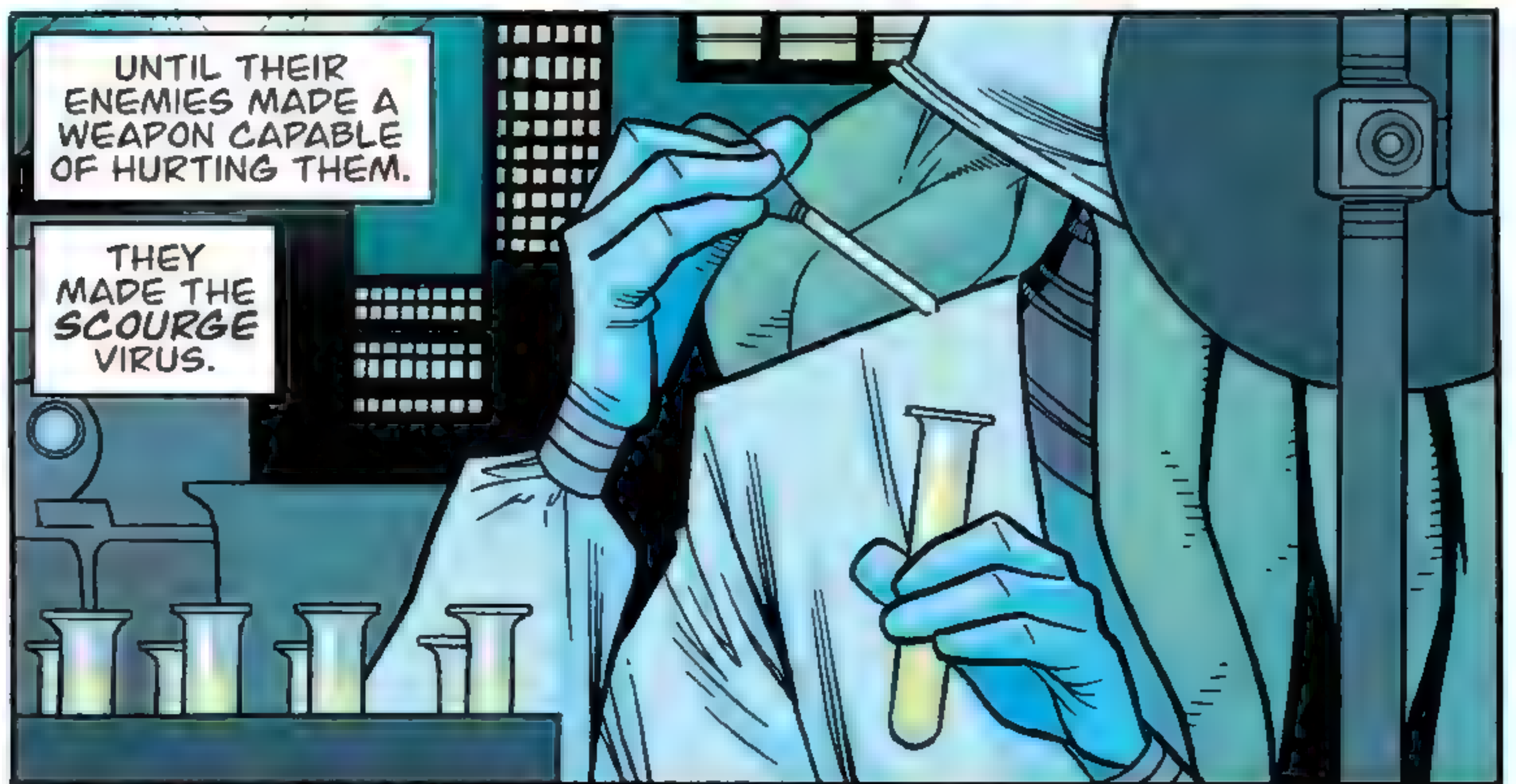
TO RID THEMSELVES OF ANY WEAKNESS, THEY SLAUGHTERED EACH OTHER UNTIL THEY WERE BRED INTO THE VILTRUMITES OF TODAY.



EVENTUALLY, THE VILTRUMITES UNITED AND TURNED THEIR ATTENTION OUTWARD, ESTABLISHING THE VILTRUM EMPIRE.

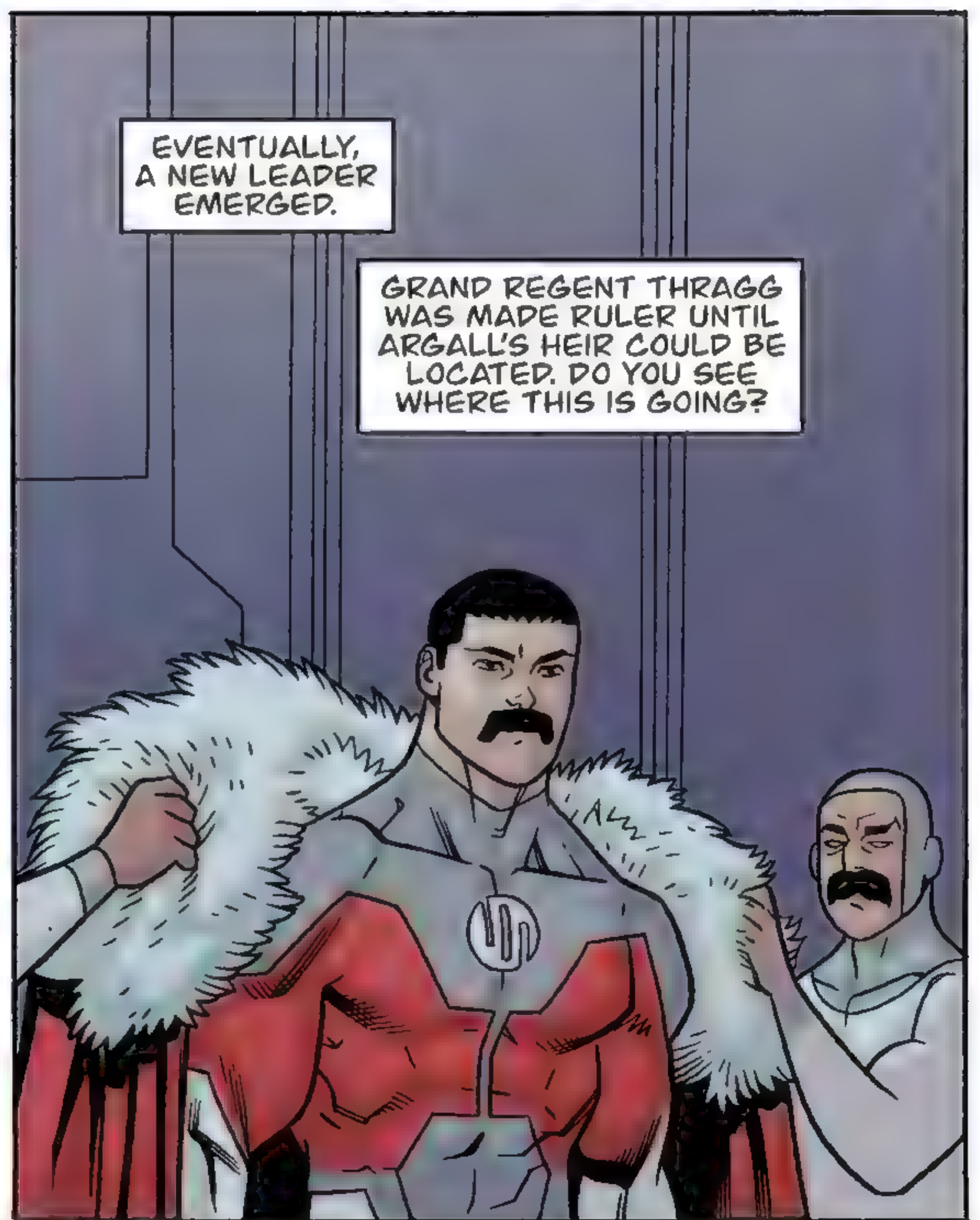
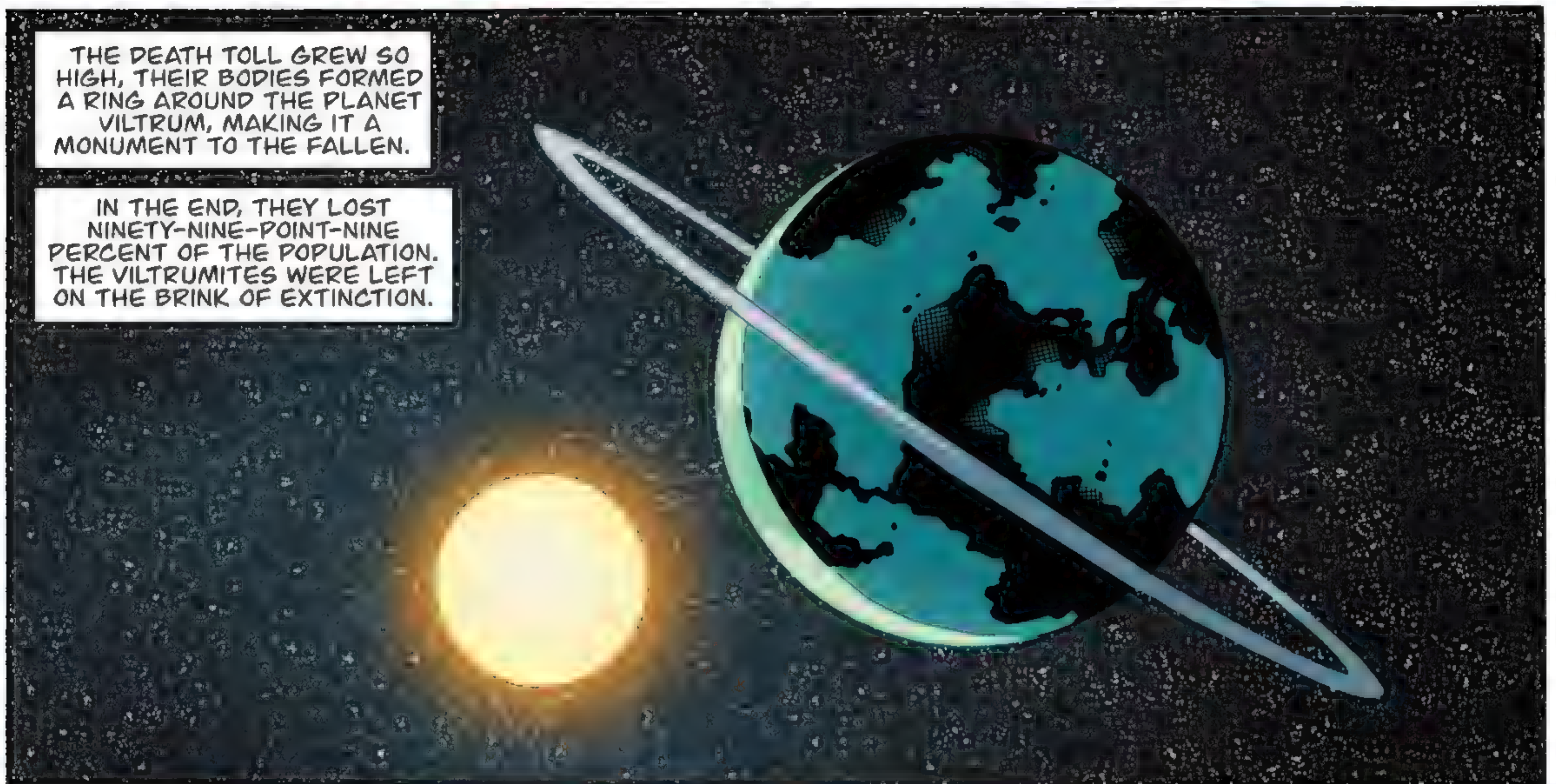
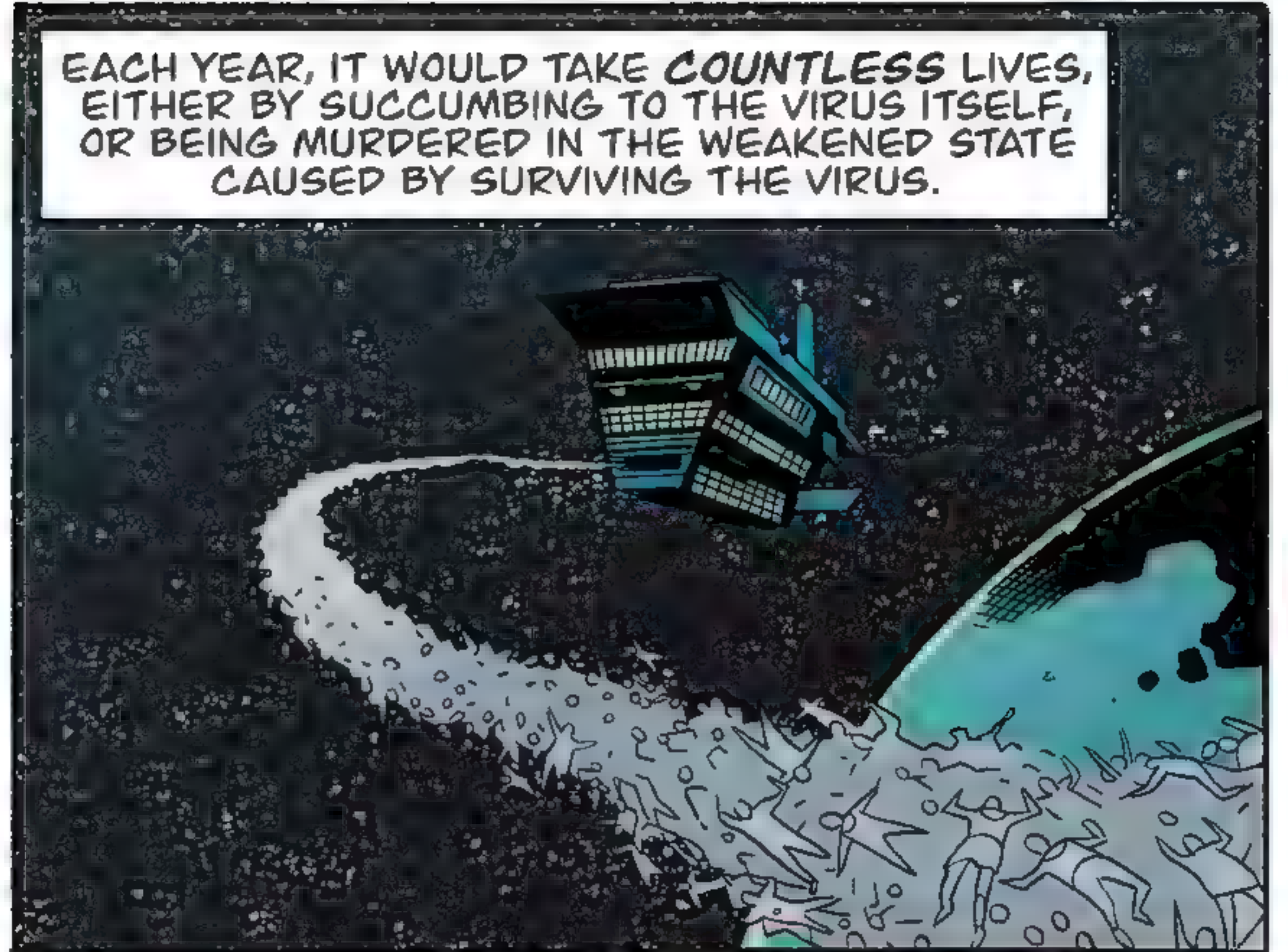
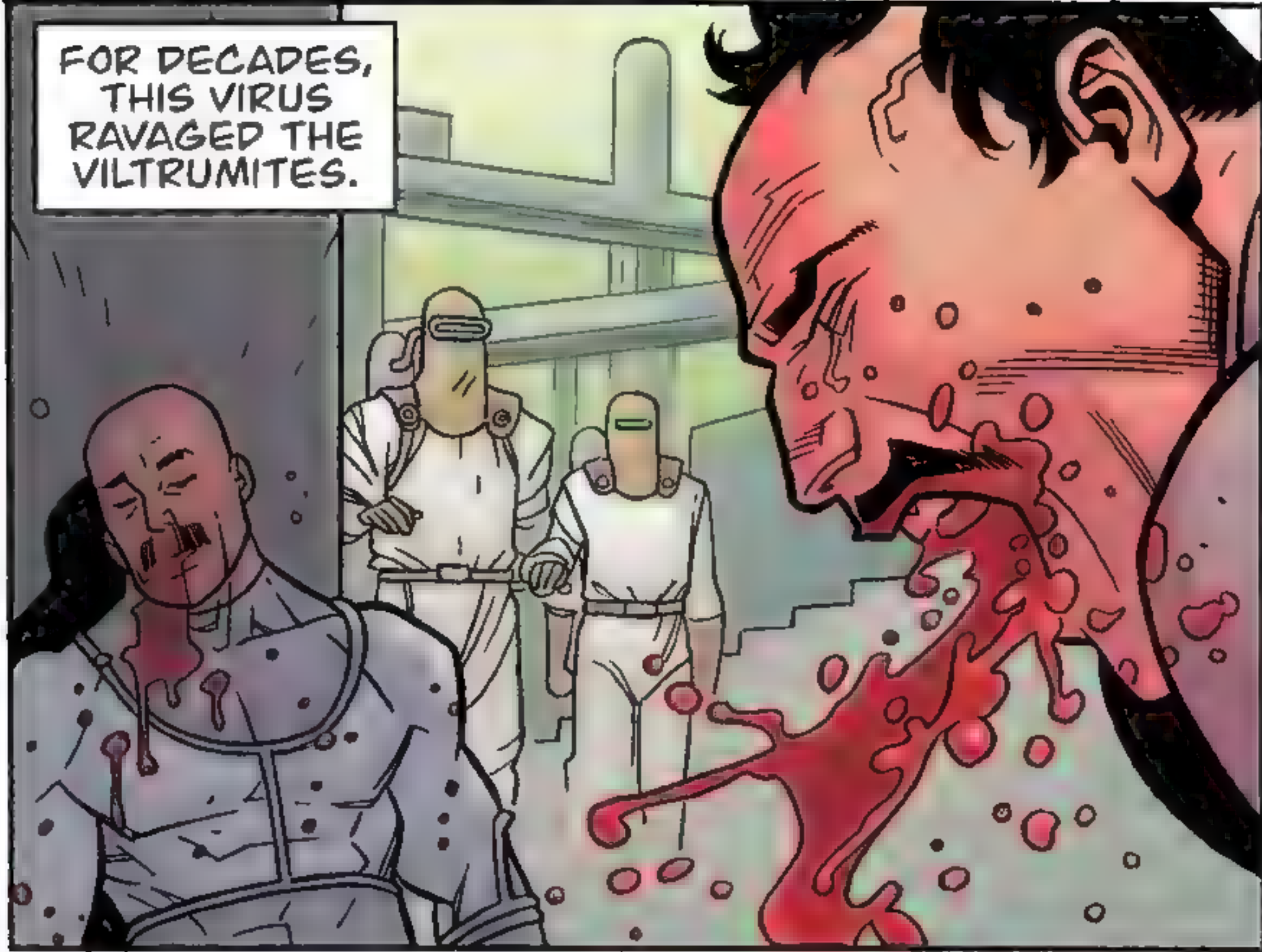


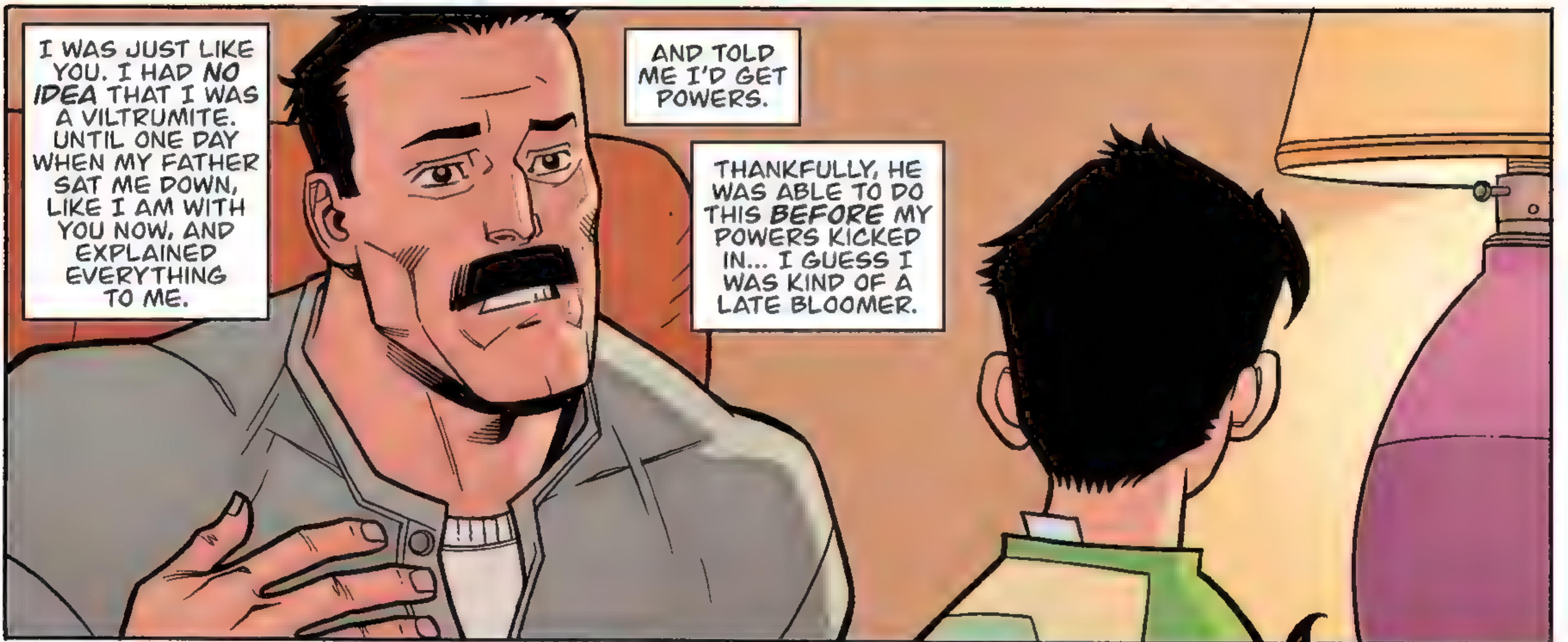
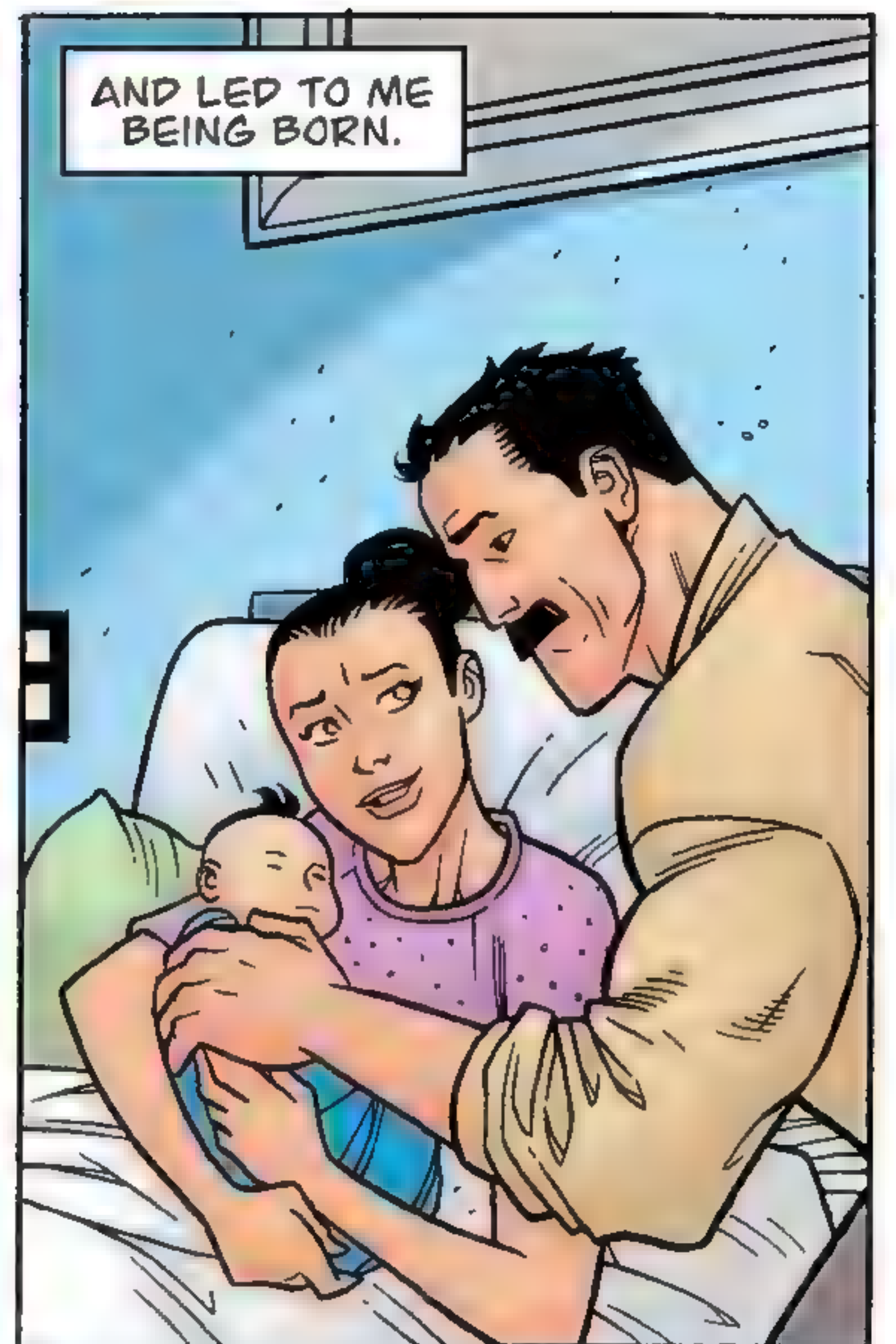
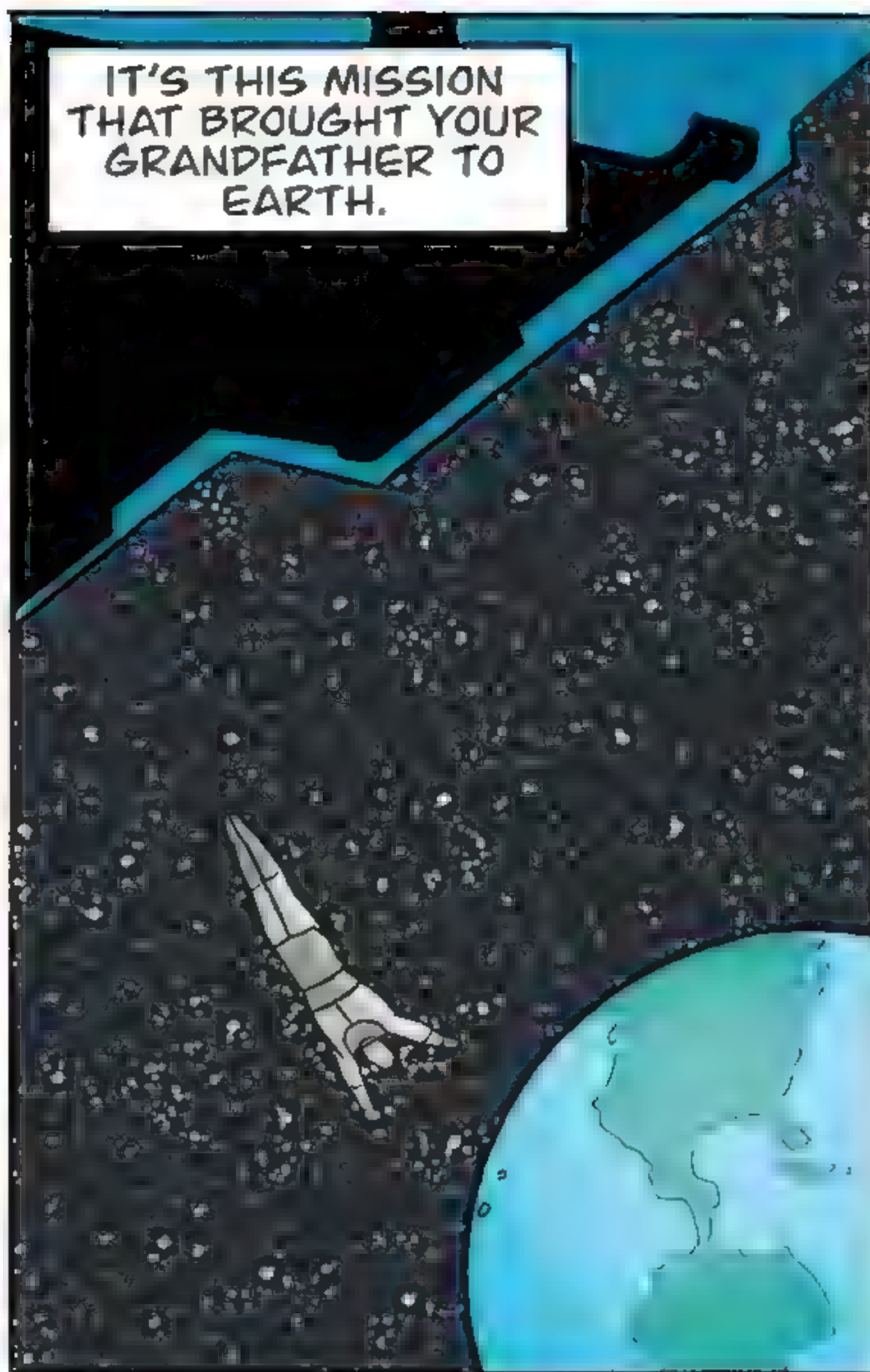
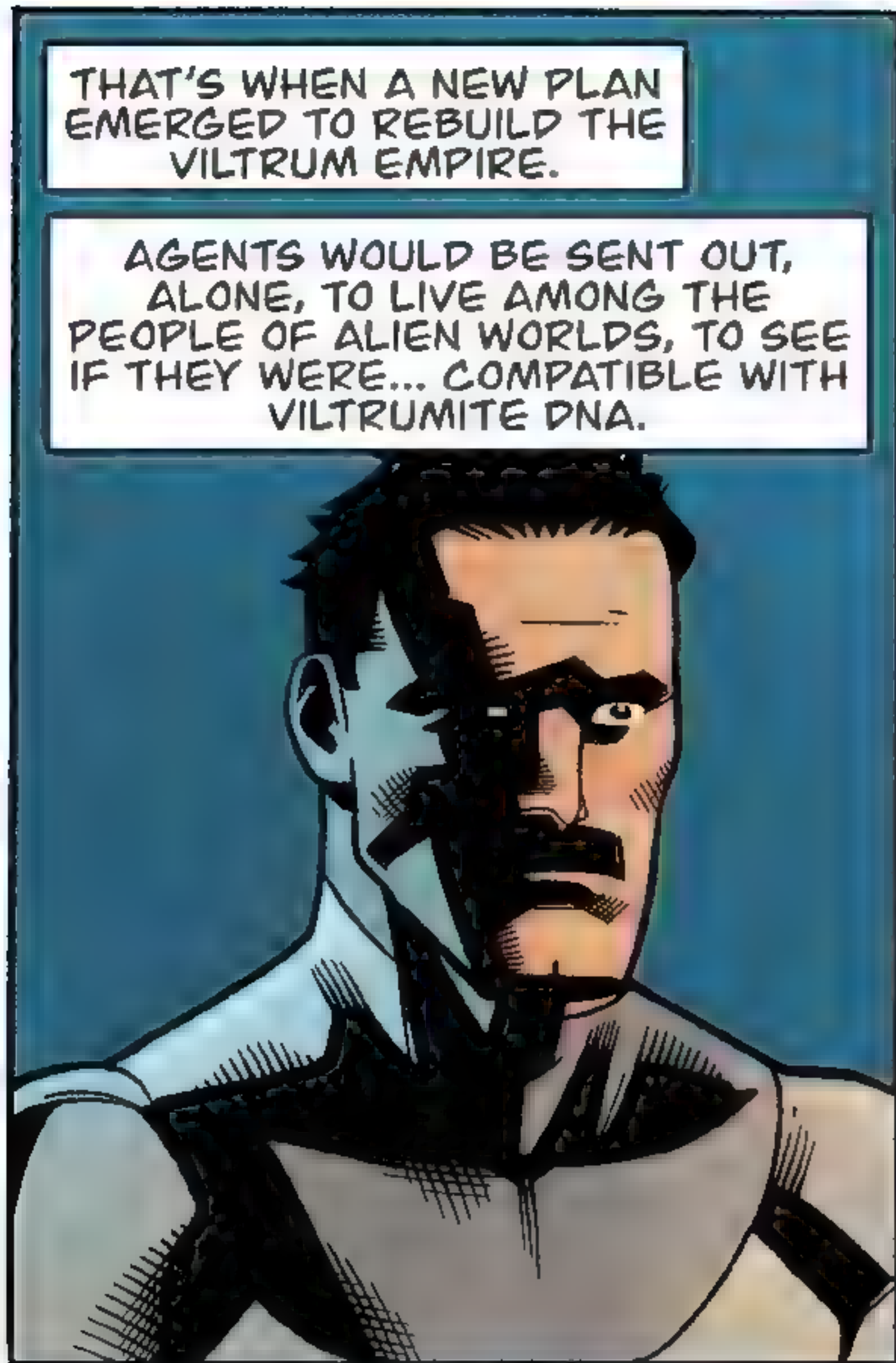
AN EMPIRE THAT CONTINUED TO EXPAND AT AN ASTOUNDING RATE FOR NEARLY ONE THOUSAND YEARS.

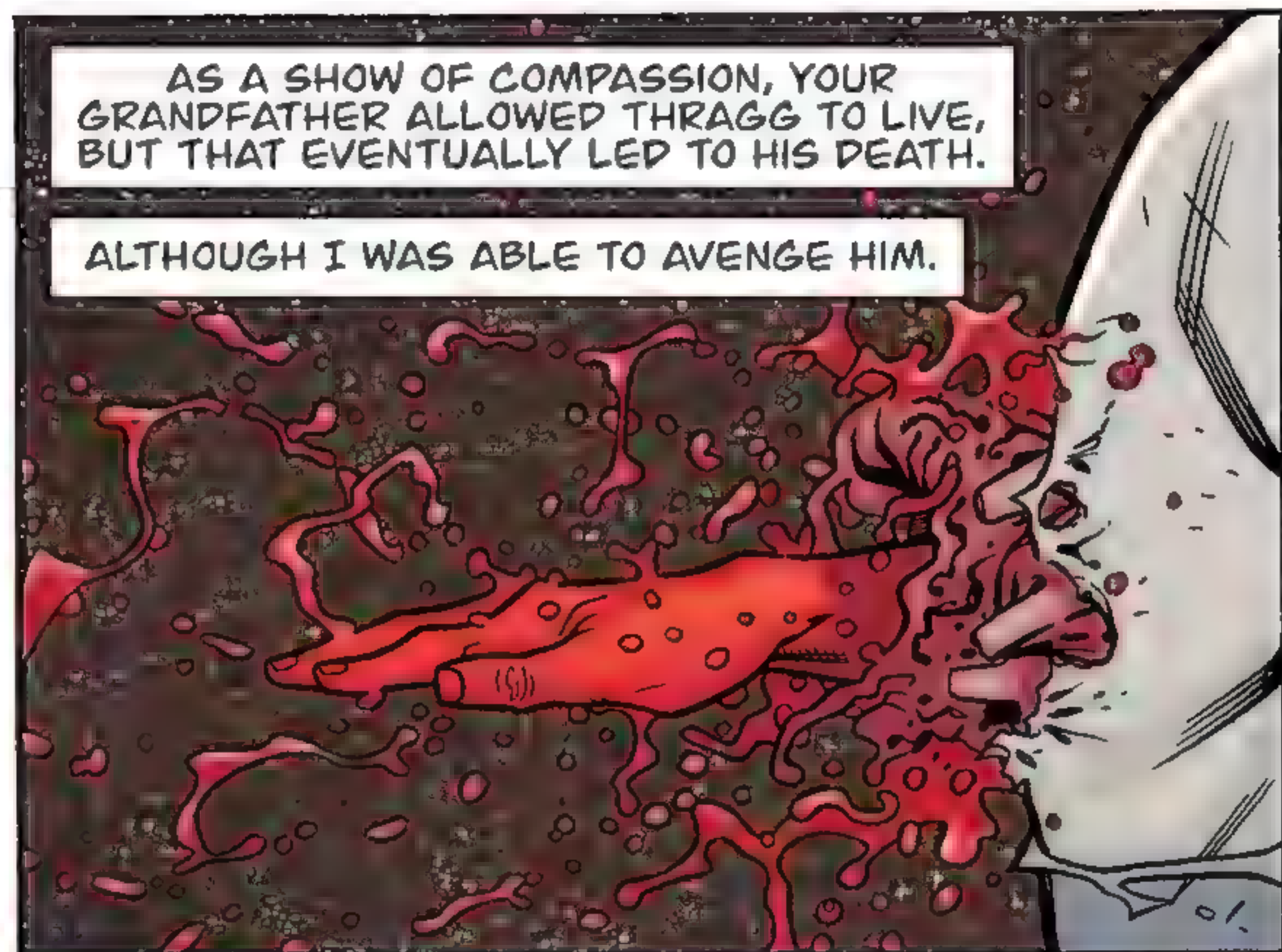
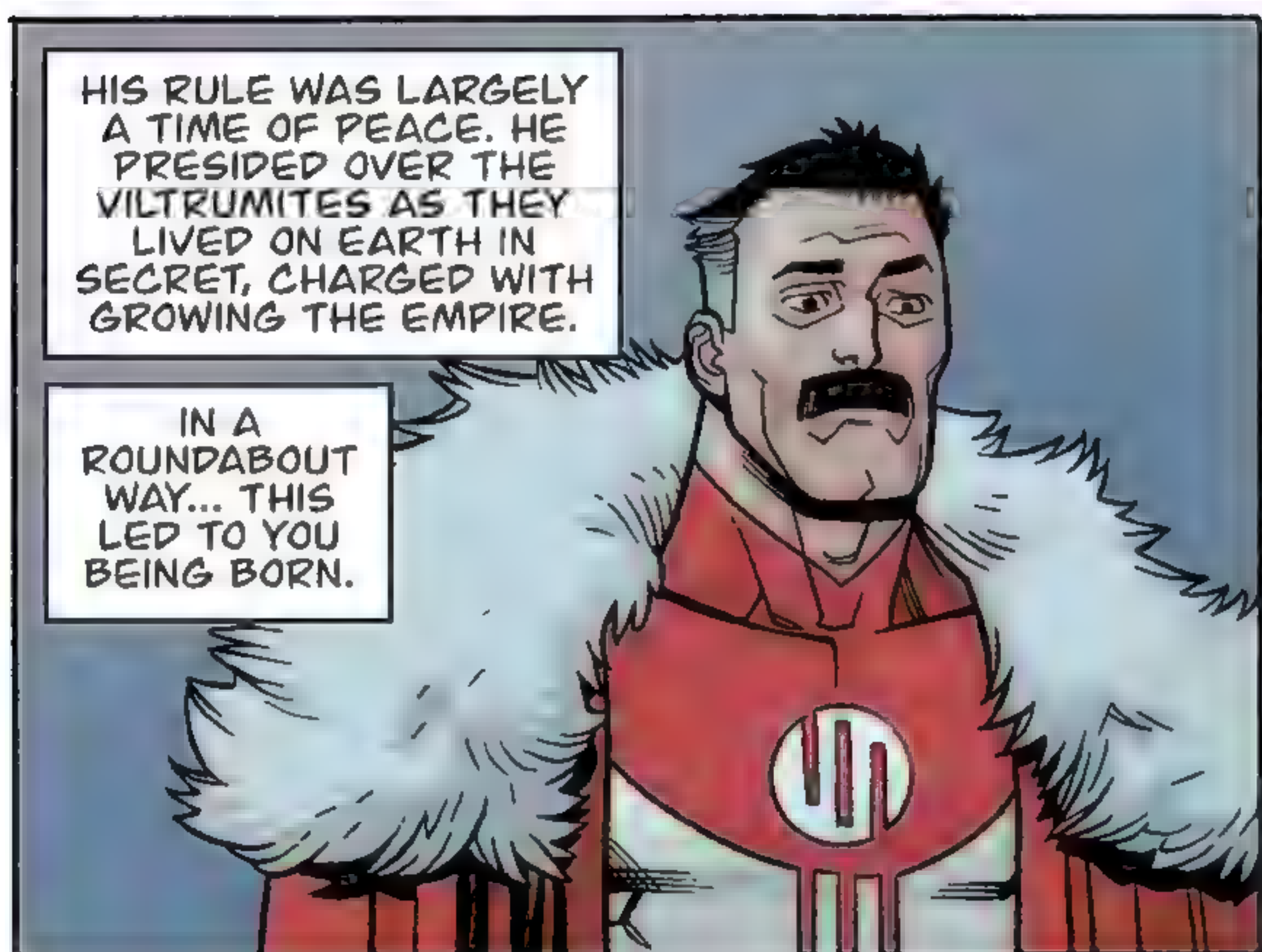
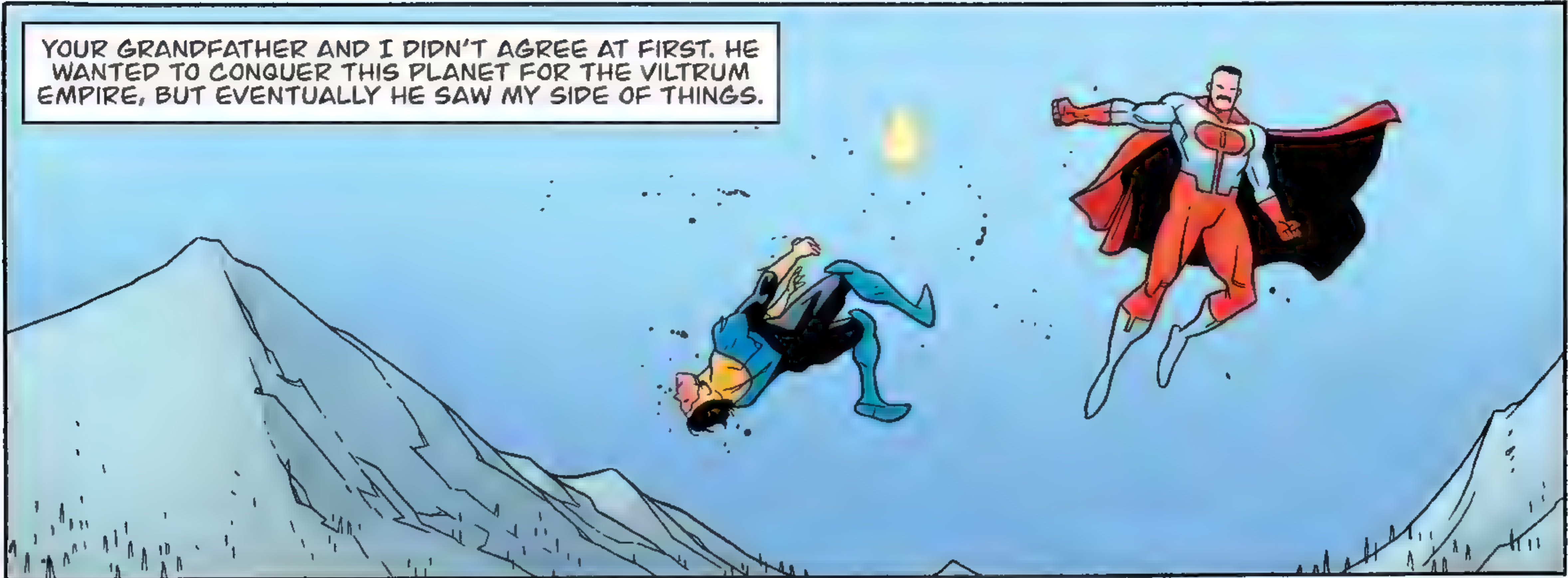


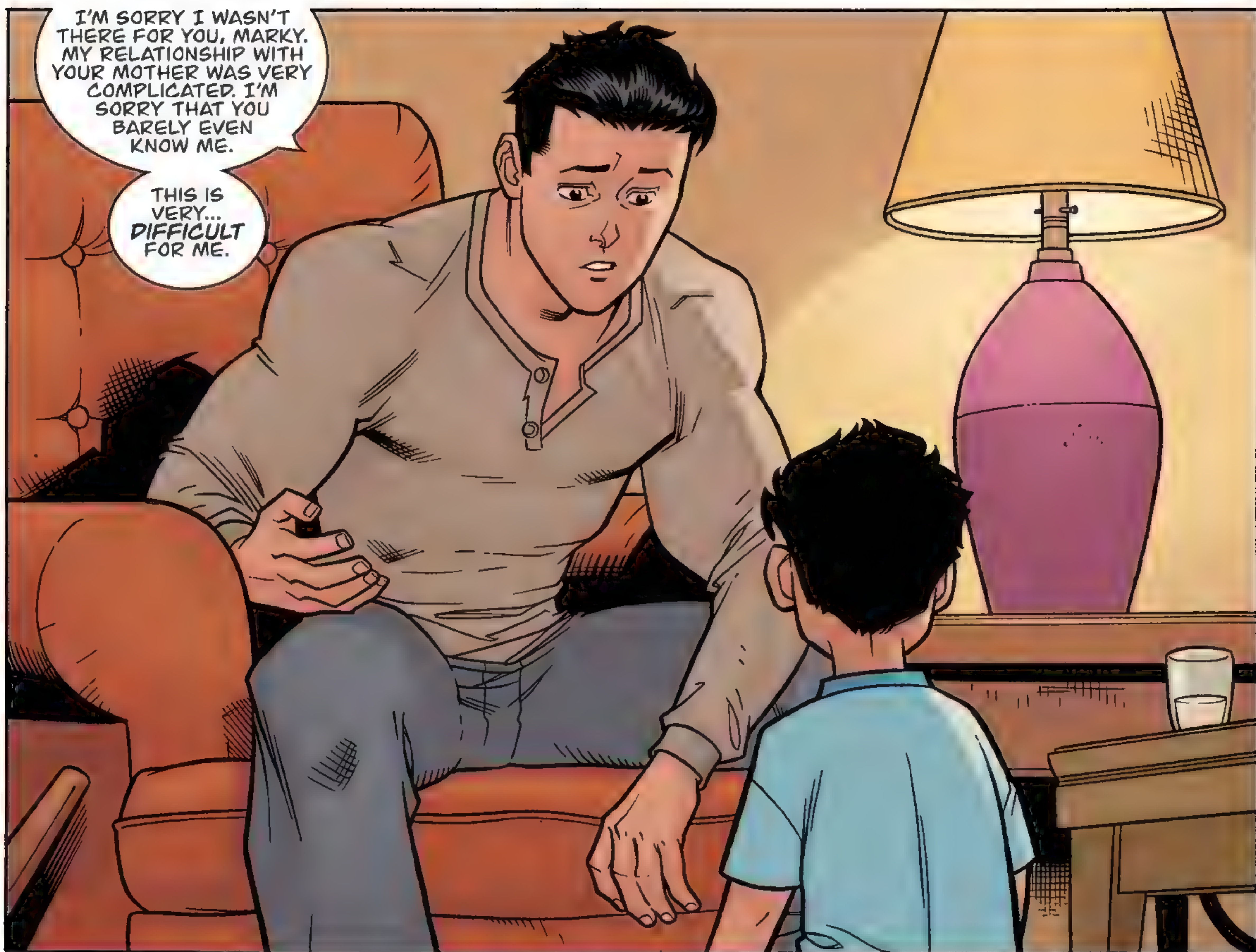
UNTIL THEIR ENEMIES MADE A WEAPON CAPABLE OF HURTING THEM.

THEY MADE THE **SCOURGE** VIRUS.



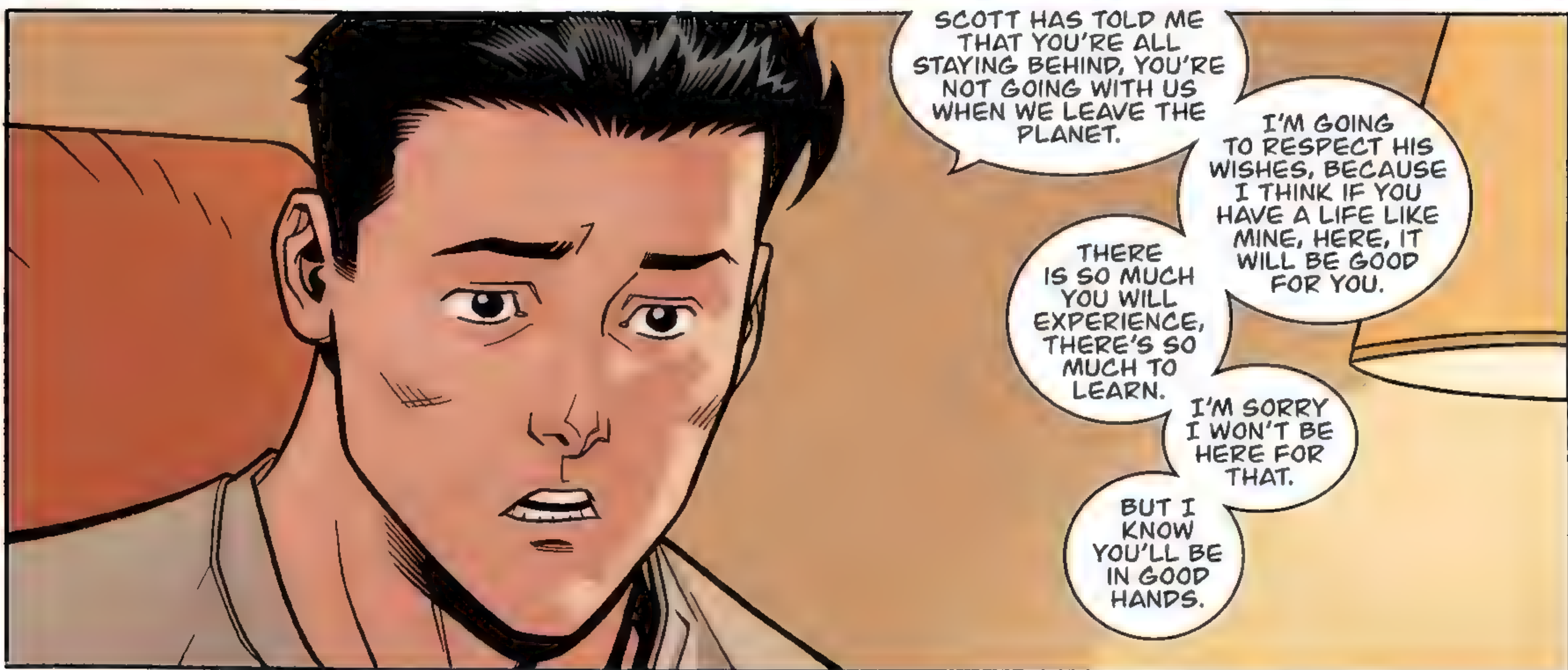






I'M SORRY I WASN'T THERE FOR YOU, MARKY. MY RELATIONSHIP WITH YOUR MOTHER WAS VERY COMPLICATED. I'M SORRY THAT YOU BARELY EVEN KNOW ME.

THIS IS VERY... DIFFICULT FOR ME.



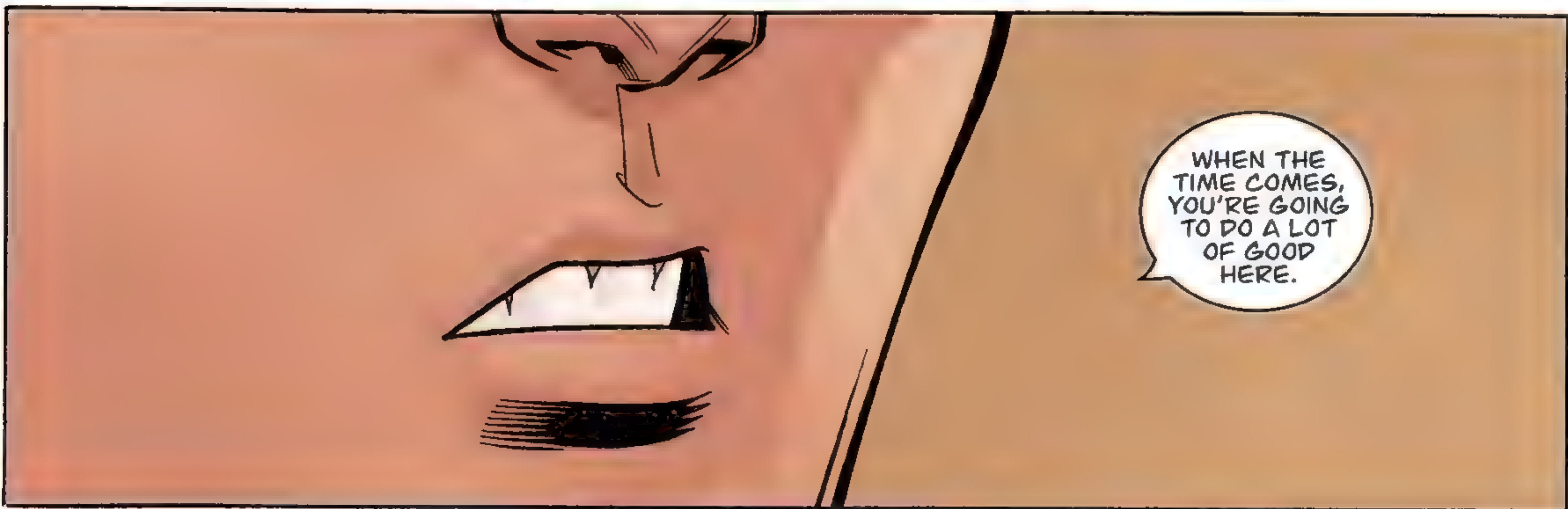
SCOTT HAS TOLD ME THAT YOU'RE ALL STAYING BEHIND, YOU'RE NOT GOING WITH US WHEN WE LEAVE THE PLANET.

I'M GOING TO RESPECT HIS WISHES, BECAUSE I THINK IF YOU HAVE A LIFE LIKE MINE, HERE, IT WILL BE GOOD FOR YOU.

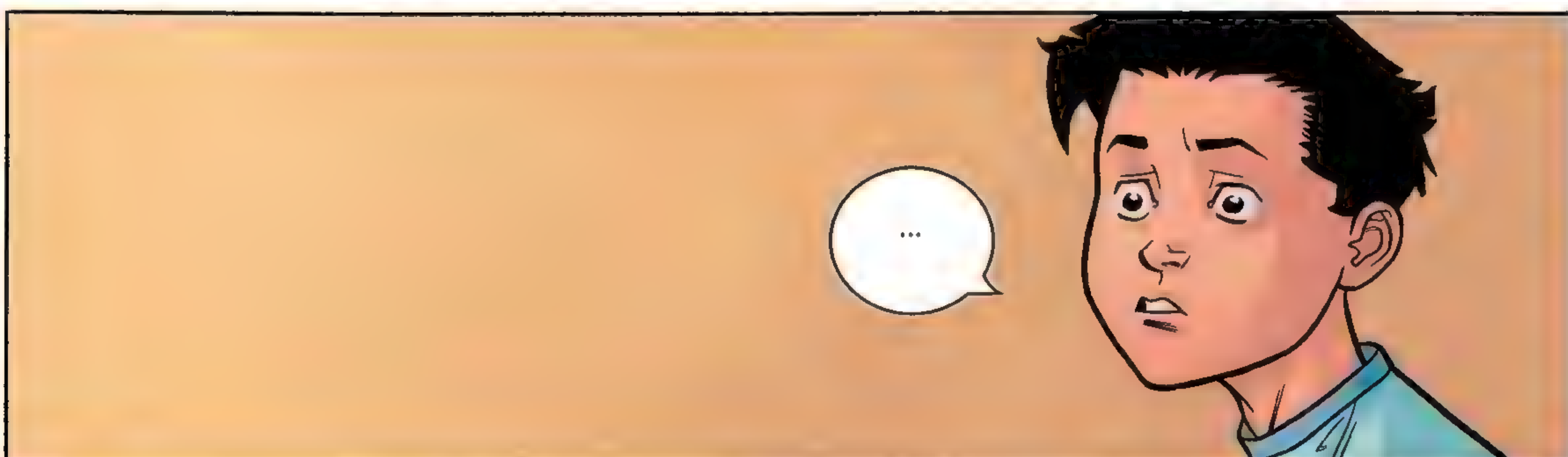
THERE IS SO MUCH YOU WILL EXPERIENCE, THERE'S SO MUCH TO LEARN.

I'M SORRY I WON'T BE HERE FOR THAT.

BUT I KNOW YOU'LL BE IN GOOD HANDS.



WHEN THE TIME COMES, YOU'RE GOING TO DO A LOT OF GOOD HERE.





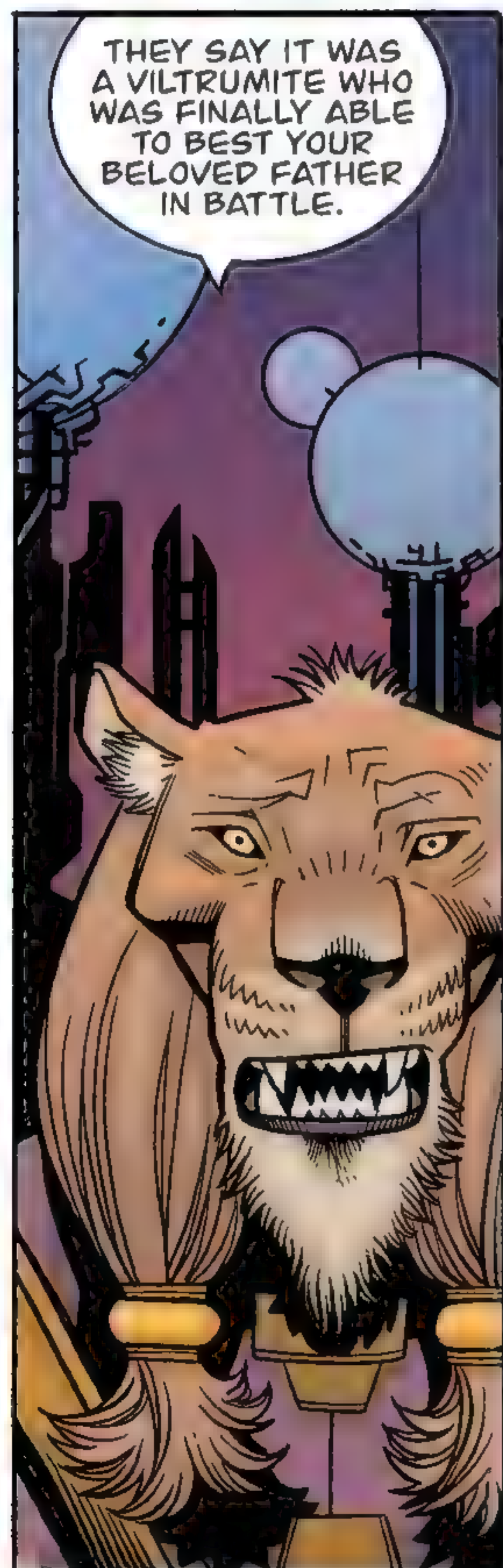
THE REBELS SURRENDERED, THE KINGDOM SECURED... BUT YOU... YOU COULDN'T STOP. IT MUST BE TRUE, YOUR FATHER'S CURSE... IT FLOWS THROUGH YOUR VEINS NOW THAT HE IS NOT ALIVE TO CONTAIN IT.

I AM SORRY FOR WHAT I HAVE DONE HERE. I LOST CONTROL. THE RAGE WITHIN CANNOT BE CONTAINED. I, TOO, MUST NOW SEEK OUT WORTHY OPPONENTS UNTIL I MEET MY END.



THEY SAY IT WAS A VILTRUMITE WHO WAS FINALLY ABLE TO BEST YOUR BELOVED FATHER IN BATTLE.

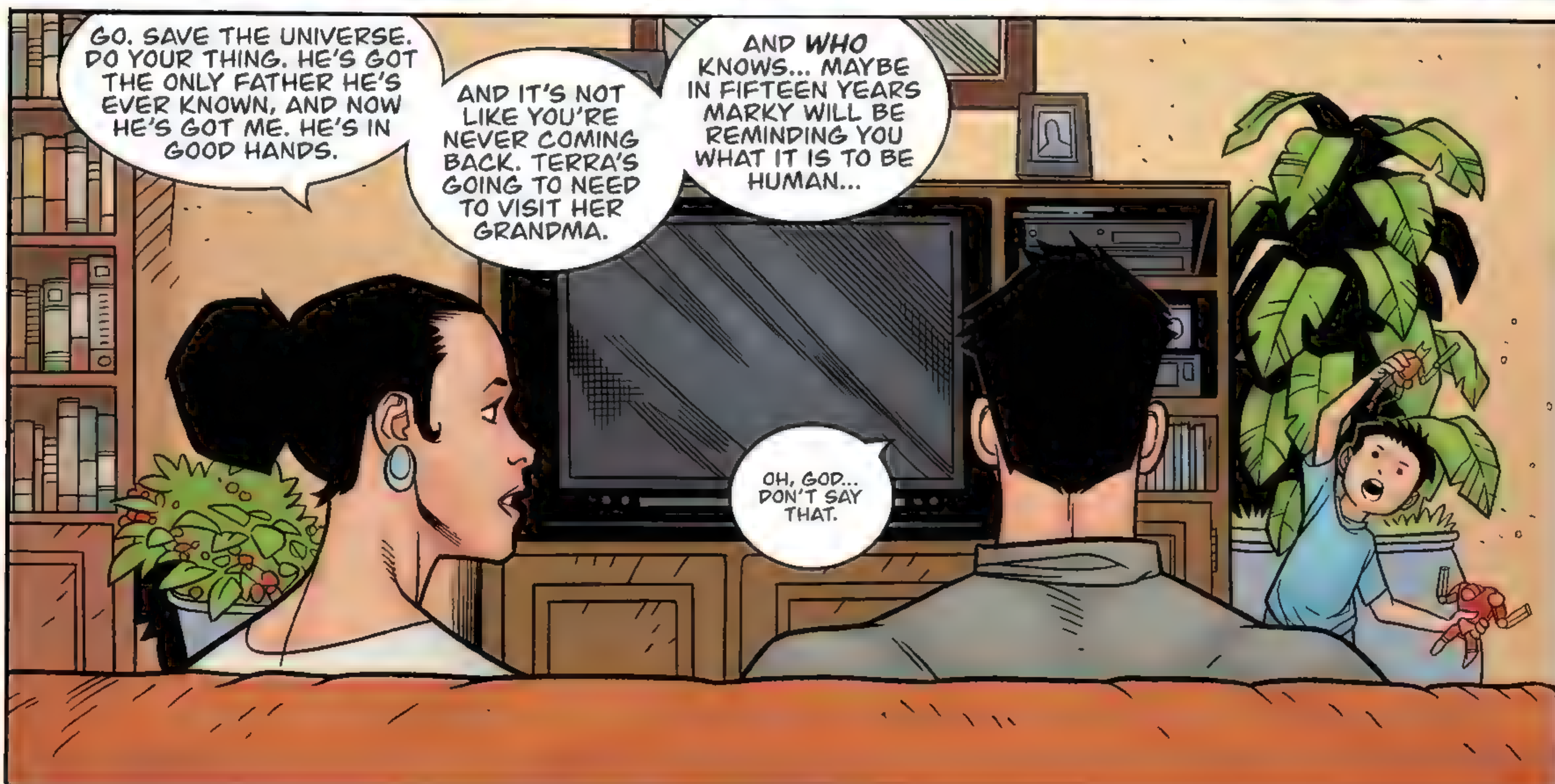
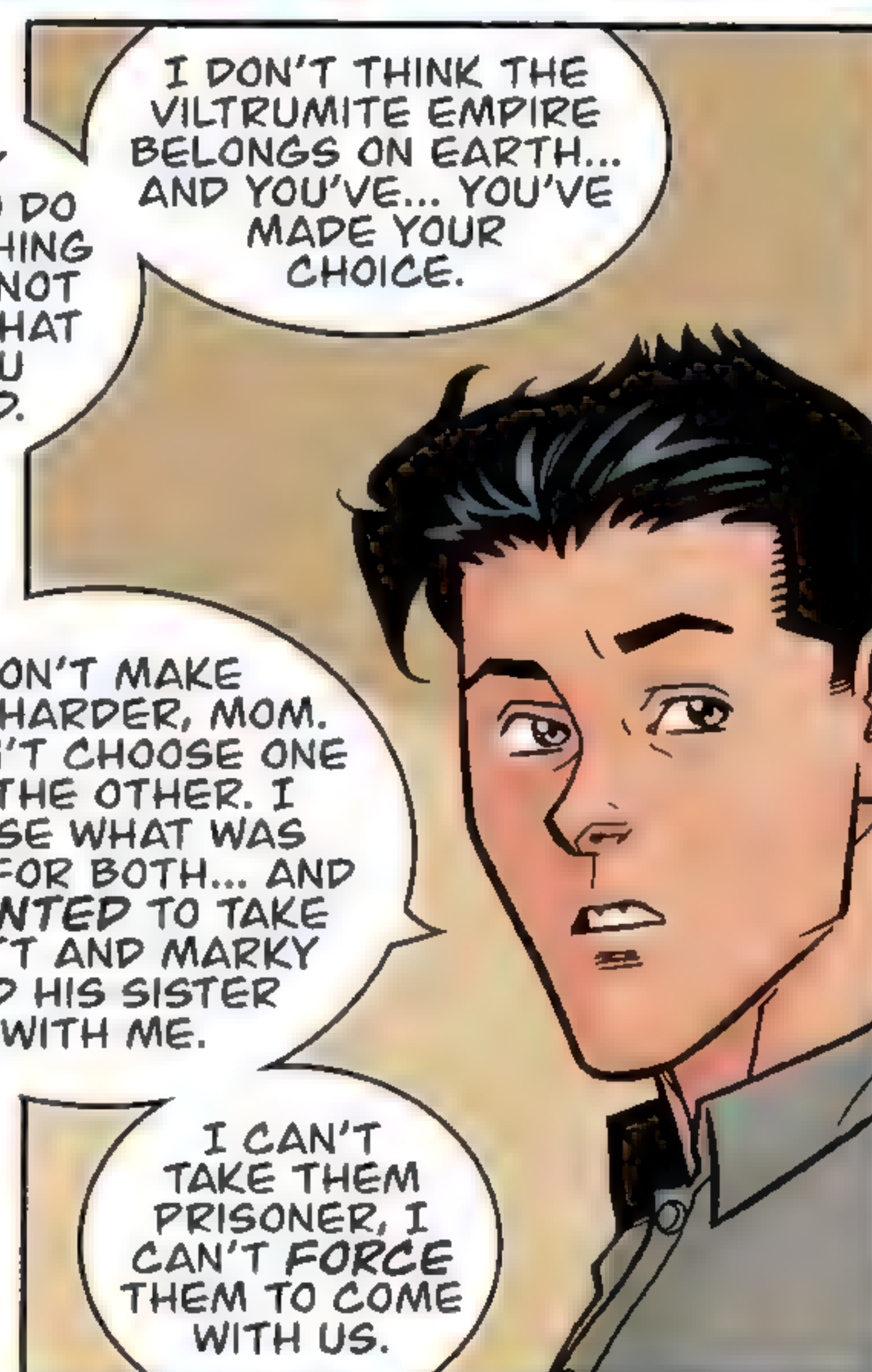
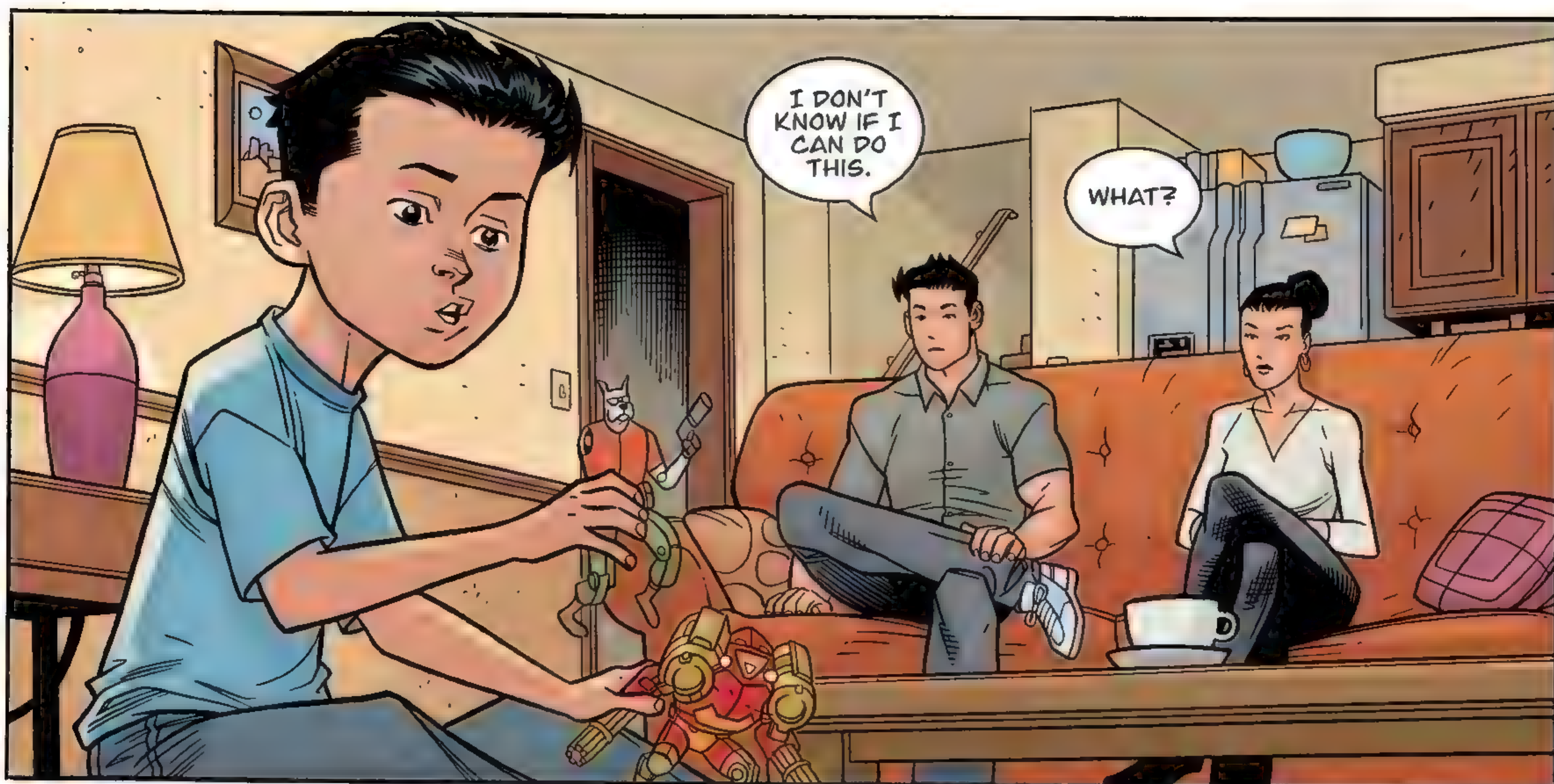
VILTRUMITE?

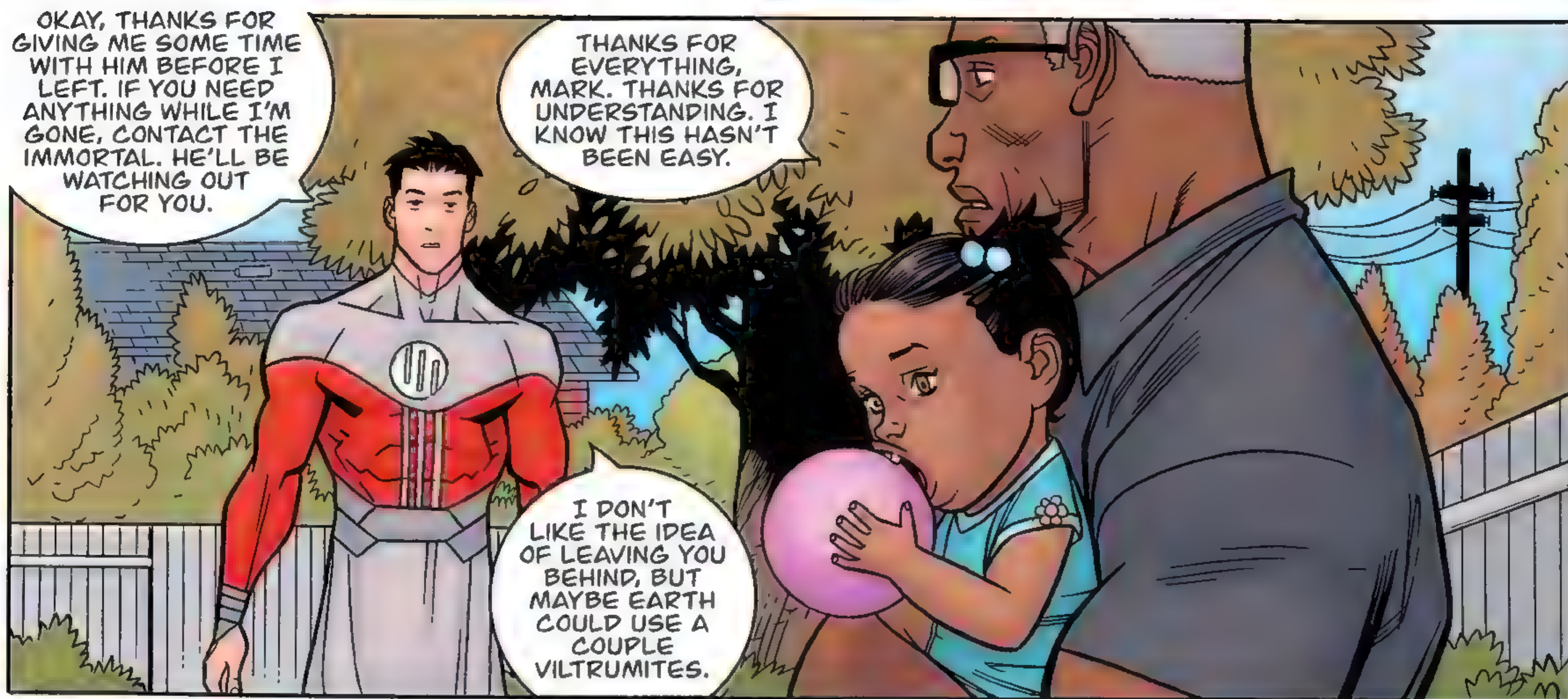


THEN I KNOW WHO HAS BROUGHT THIS CURSE UPON ME. IT IS DECIDED. I WILL NOT REST UNTIL EVERY VILTRUMITE IN THE UNIVERSE IS DEAD...

...OR I AM.



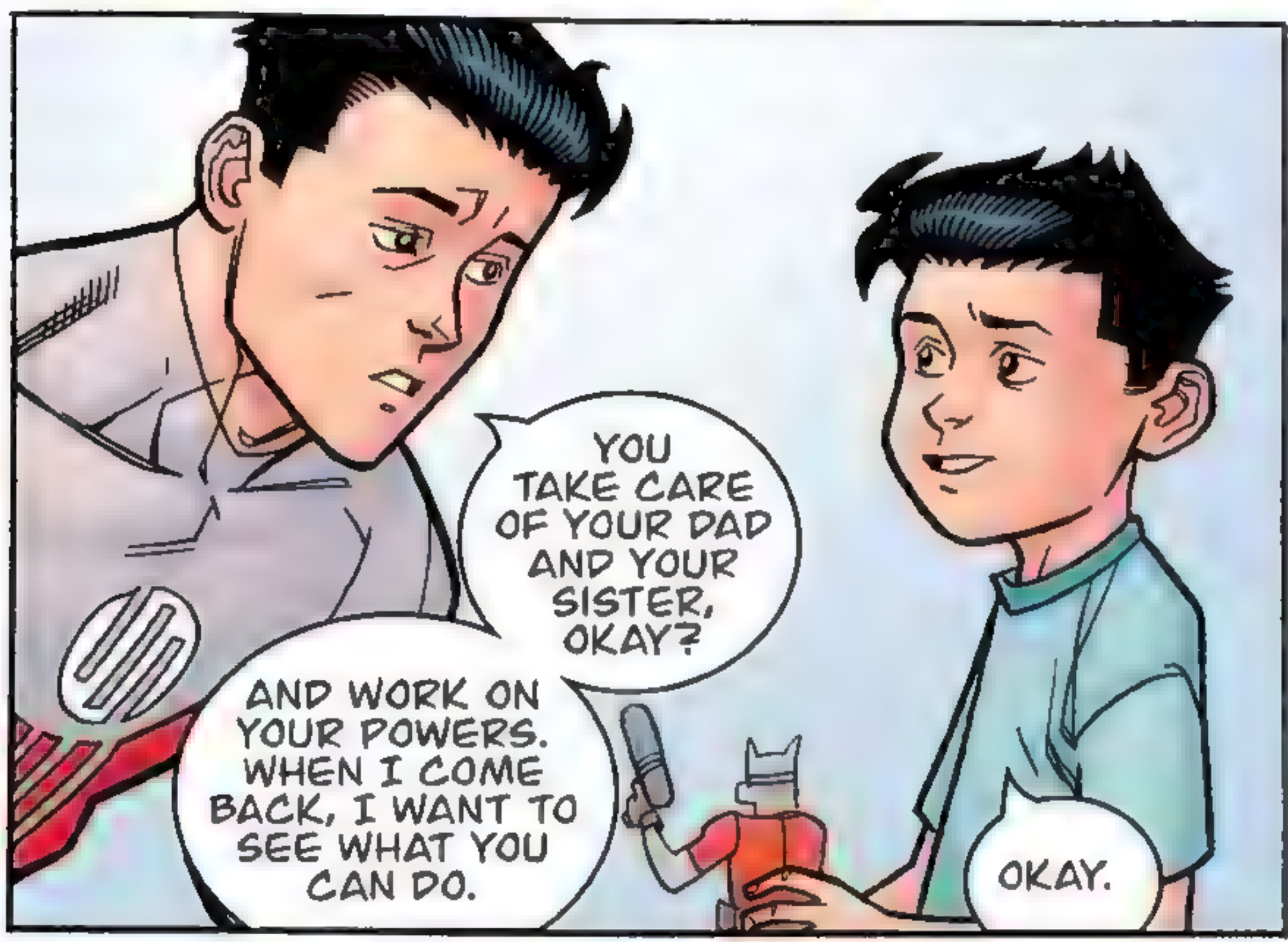




OKAY, THANKS FOR GIVING ME SOME TIME WITH HIM BEFORE I LEFT. IF YOU NEED ANYTHING WHILE I'M GONE, CONTACT THE IMMORTAL. HE'LL BE WATCHING OUT FOR YOU.

THANKS FOR EVERYTHING, MARK. THANKS FOR UNDERSTANDING. I KNOW THIS HASN'T BEEN EASY.

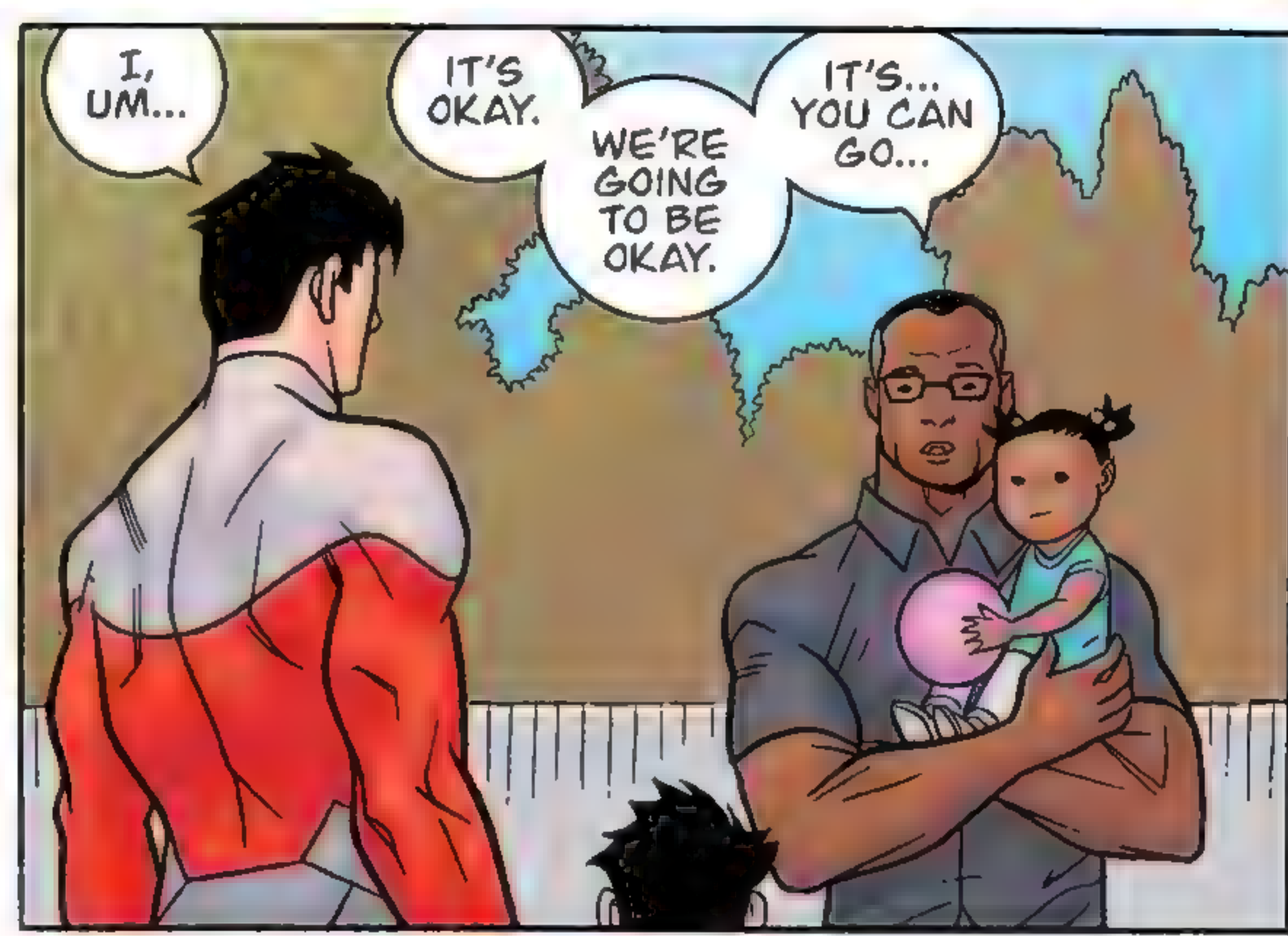
I DON'T LIKE THE IDEA OF LEAVING YOU BEHIND, BUT MAYBE EARTH COULD USE A COUPLE VILTRUMITES.



YOU TAKE CARE OF YOUR DAD AND YOUR SISTER, OKAY?

AND WORK ON YOUR POWERS. WHEN I COME BACK, I WANT TO SEE WHAT YOU CAN DO.

OKAY.

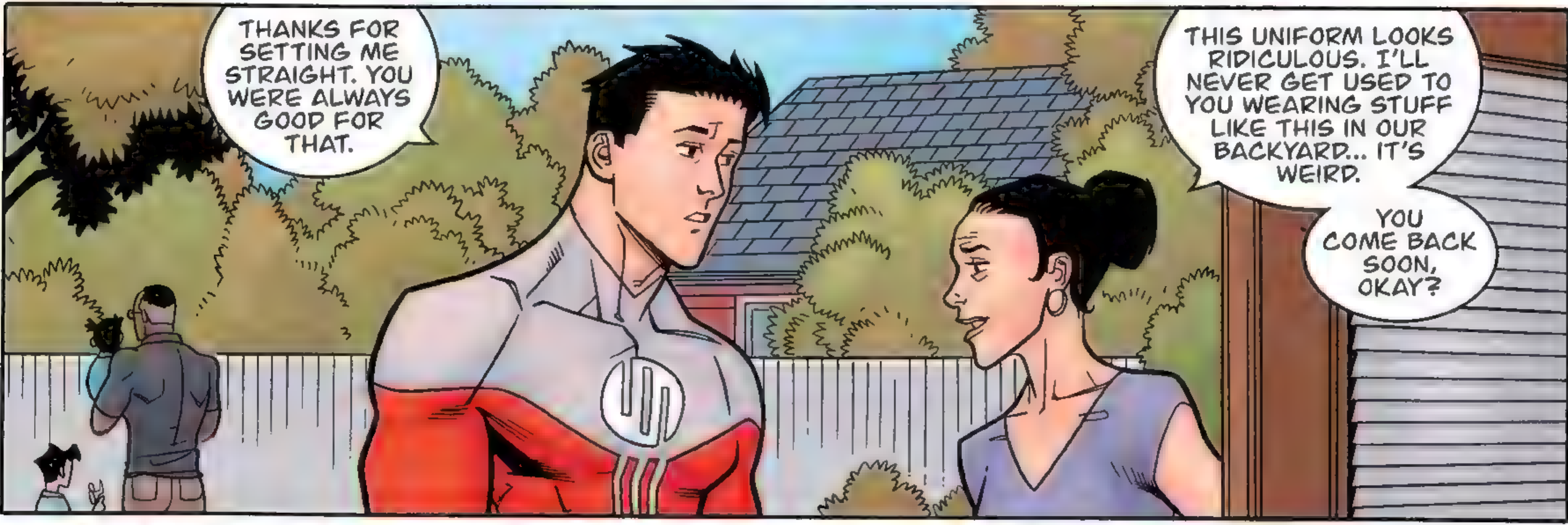


I, UM...

IT'S OKAY.

WE'RE GOING TO BE OKAY.

IT'S... YOU CAN GO...



THANKS FOR SETTING ME STRAIGHT. YOU WERE ALWAYS GOOD FOR THAT.

THIS UNIFORM LOOKS RIDICULOUS. I'LL NEVER GET USED TO YOU WEARING STUFF LIKE THIS IN OUR BACKYARD... IT'S WEIRD.

YOU COME BACK SOON, OKAY?



I WILL. I MEAN, EARTH HAS THE BEST COMICS.

I LOVE YOU, MOM. YOU SURE YOU DON'T WANT TO COME WITH US?



EARTH IS MY HOME. ALIEN PLANETS ARE FUN... BUT NOT WITHOUT YOUR FATHER.

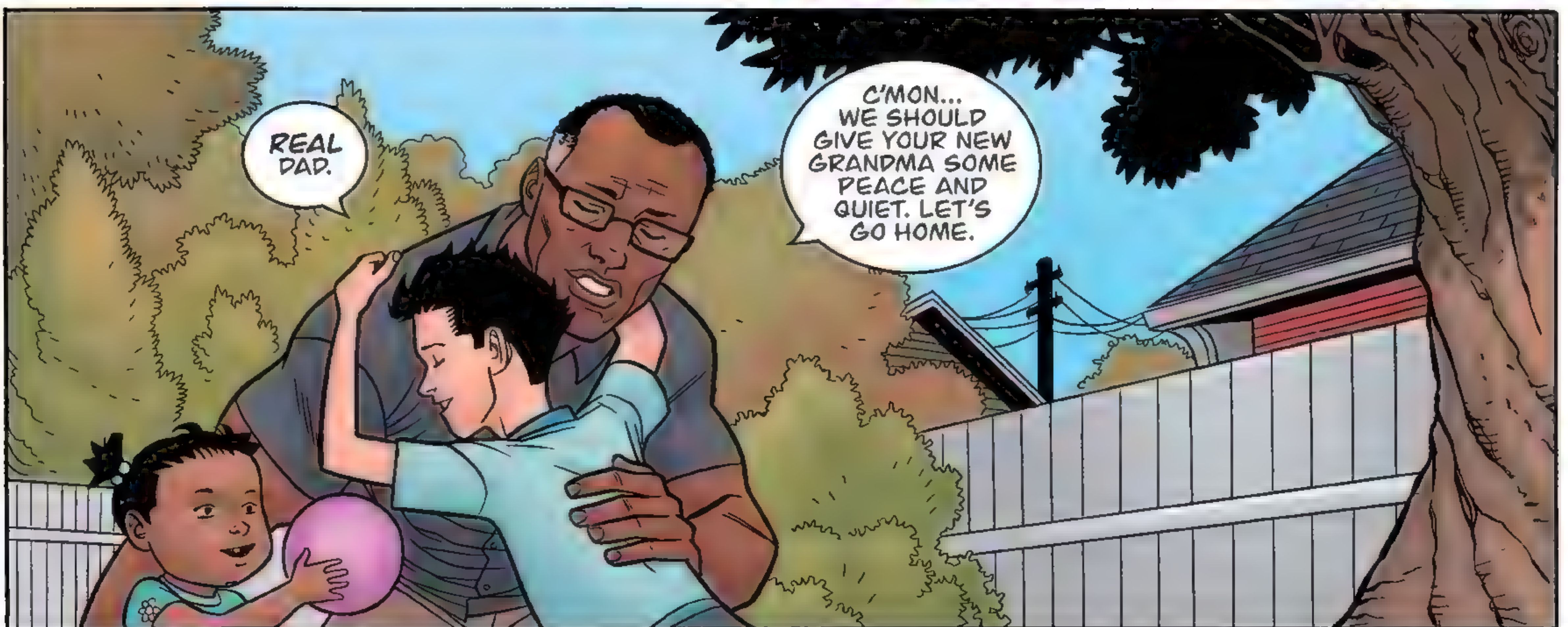
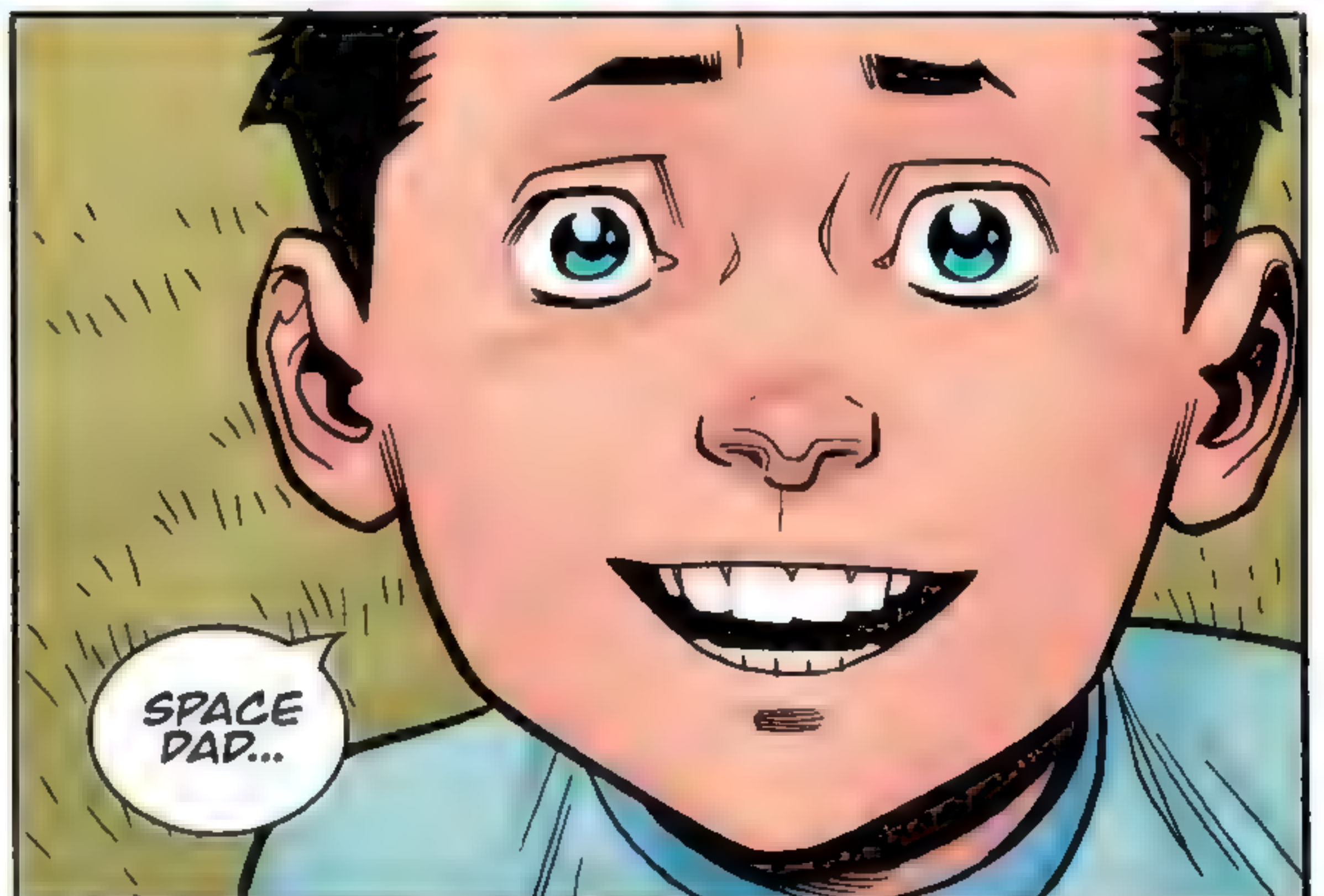
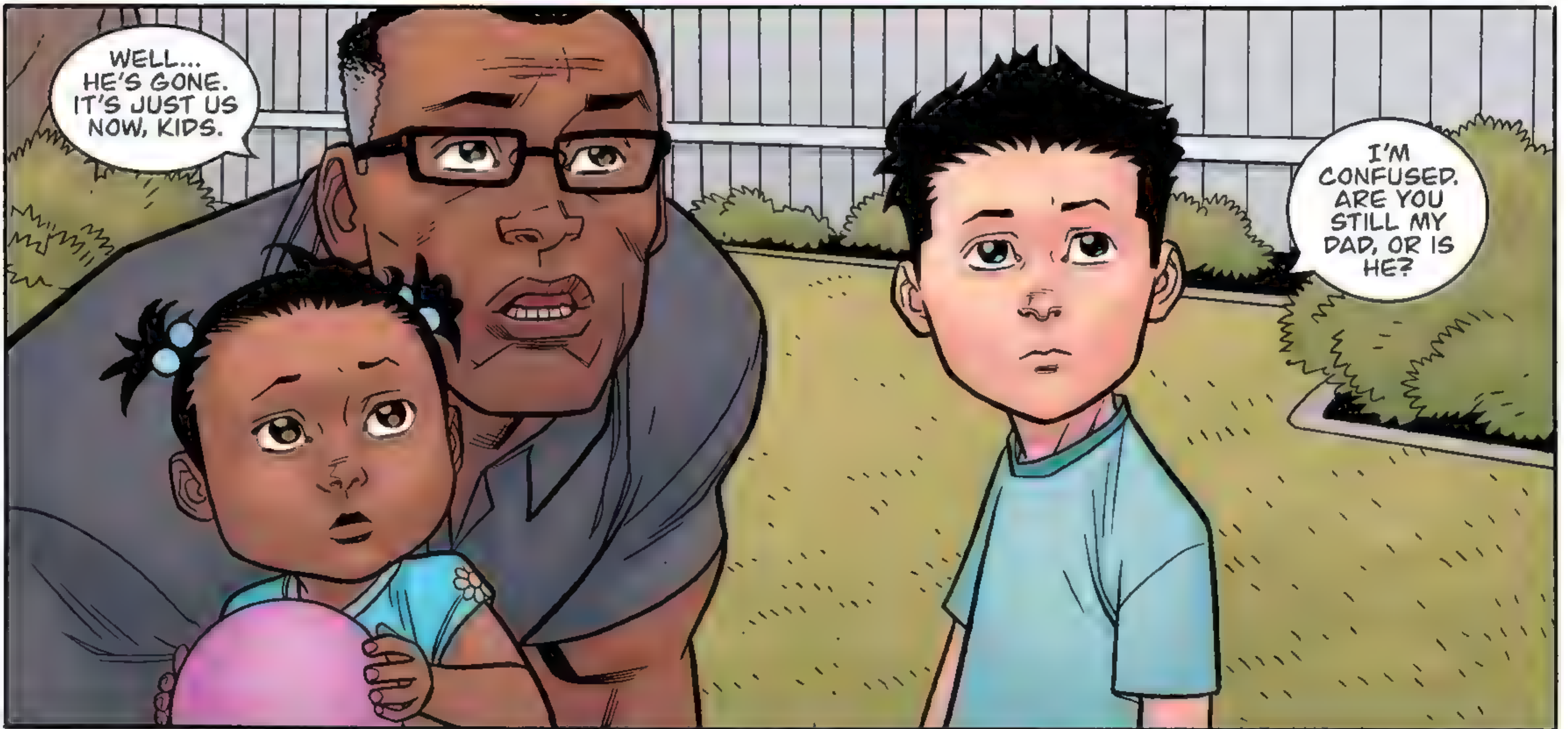
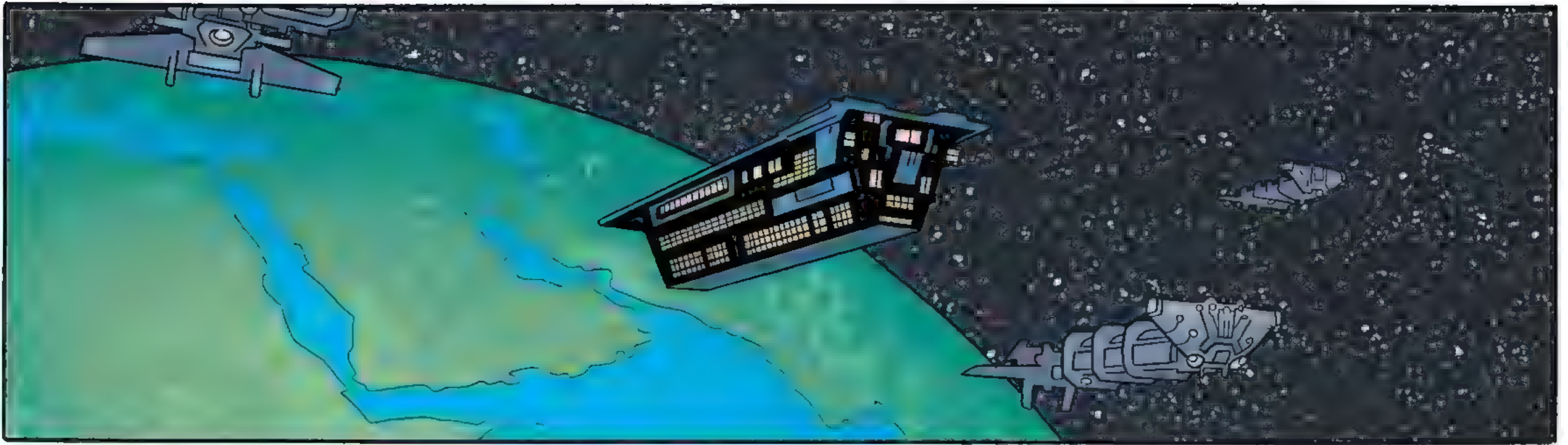
I BELONG HERE.

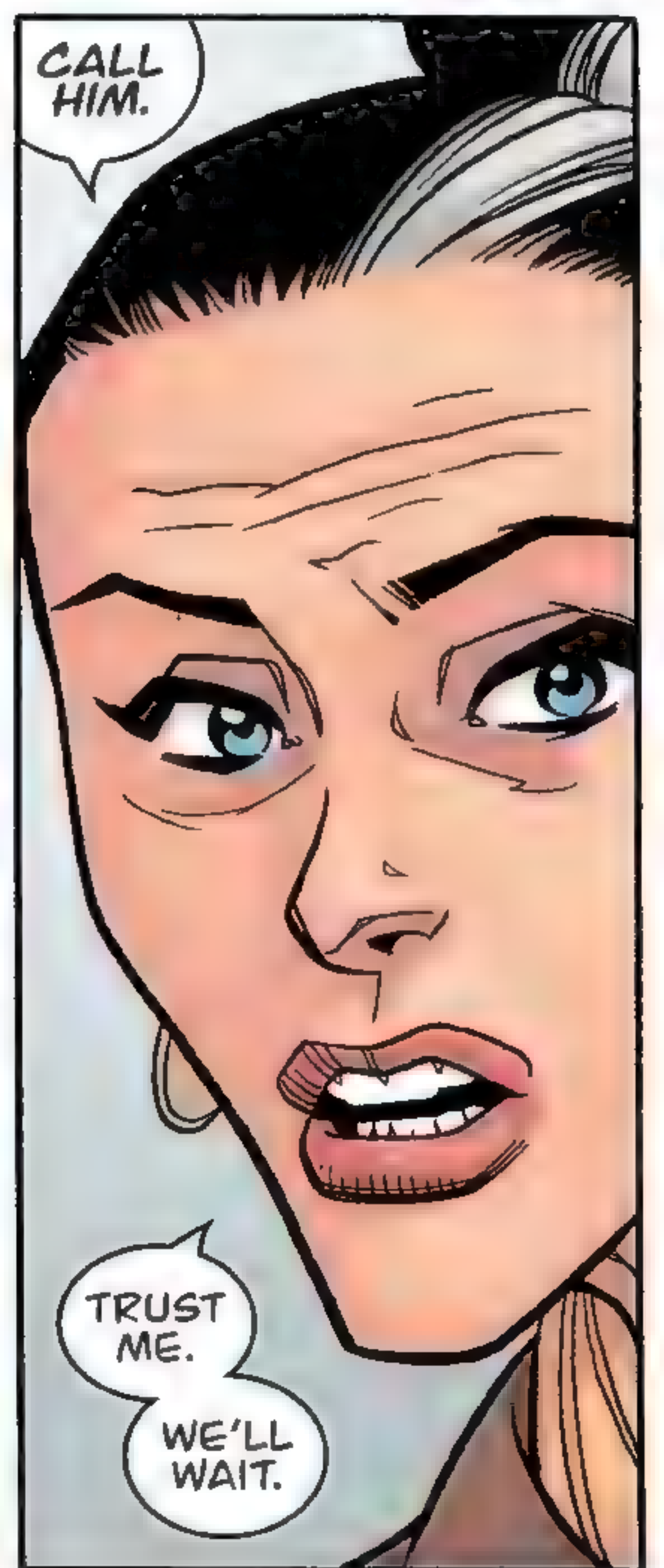
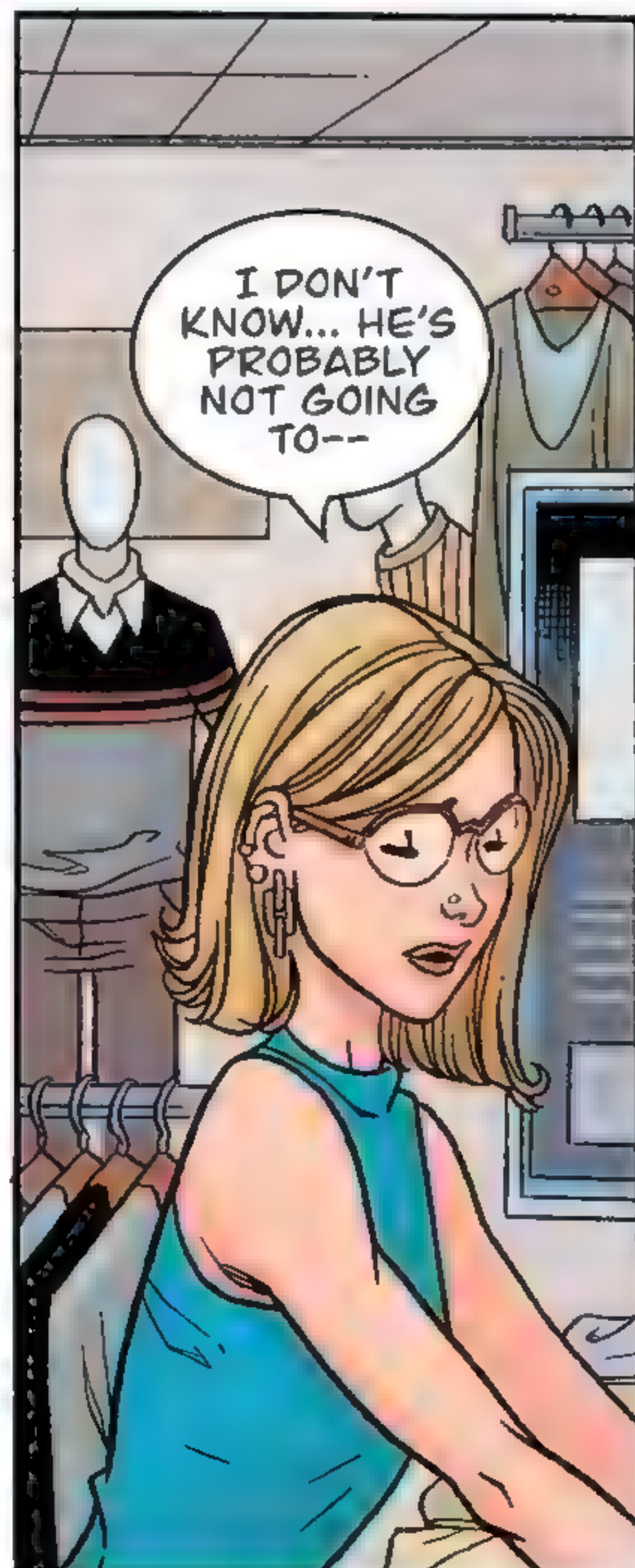
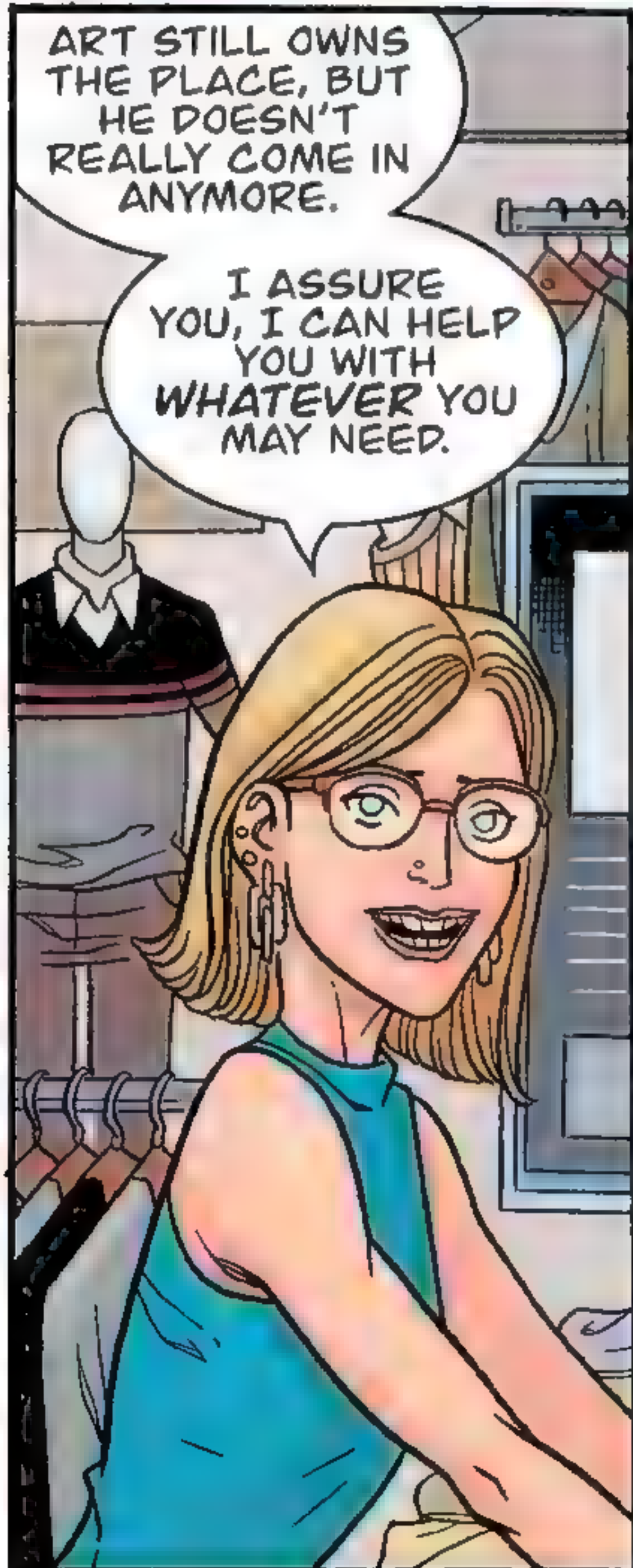
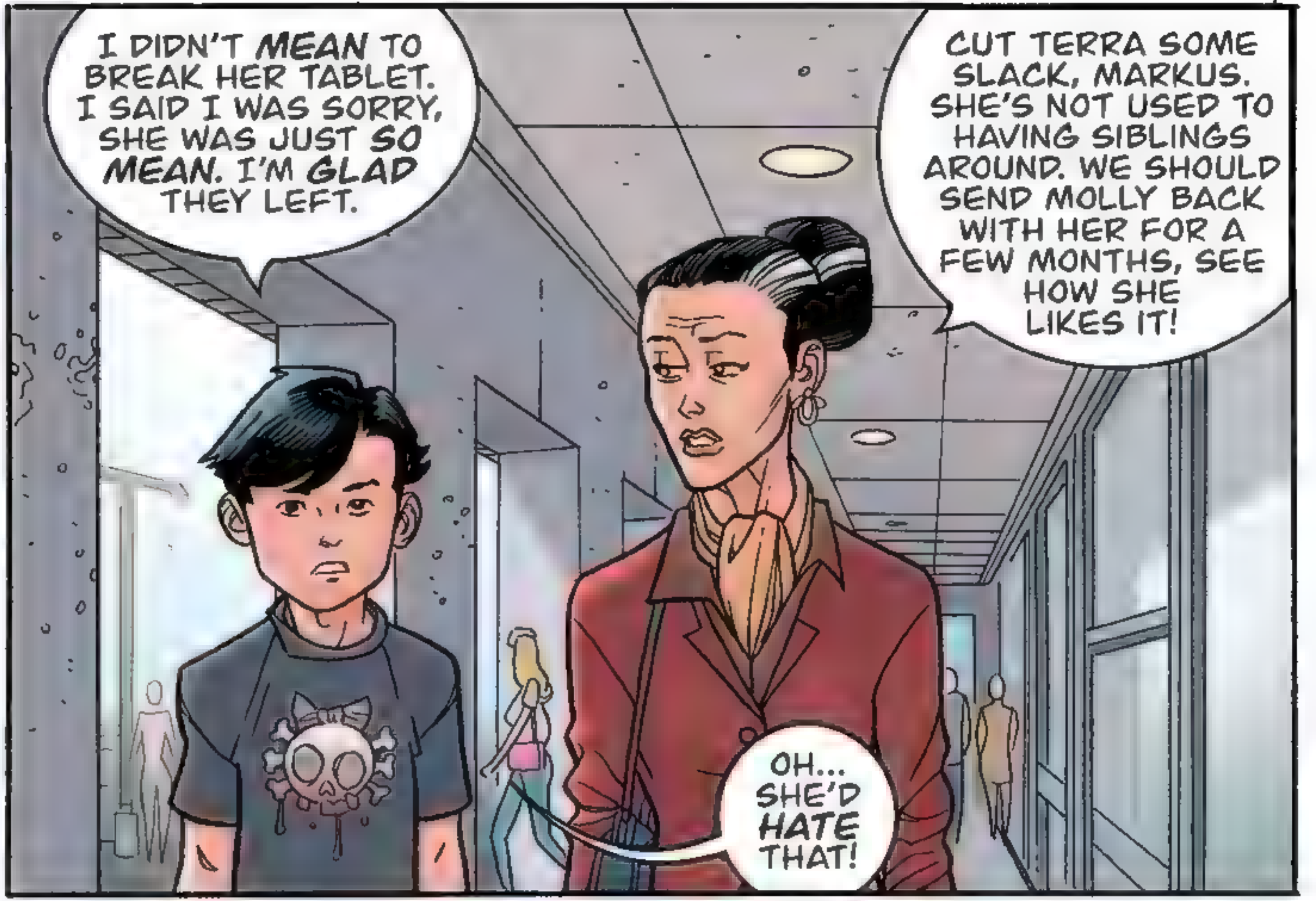


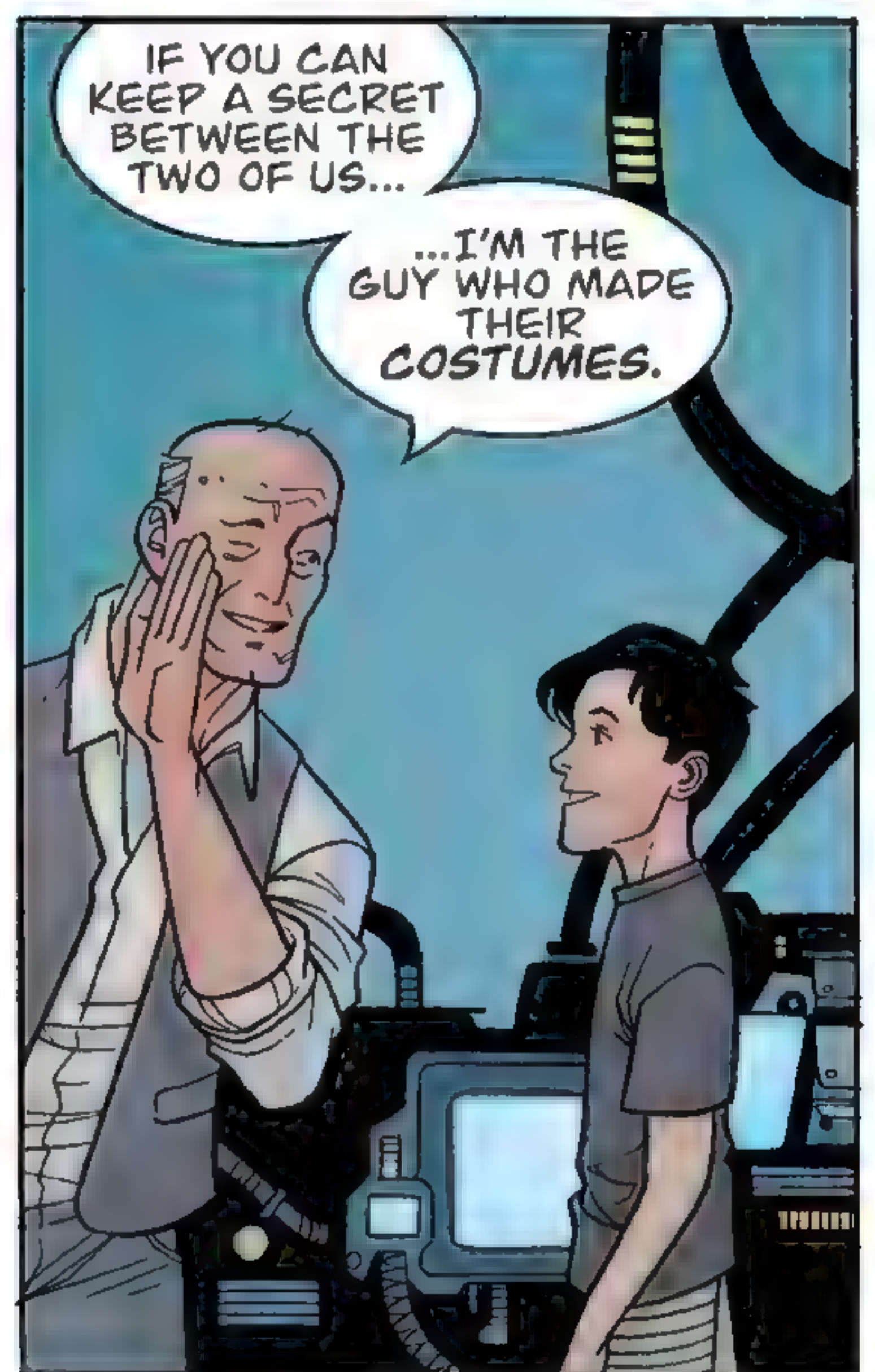
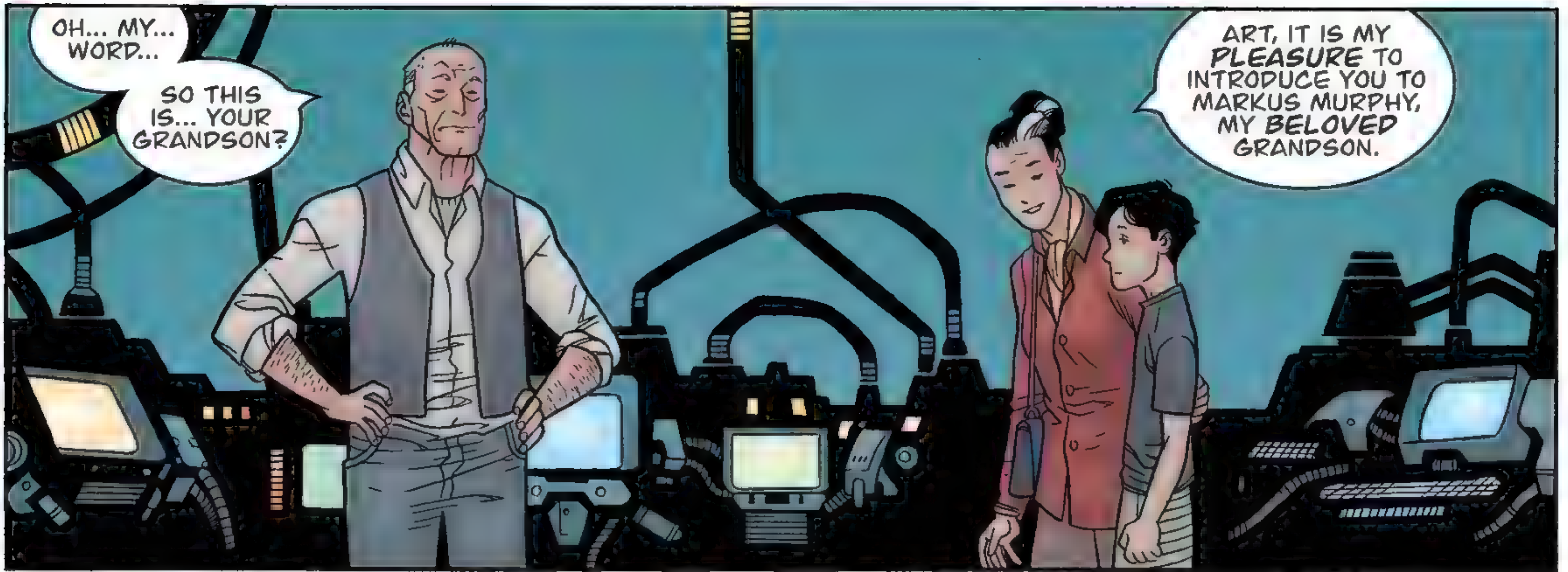
WELL, IT'S GOOD TO KNOW YOU'LL BE KEEPING AN EYE ON THEM.

OKAY, THEN... WELL...

MARK, PLEASE. THIS ISN'T GOODBYE FOREVER... YOU CAN GO.

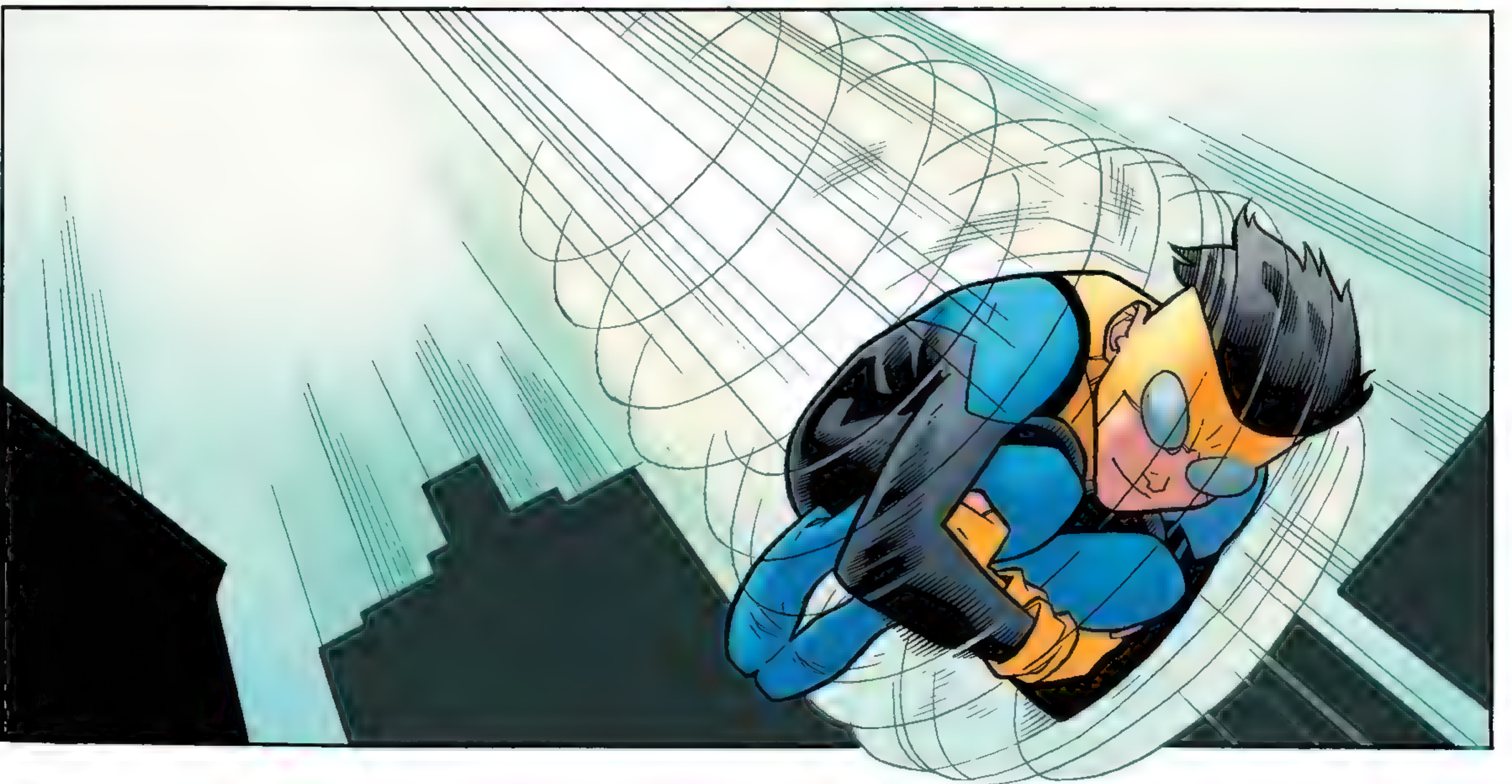
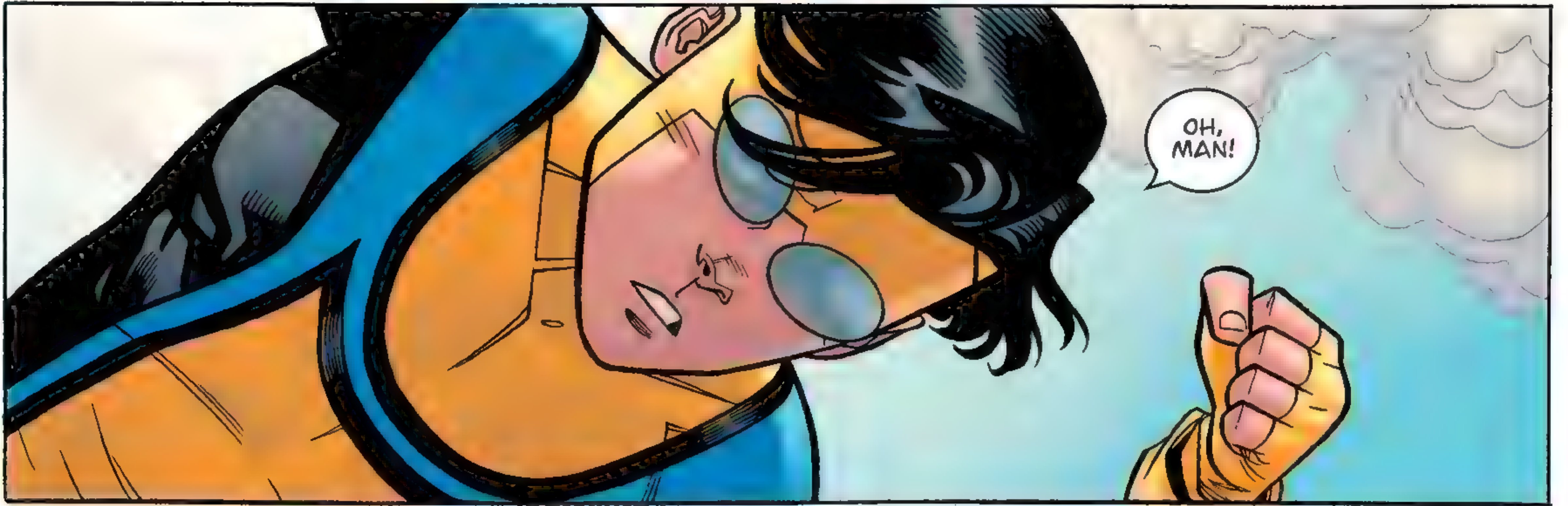




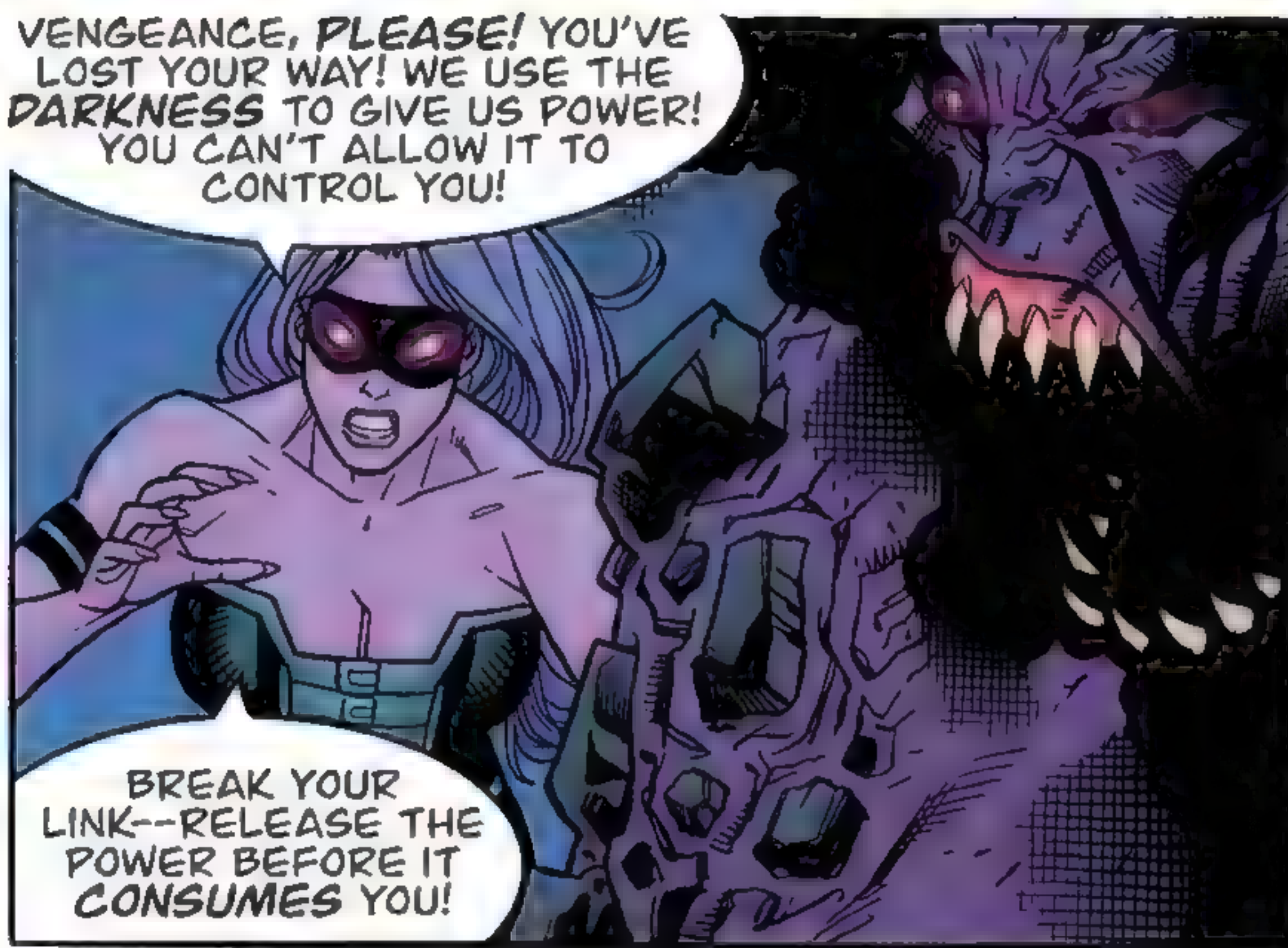


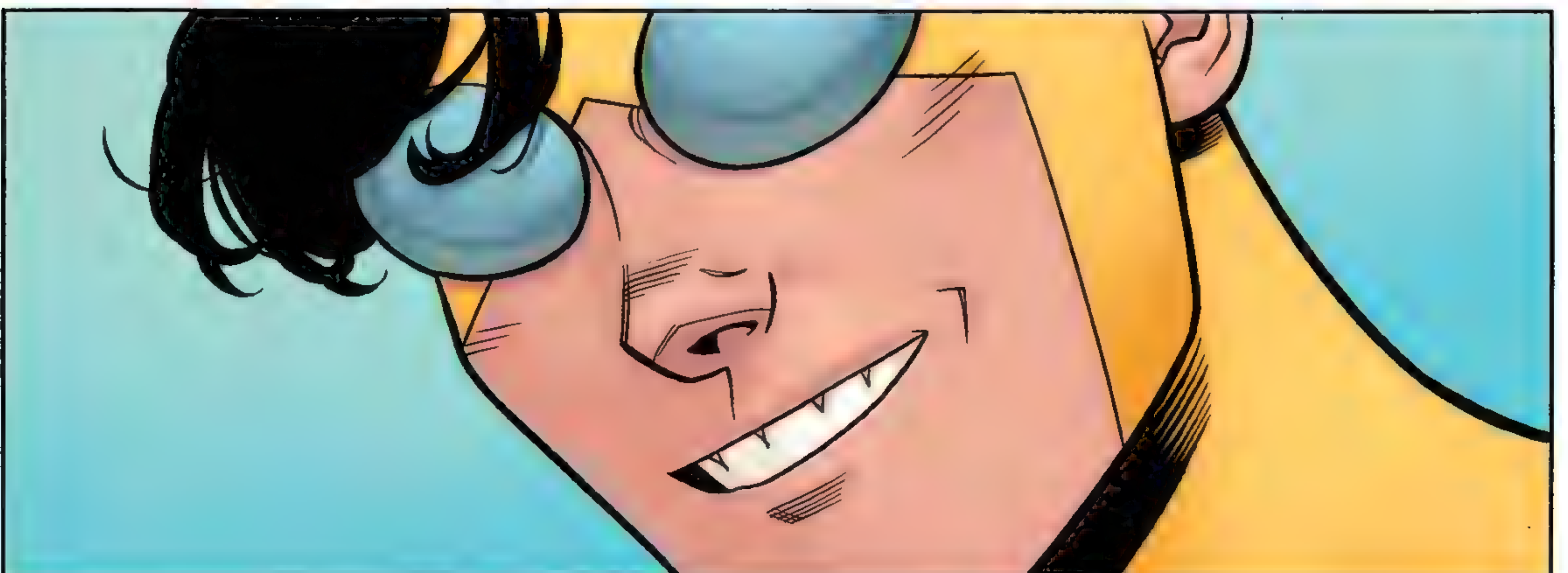
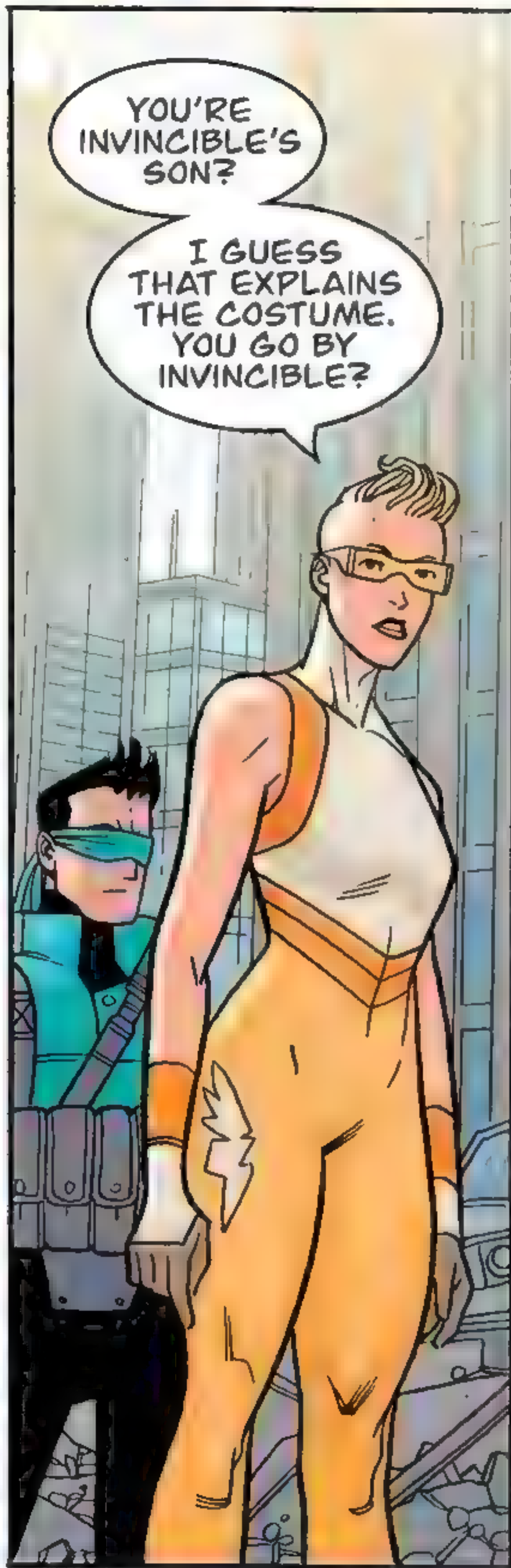
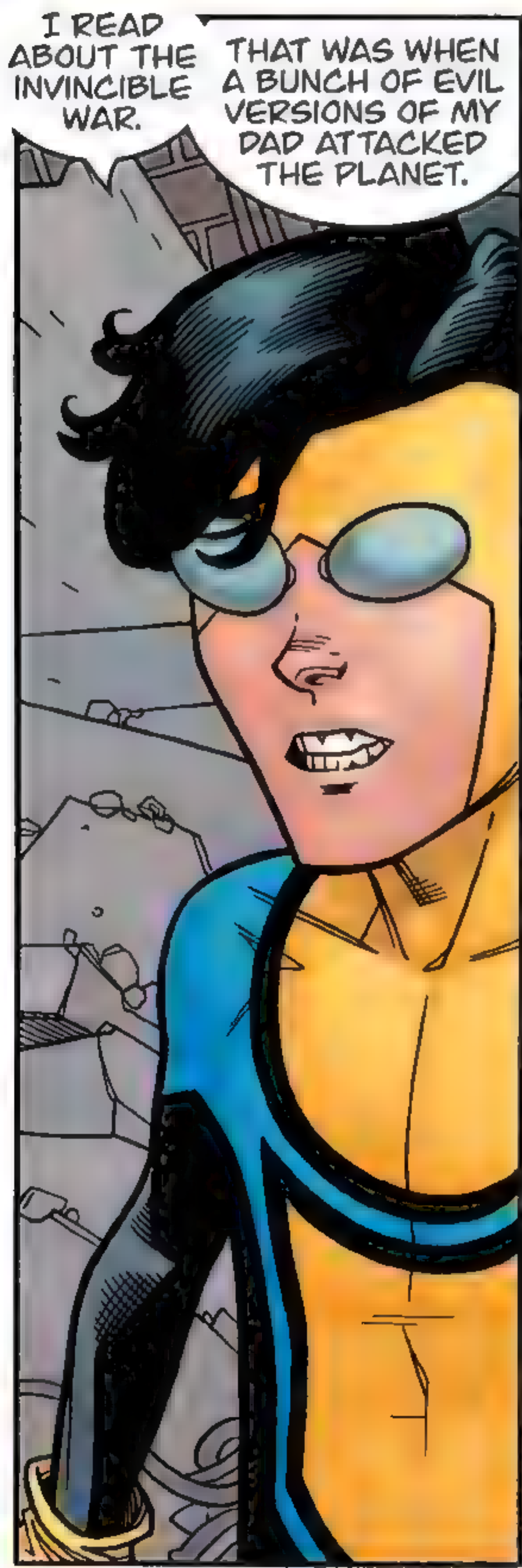
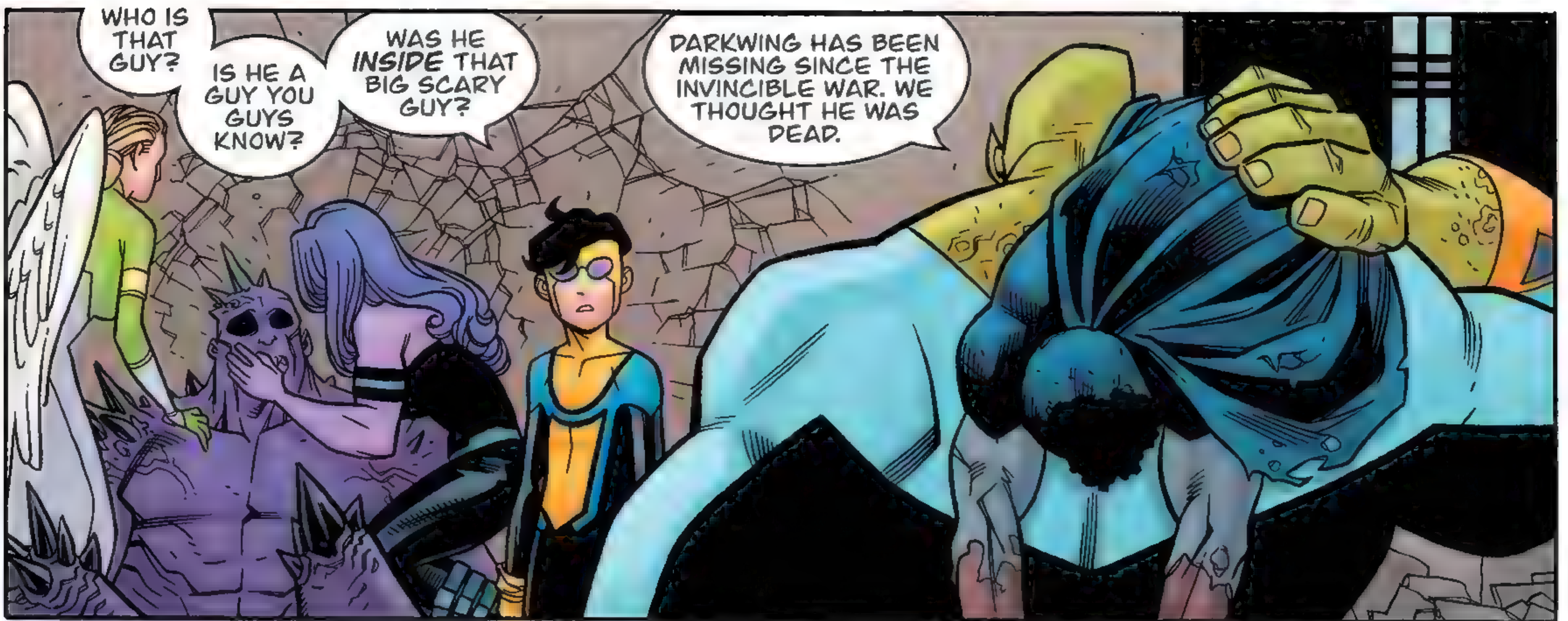


Wahoo!

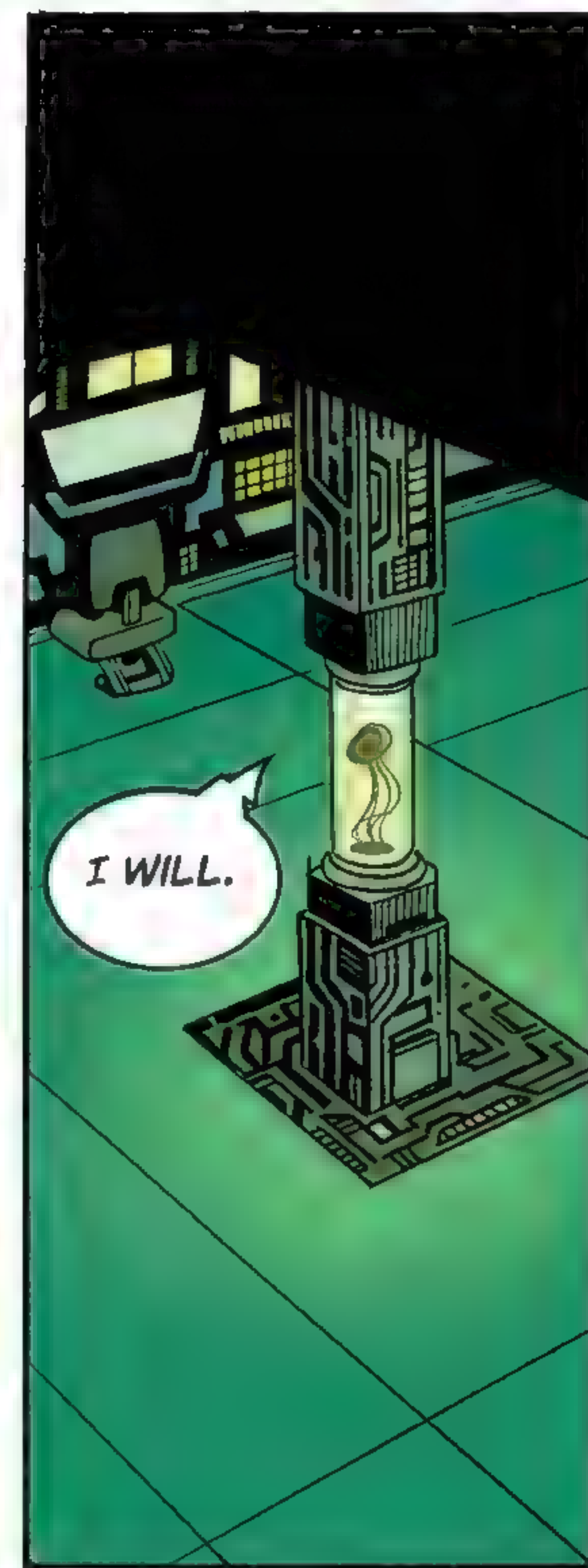
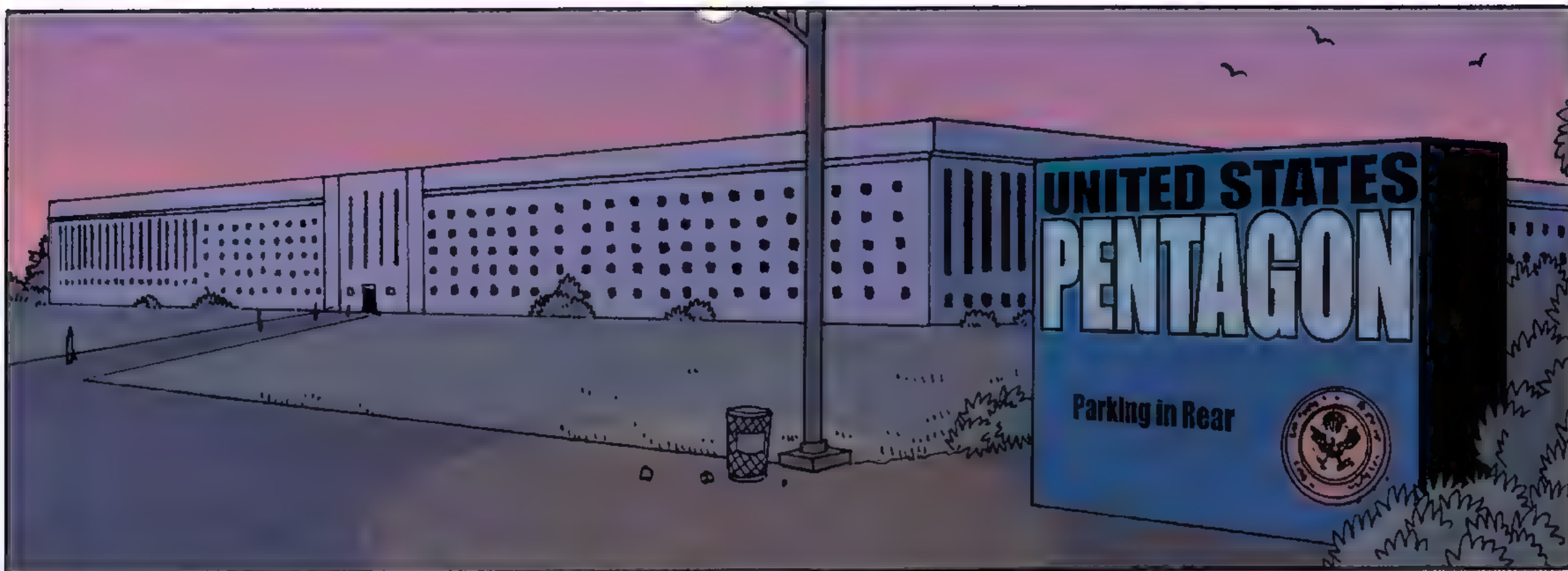


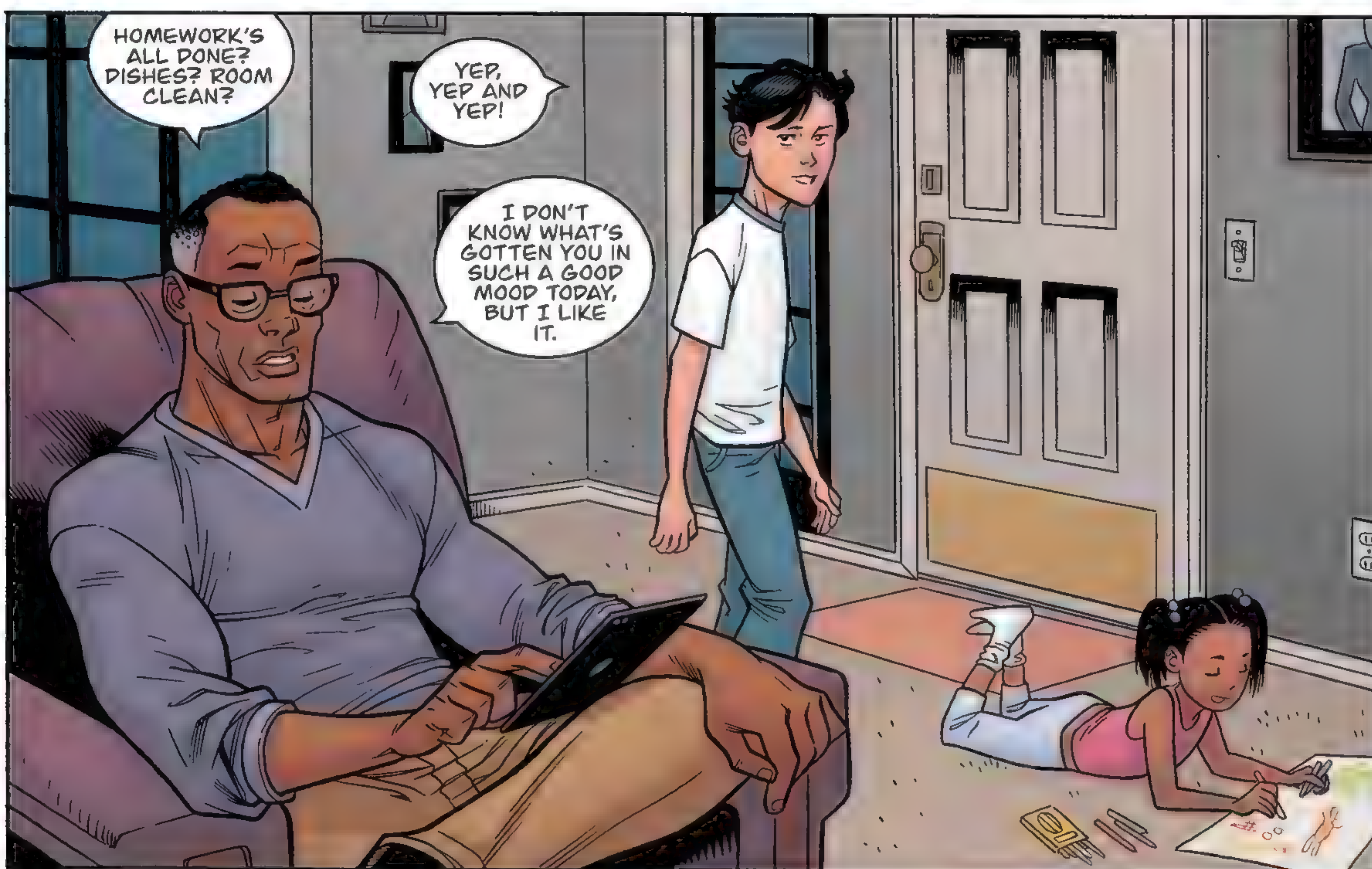
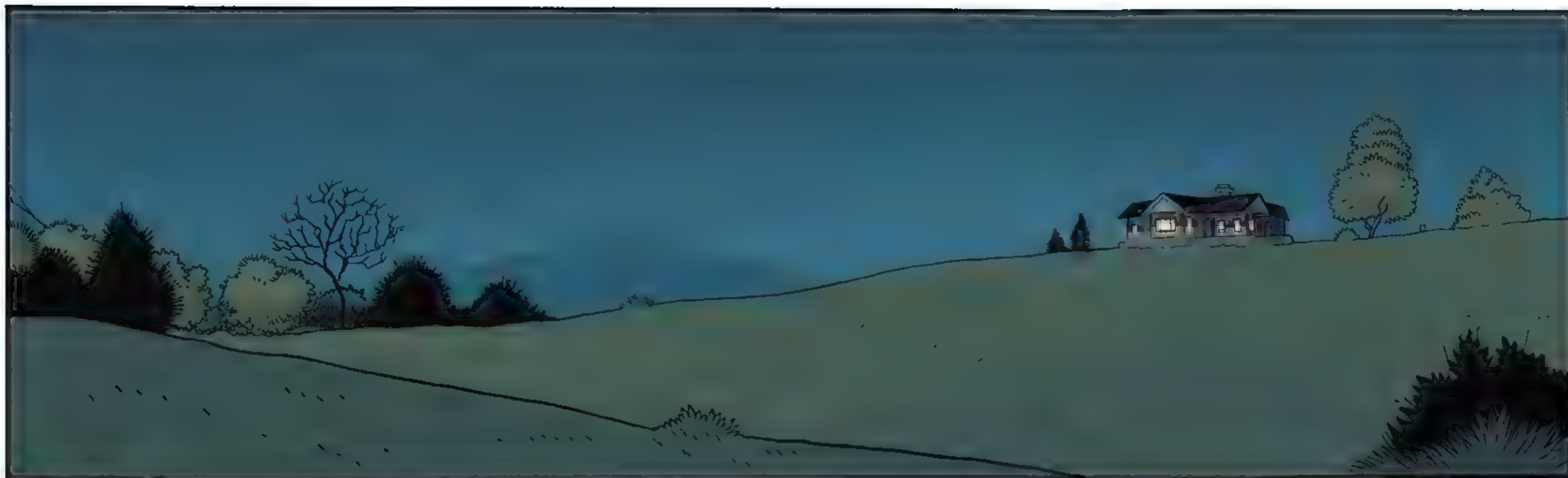


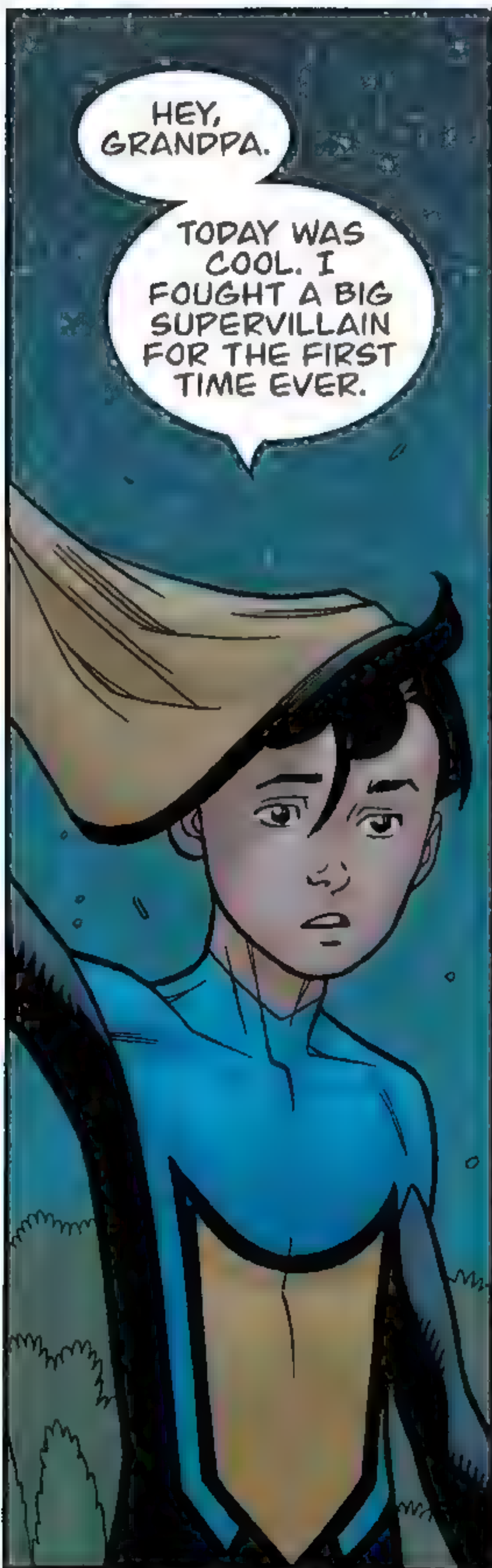
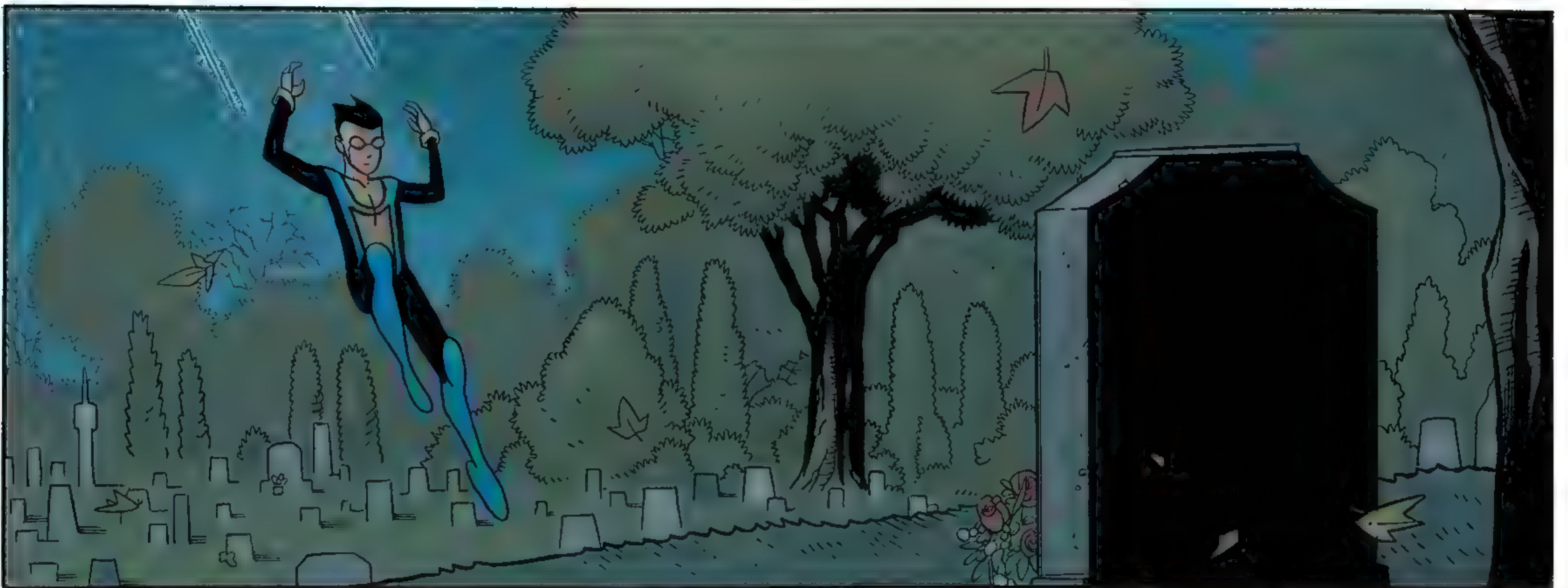
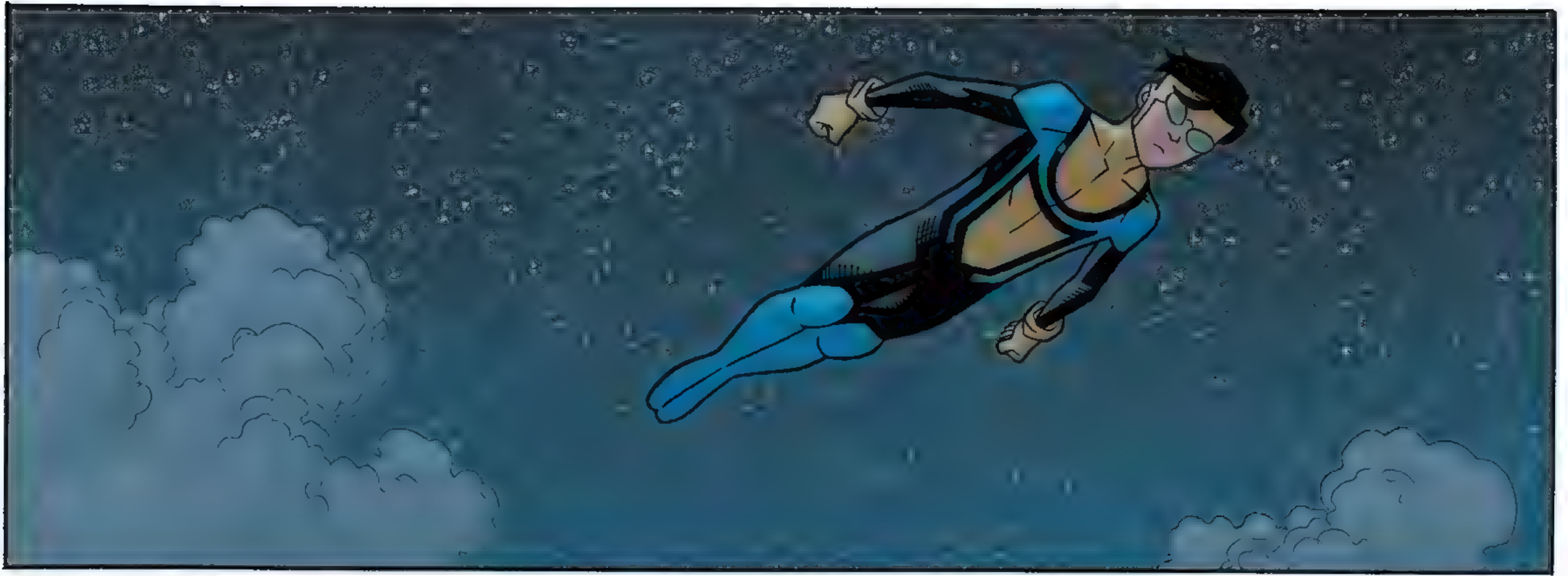






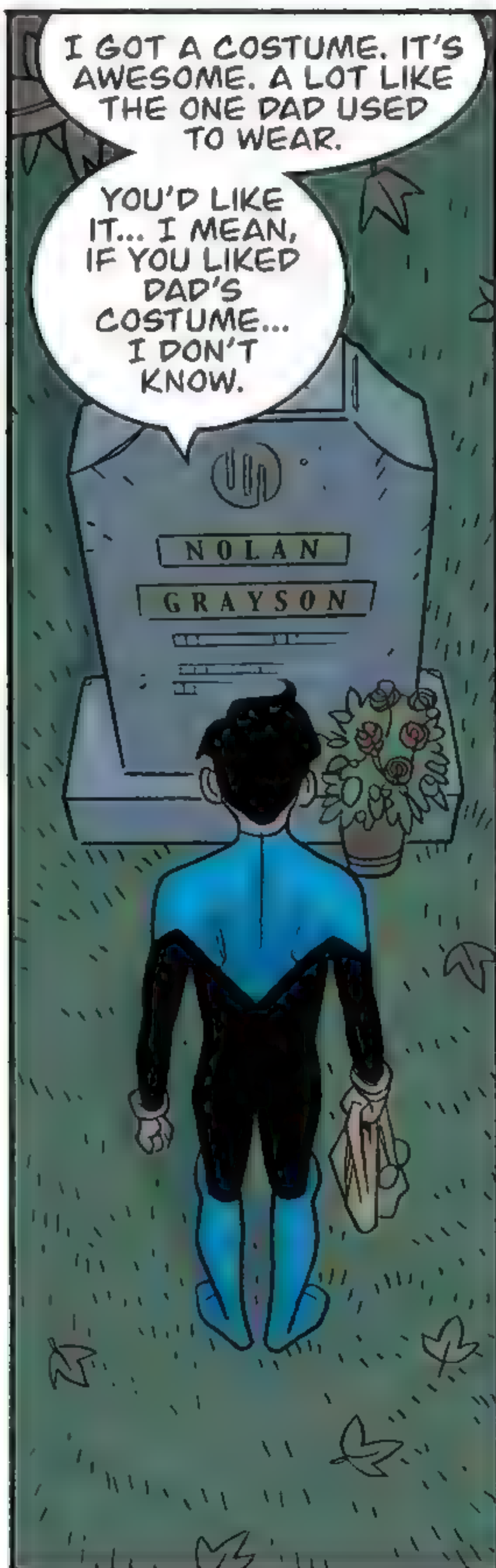






HEY,
GRANDPA.

TODAY WAS
COOL. I
FOUGHT A BIG
SUPERVILLAIN
FOR THE FIRST
TIME EVER.



I GOT A COSTUME. IT'S
AWESOME. A LOT LIKE
THE ONE DAD USED
TO WEAR.

YOU'D LIKE
IT... I MEAN,
IF YOU LIKED
DAD'S
COSTUME...
I DON'T
KNOW.



I WISH I GOT TO MEET
YOU. I KNOW YOU DID BAD
STUFF SOMETIMES... BUT
DAD TALKS ABOUT YOU
LIKE YOU WERE JUST
THE COOLEST.

MY REAL
DAD ISN'T
THE BIGGEST
FAN...



ANYWAY...
I'M KIND OF
THE NEW
INVINCIBLE
NOW. WHICH
IS PRETTY
COOL.

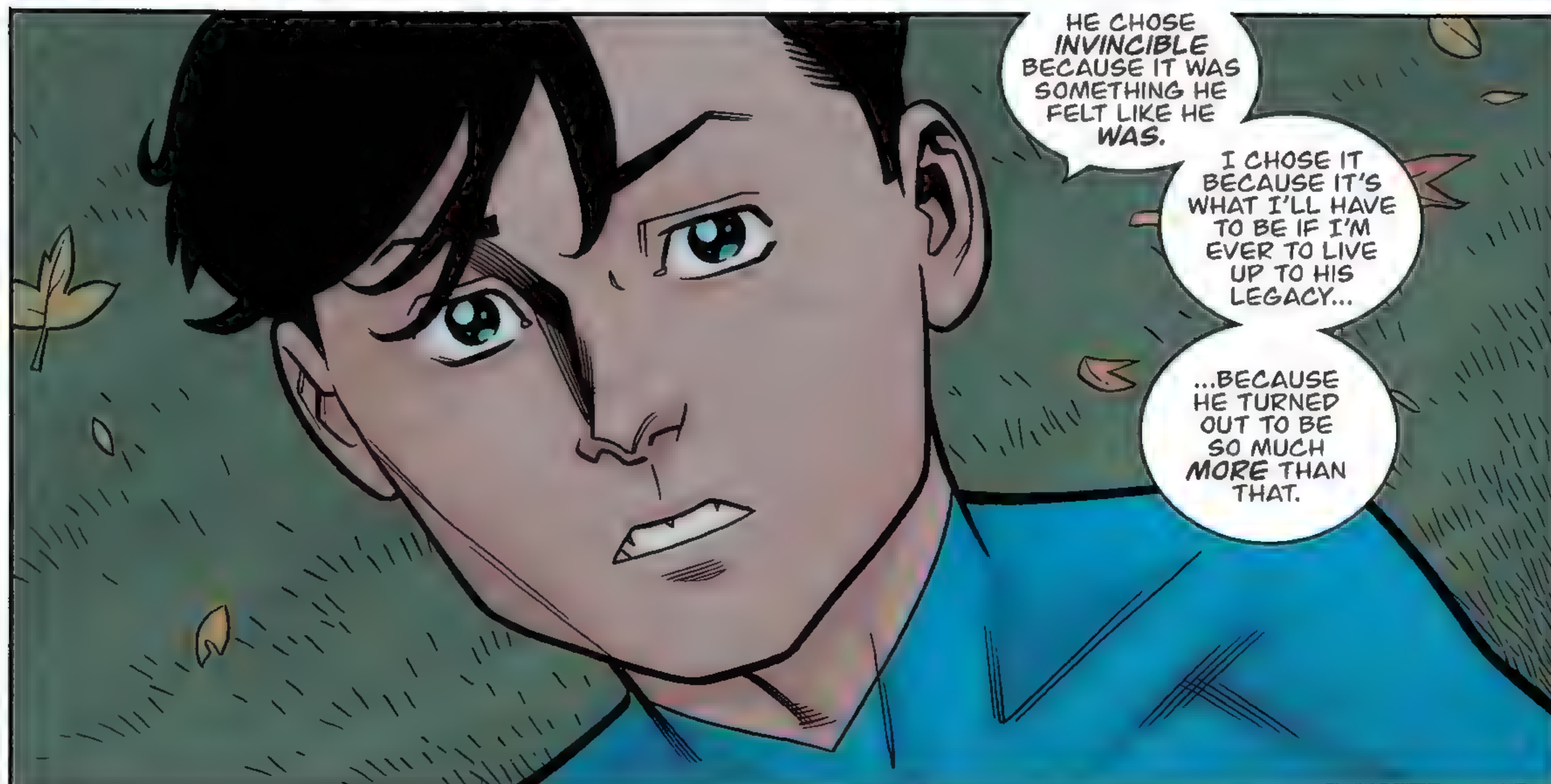


FEELS
FUNNY, THAT
NAME...
ESPECIALLY
BECAUSE IT'S
SOMETHING I
KNOW I'M
NOT.



MY DAD'S
OUT THERE...
FIXING THE
UNIVERSE. I THINK
ABOUT THAT EVERY
TIME I LOOK UP AT
THE STARS...

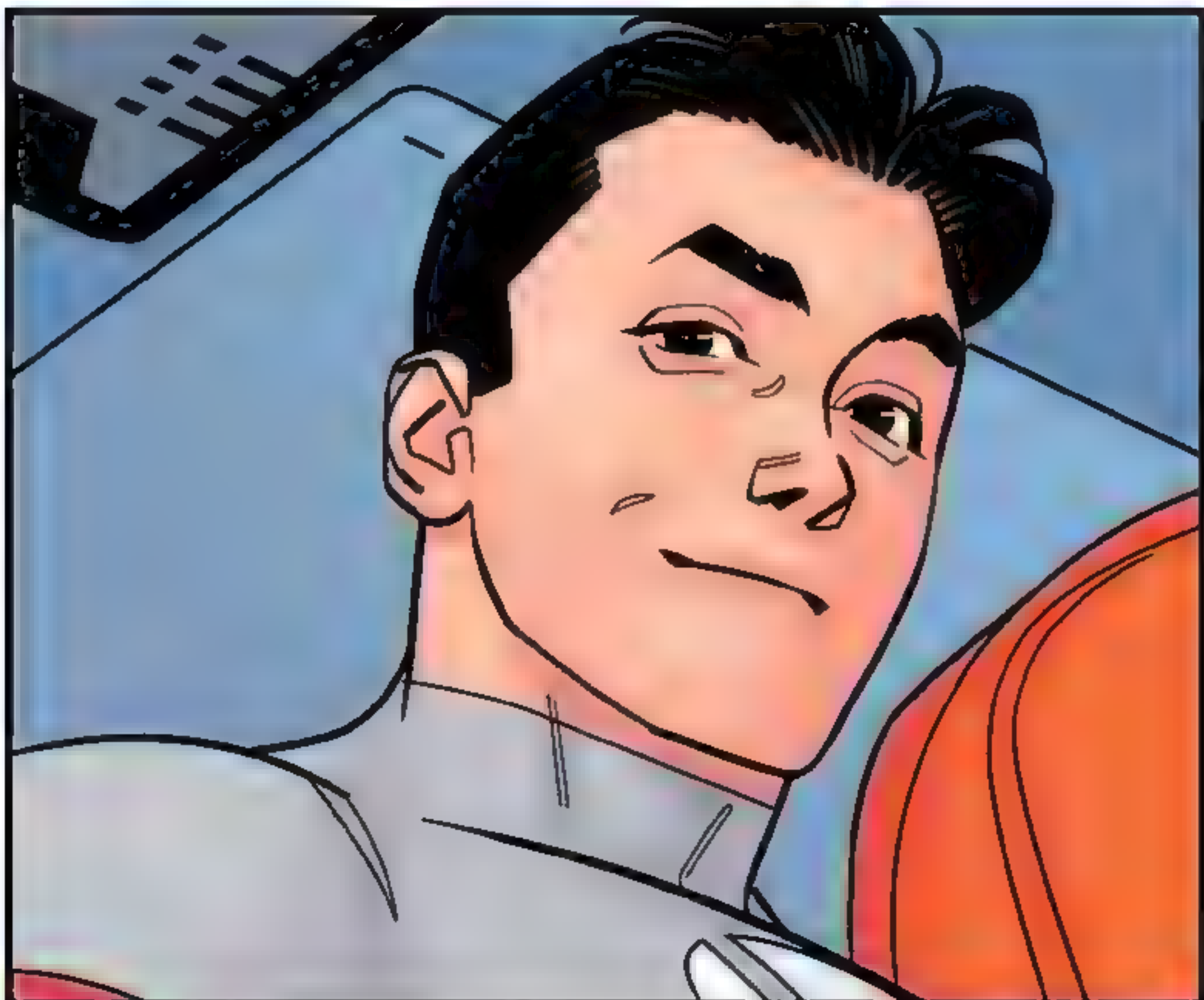
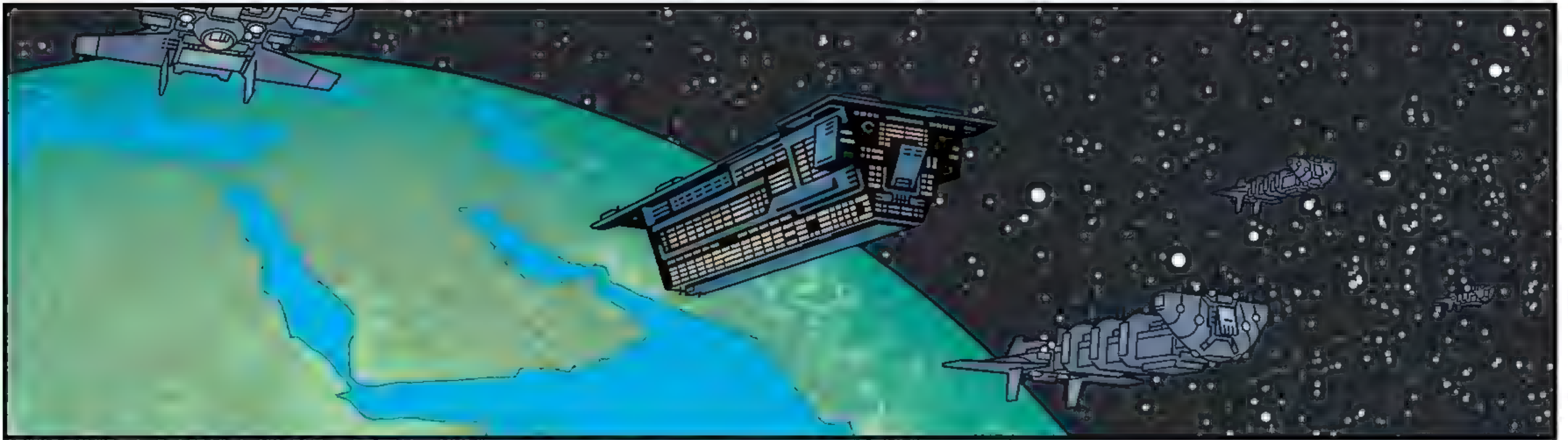
...BECAUSE
EACH LITTLE DOT
OF LIGHT IN THE SKY
IS A PLACE HE'S
MADE **BETTER**. I
LOOK UP... AND I
SEE **ALL** HE'S
DONE.

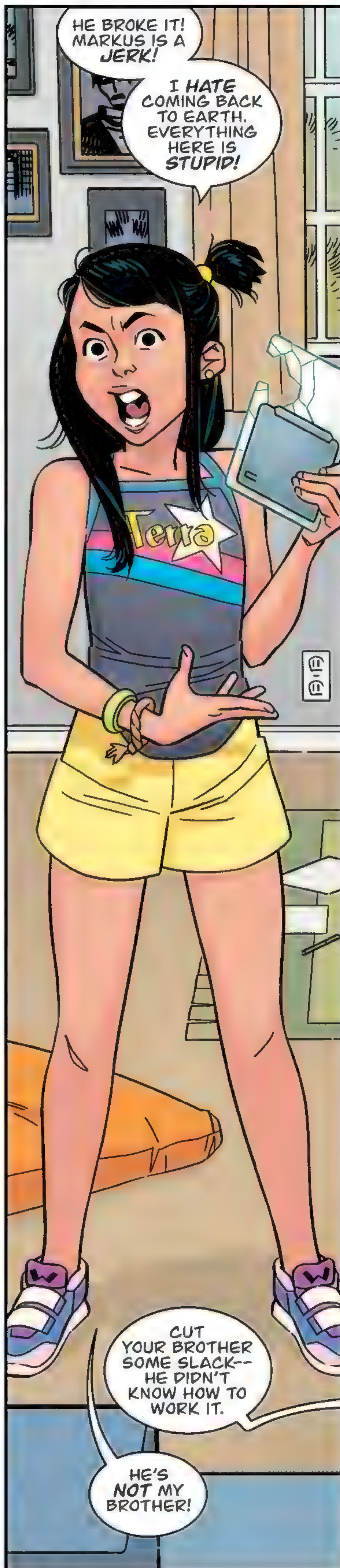
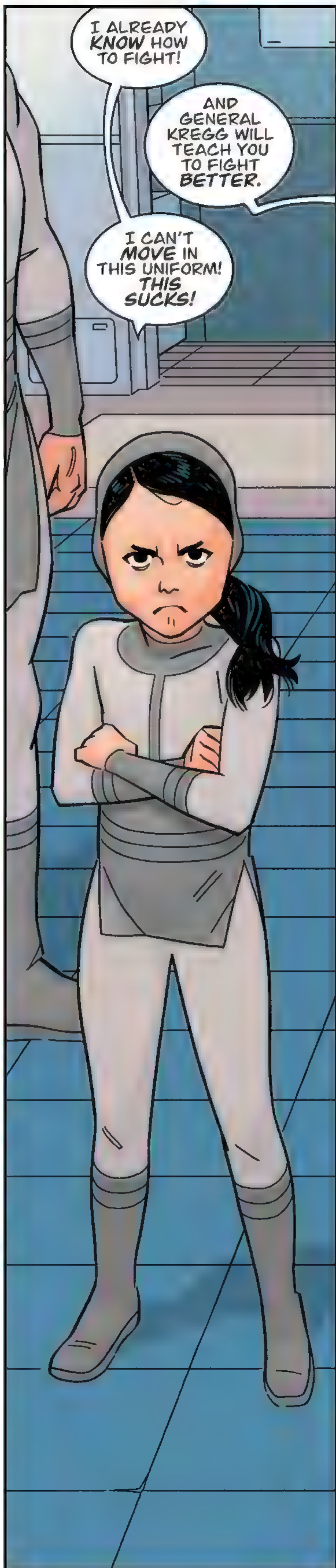


HE CHOSE
INVINCIBLE
BECAUSE IT WAS
SOMETHING HE
FELT LIKE HE
WAS.

I CHOSE IT
BECAUSE IT'S
WHAT I'LL HAVE
TO BE IF I'M
EVER TO LIVE
UP TO HIS
LEGACY...

...BECAUSE
HE TURNED
OUT TO BE
SO MUCH
MORE THAN
THAT.







WE'RE OUT HERE HELPING PEOPLE! THAT'S WHAT WE'RE SUPPOSED TO DO, RIGHT? I DON'T CARE WHAT THEY DID--THEY WERE HUNGRY--THEY WERE SCARED--THEY WERE DYING!

THEY DESERVE ANOTHER CHANCE!

OKAY, OKAY--CALM DOWN, AND WE'LL WORK IT OUT.



YOU ARE MY DAUGHTER! I'M THE EMPEROR OF OUR PEOPLE! YOU HAVE TO SET A BETTER EXAMPLE, TERRA!

THAT BOY WAS BENEATH YOU.

AND BESIDE ME AND ON TOP OF ME AND BEHIND ME!

THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEANT!

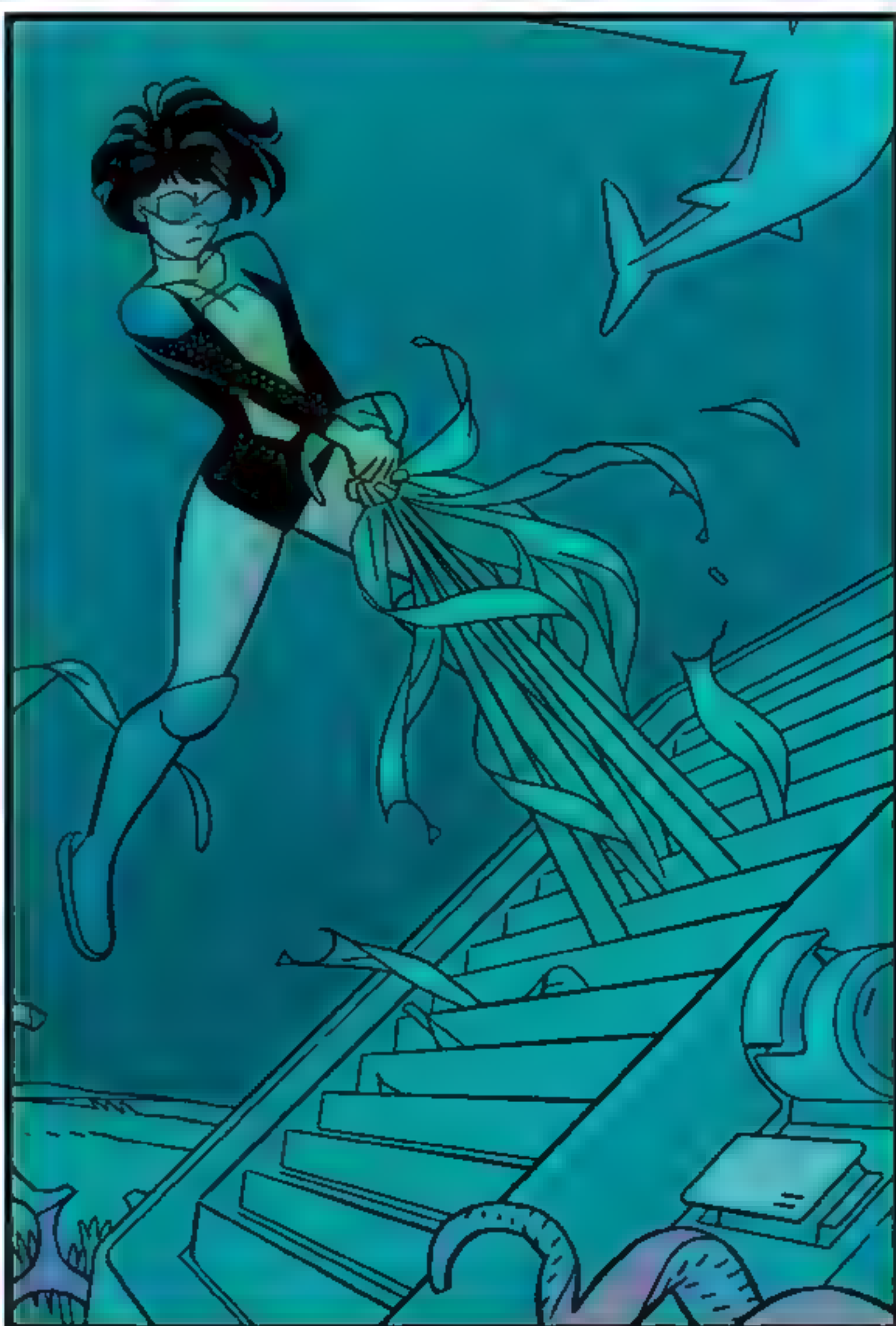
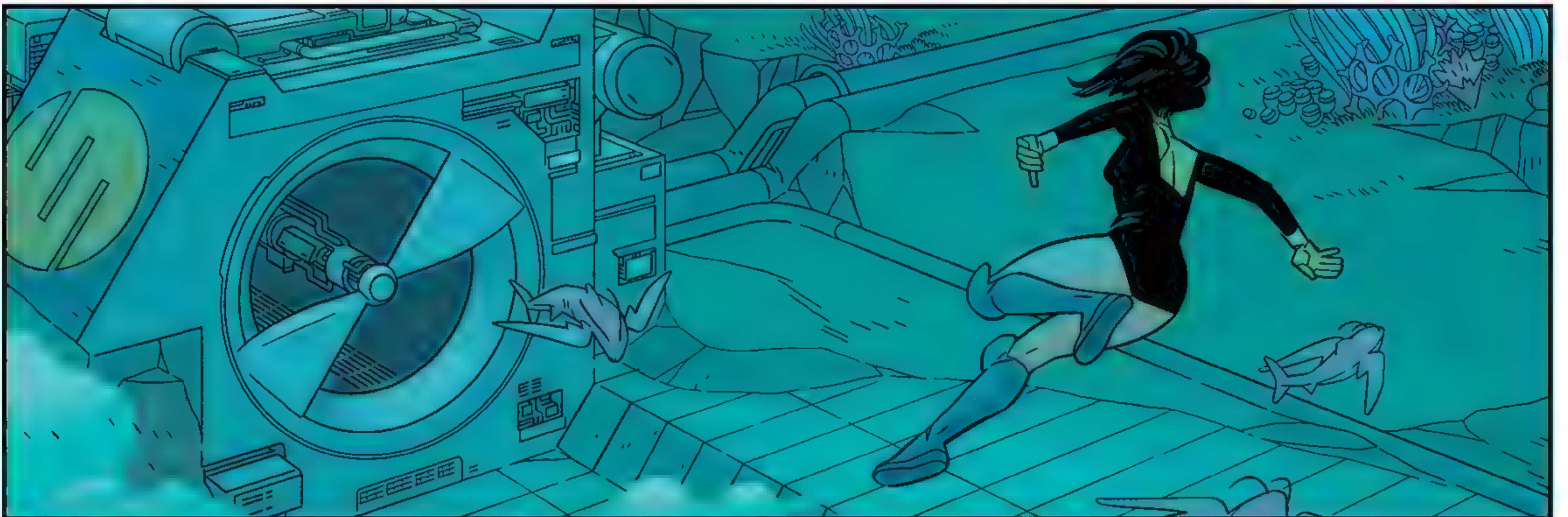
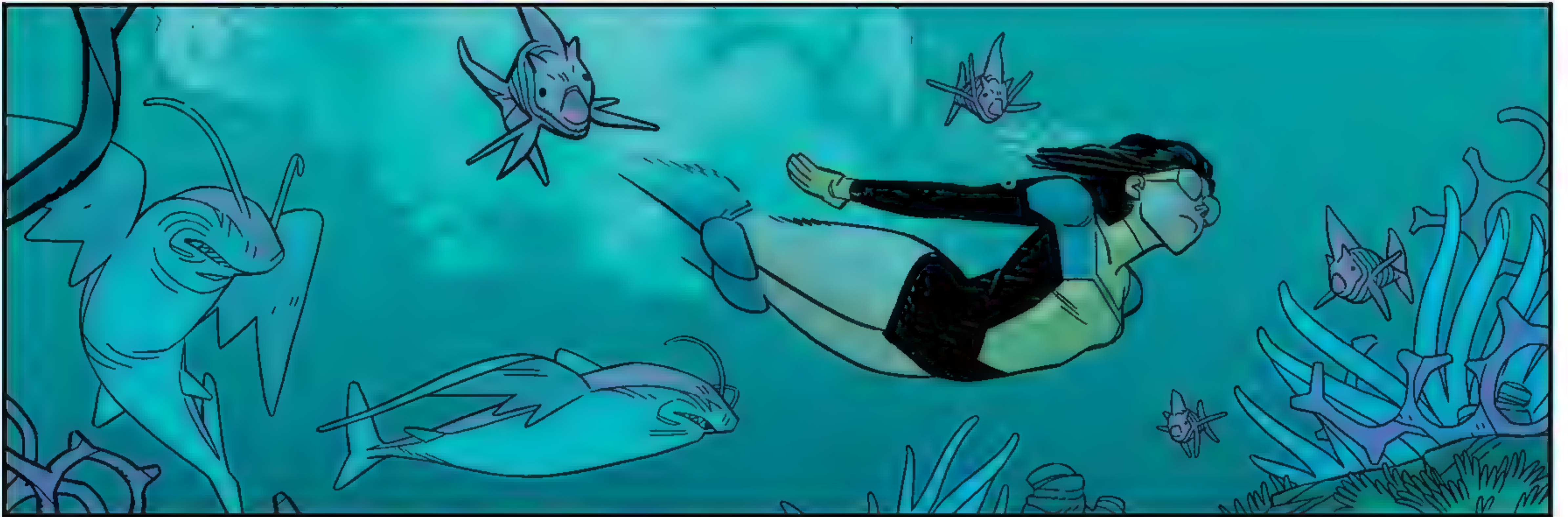


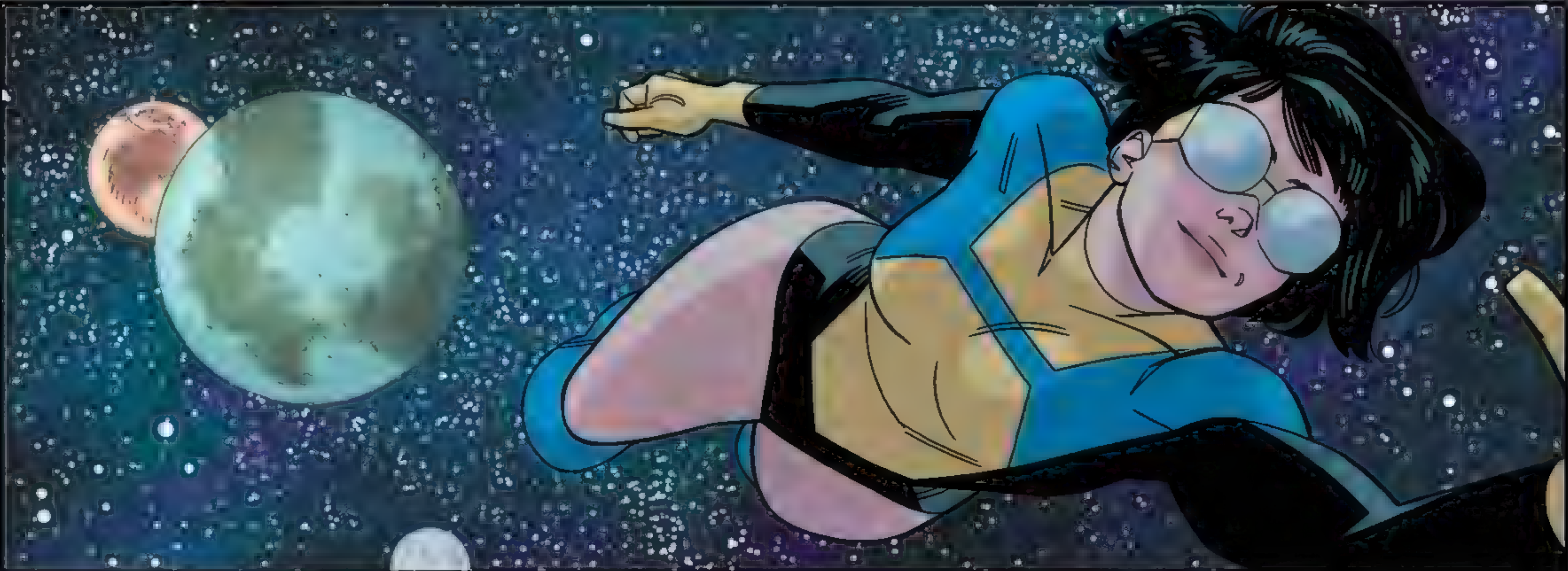
I DIDN'T... I DIDN'T EVEN KNOW YOU'D APPLIED TO THE CONSERVATION ORDER.

I SENT IN MY APPLICATION UNDER A FAKE NAME. I DIDN'T WANT ANY FAVORITISM BECAUSE OF WHO MY FATHER IS.

I'M SO EXCITED! ONCE I'VE COMPLETED THE PROGRAM, I'LL BE TRAVELING FROM PLANET TO PLANET, MAKING SURE WHATEVER SOLAR COLLECTORS OR OCEAN TURBINES OR FOOD SYNTHESIZERS WE'VE INSTALLED ARE WORKING PROPERLY AND IMPROVING LIVES.

AND I CAN WEAR WHATEVER I WANT!







MANY ASK ME WHY I HAVE BROKEN WITH TRADITION AND NOT WORN A CEREMONIAL VILTRUMITE MUSTACHE.



TO ME, IT HAS ALWAYS BEEN A SIGN OF OUR HOME WORLD, OF THE PLANET VILTRUM.

I AM NOT FROM VILTRUM. I AM FROM EARTH.

AS MANY OF YOU KNOW, OUR HOME PLANET WAS DESTROYED BY MYSELF, MY FATHER, AND THAEDUS. SOME OF YOU WERE THERE.

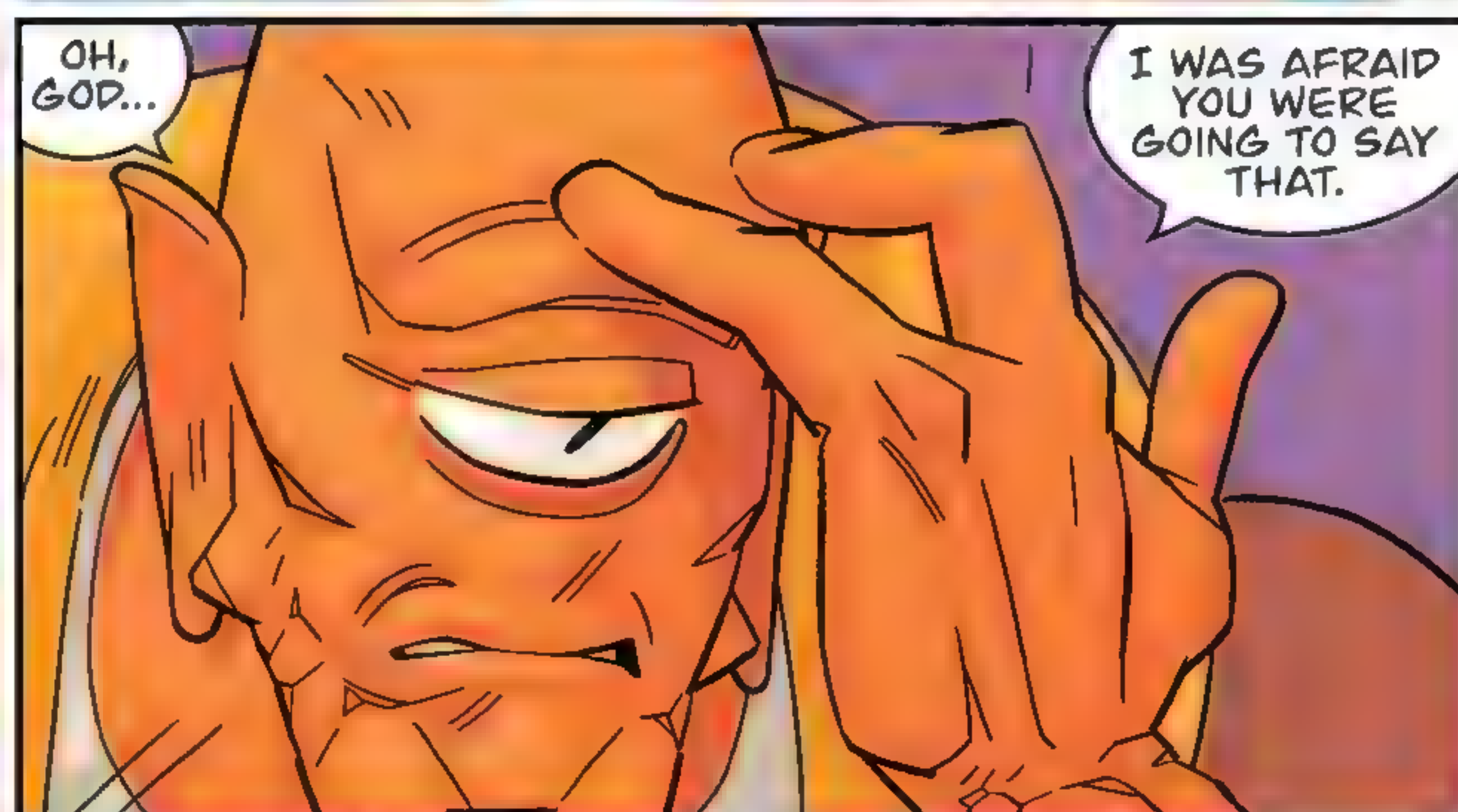
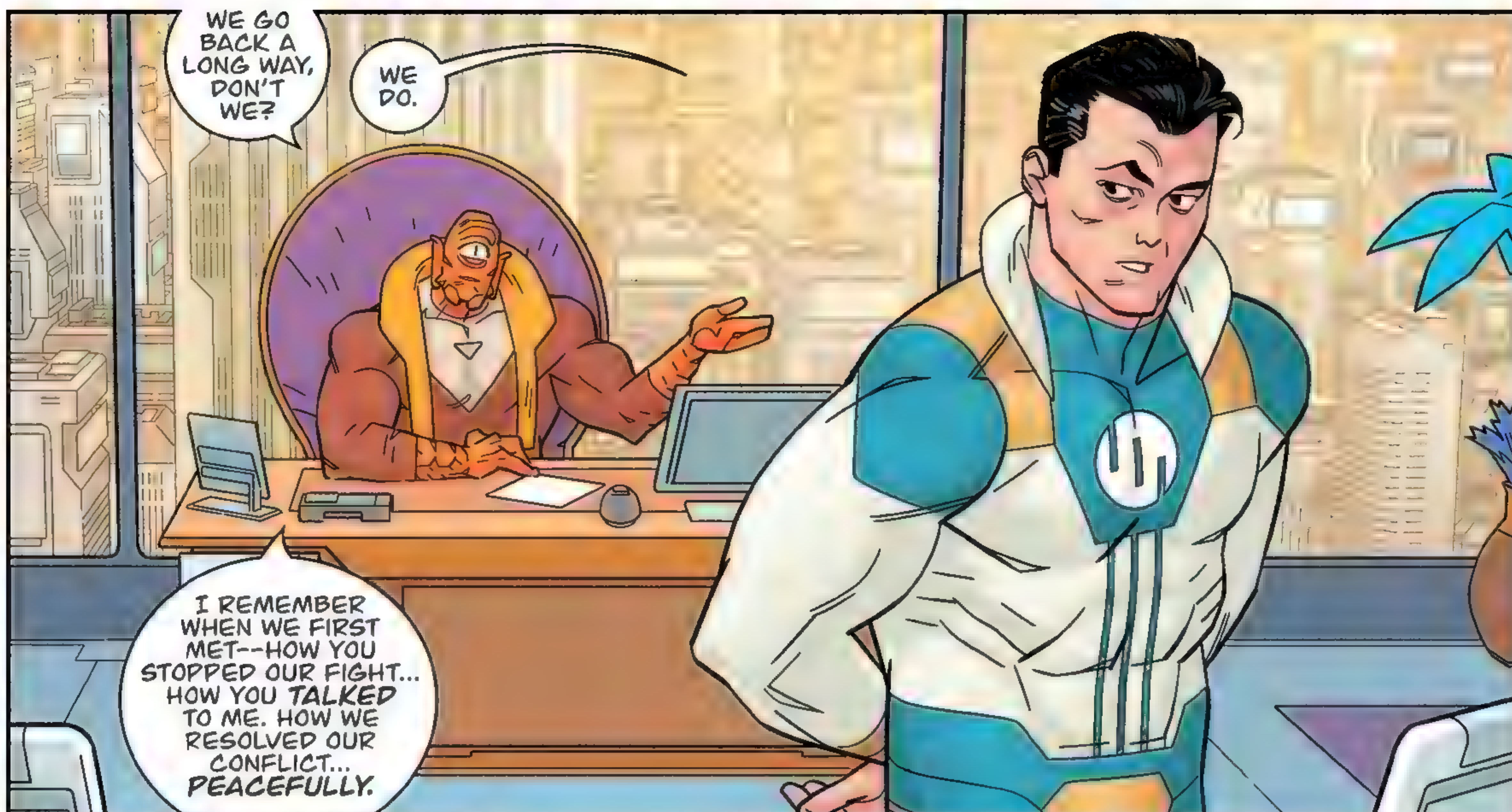
WE WERE NOT ON THE SAME SIDE THAT DAY. MANY THINGS HAVE CHANGED SINCE THAT DAY.

I HOPE THINGS WILL CONTINUE TO CHANGE.

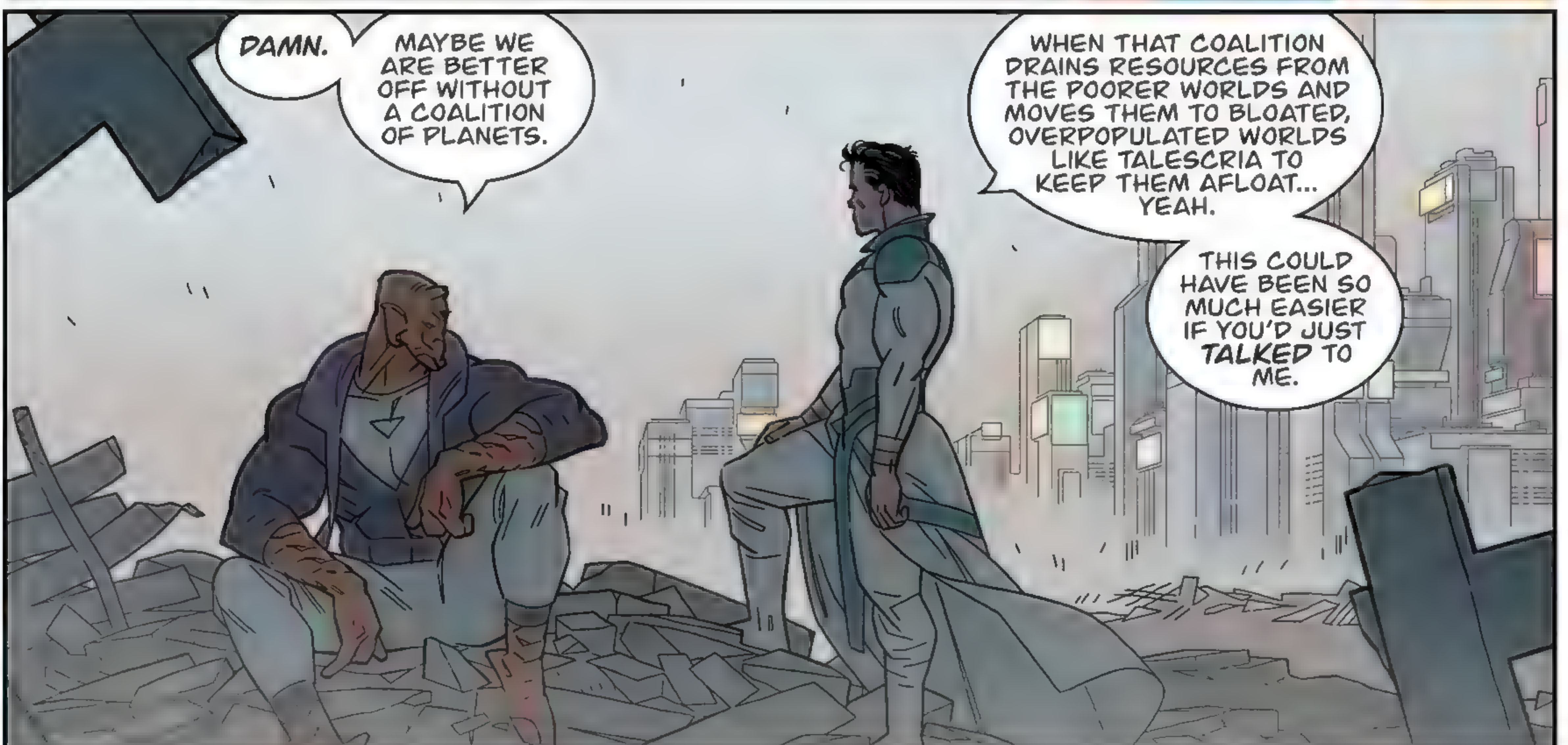
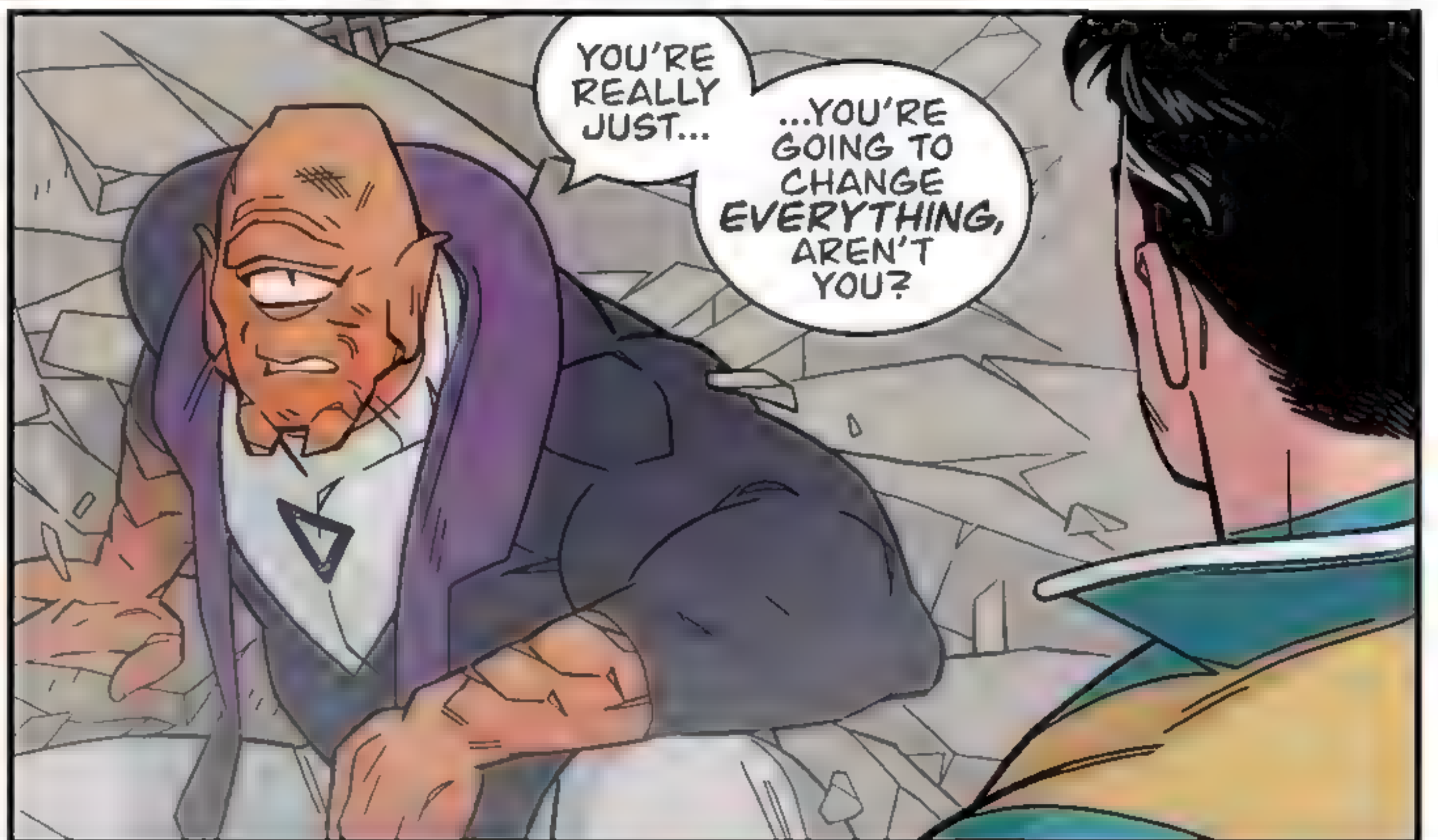
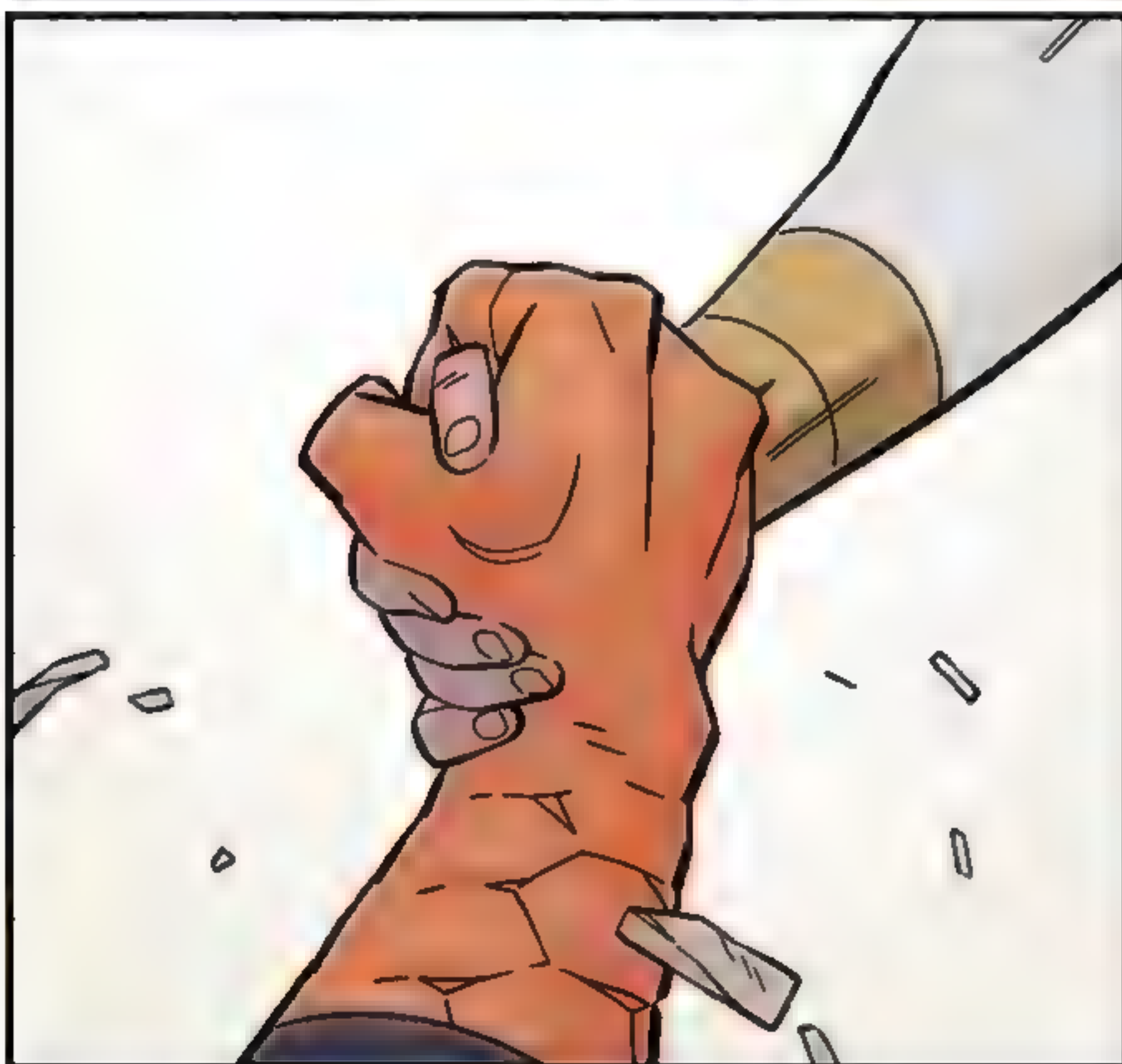


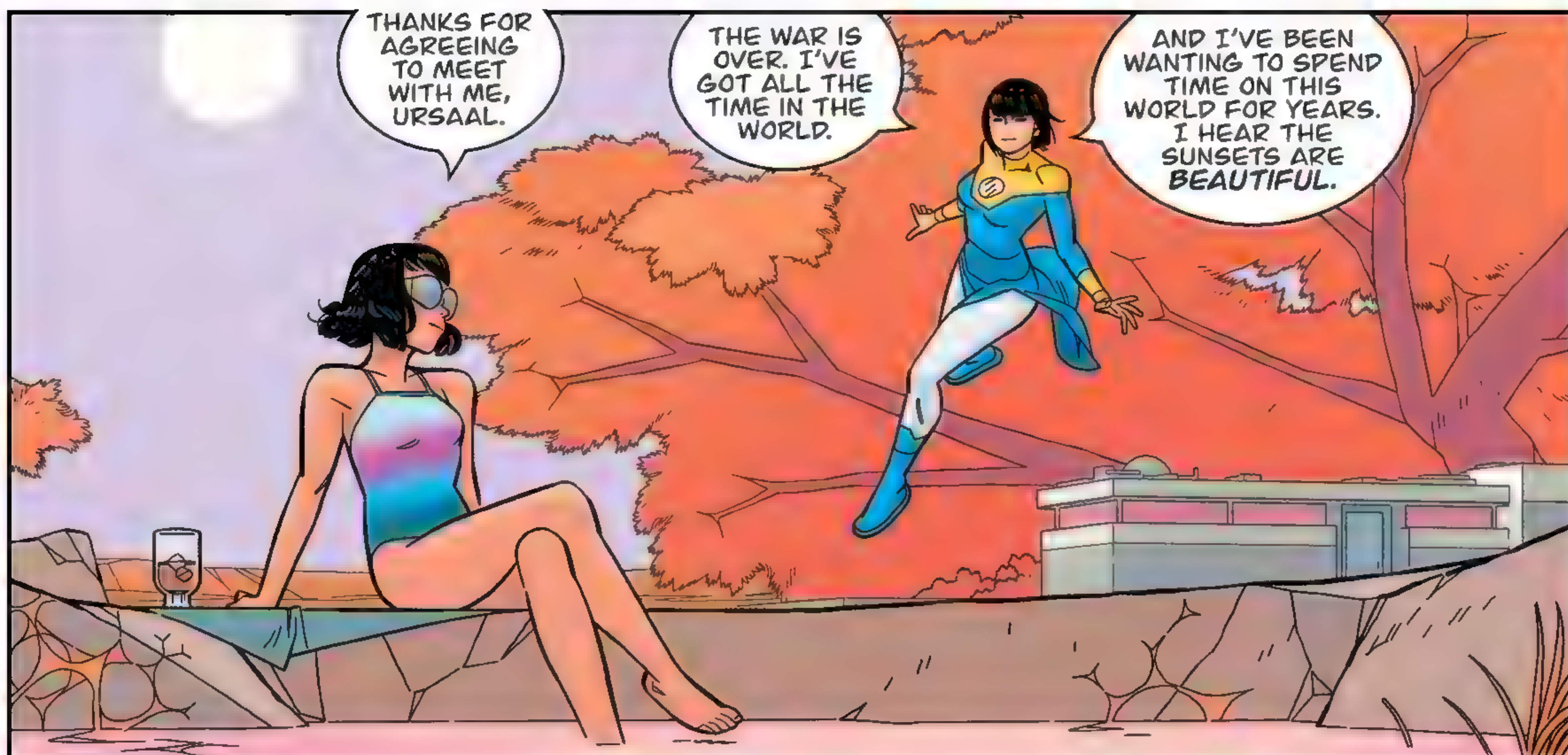
TO THAT END, I LIKE TO THINK THE OLD WAYS DIED WITH VILTRUM. WE DON'T HAVE TO KEEP DOING THINGS AS THEY HAVE ALWAYS BEEN DONE.

I SHAVE MY FACE IN HONOR OF THAT. IN HONOR OF OUR NEW WAY... A WAY OF PEACE.









THANKS FOR AGREEING TO MEET WITH ME, URSAL.

THE WAR IS OVER. I'VE GOT ALL THE TIME IN THE WORLD.

AND I'VE BEEN WANTING TO SPEND TIME ON THIS WORLD FOR YEARS. I HEAR THE SUNSETS ARE BEAUTIFUL.



YOU'RE WELCOME TO STAY AT MY HOUSE. I HAVE ROOM. HOW IS MY FATHER DOING?

YOU SHOULD SPEAK TO HIM YOURSELF, TERRA. HE DOESN'T BLAME YOU FOR SITTING OUT THE WAR.

THAT'S NOT WHO HE IS.



THAT'S MY POINT. A WAR WITH THE COALITION GOES AGAINST EVERYTHING I THOUGHT HE STOOD FOR. CHAMPIONS OF PEACE DO NOT START WARS.

THE CONSERVATION ORDER HAS BEEN TALKING ABOUT BREAKING AWAY FROM THE EMPIRE OVER THIS...

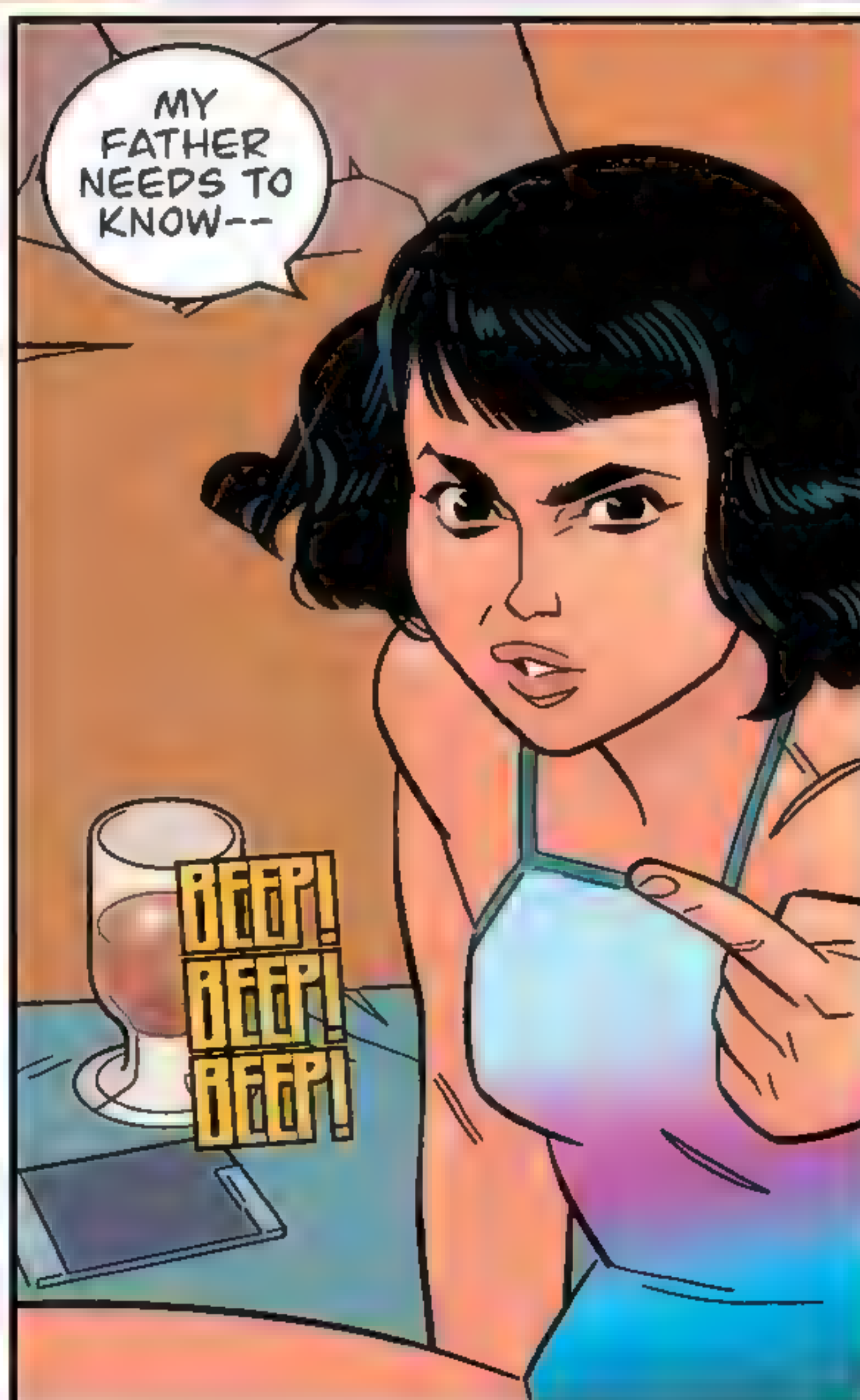


...AND I THINK I'M GOING TO SUPPORT THEM.



WHAT THE COALITION WAS DOING WAS **WRONG**. THEY STARTED THIS WAR, NOT YOUR FATHER. YOU HAVE TO SPEAK TO HIM BEFORE THIS GETS OUT OF HAND. THE ORDER RESPECTS YOU... YOU CAN **STOP** THIS. YOU HAVE TO.

YOU CAN'T ALLOW THE EMPIRE TO FRACTURE OVER THIS.

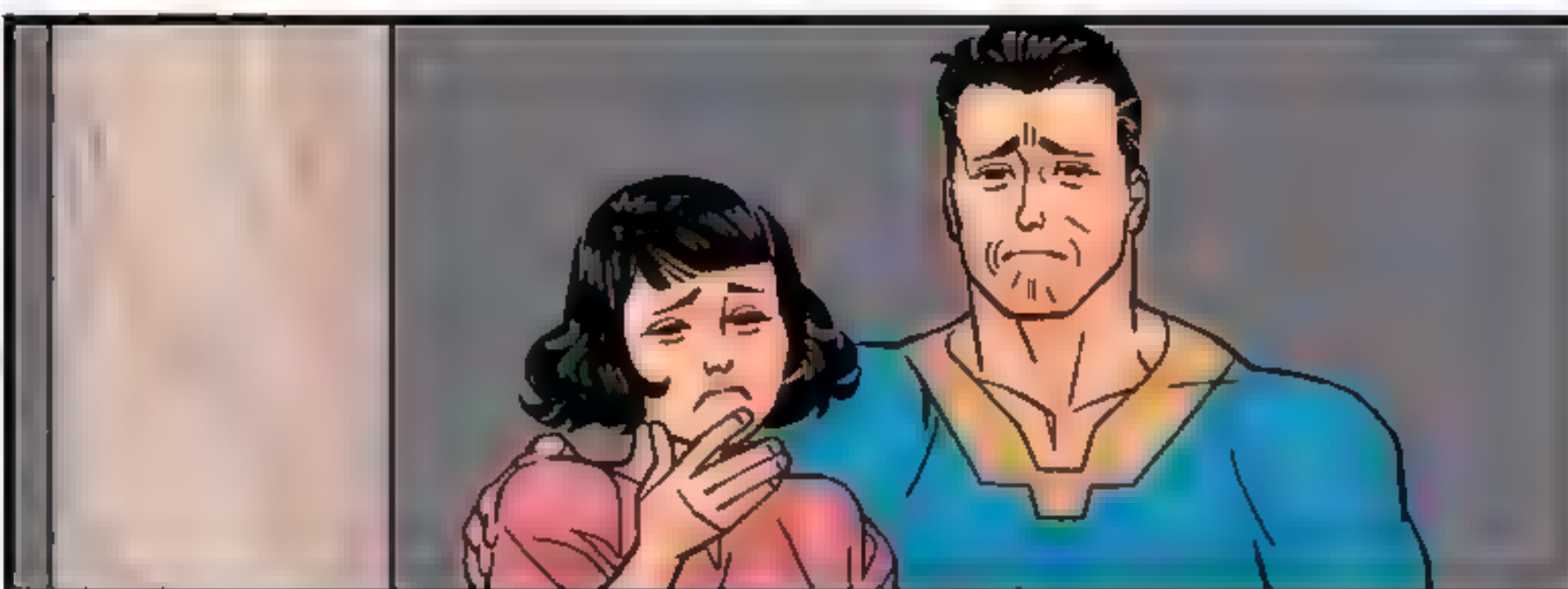
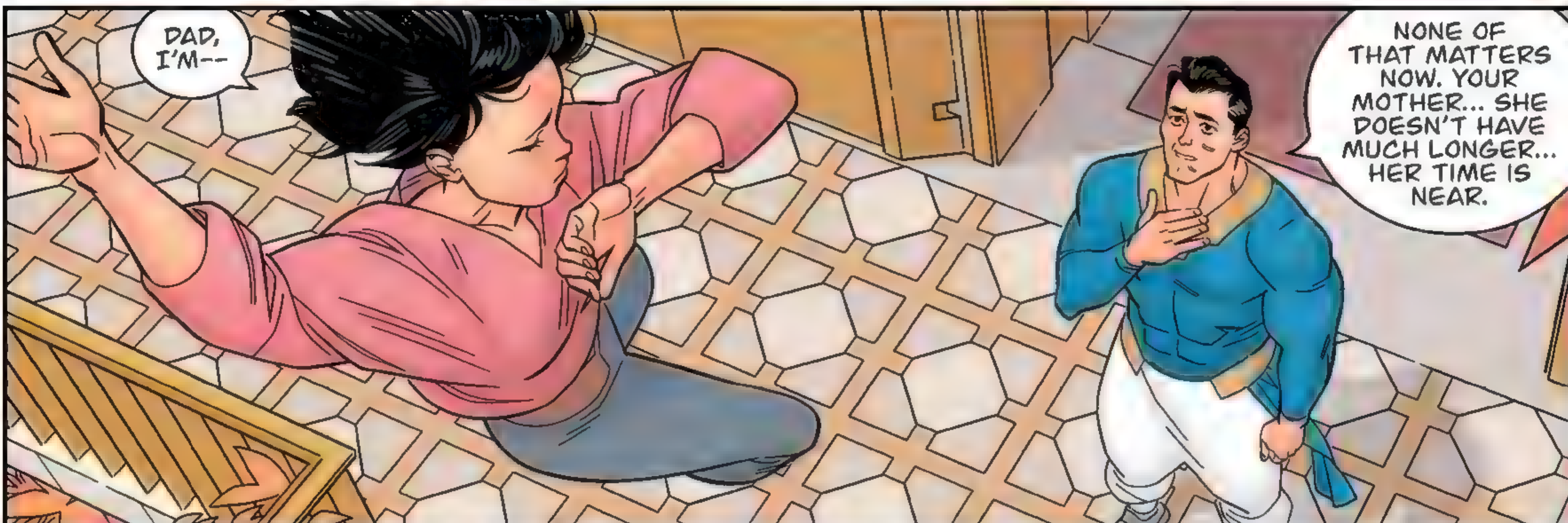
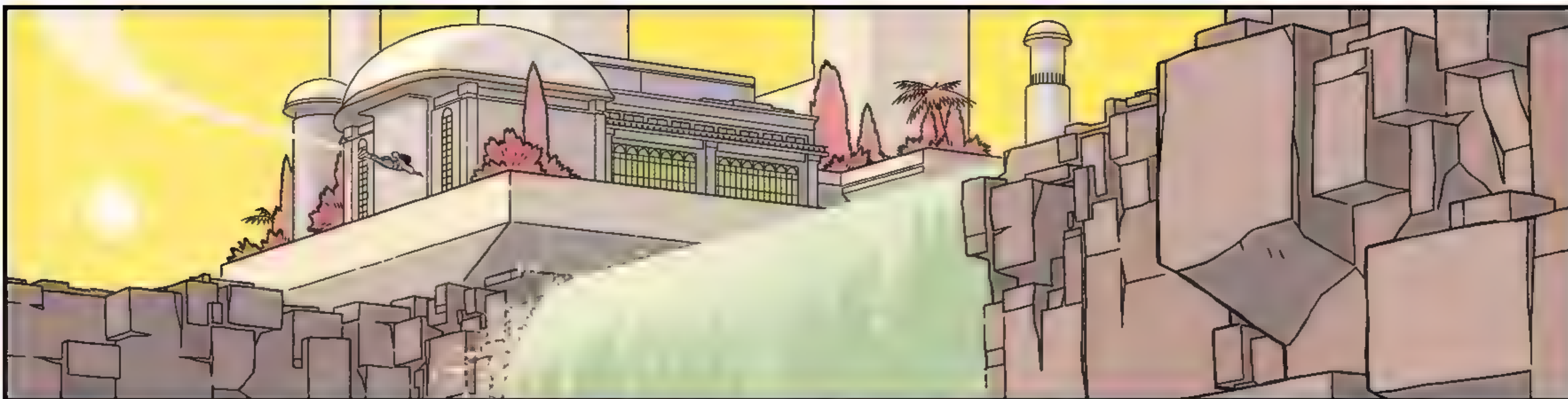


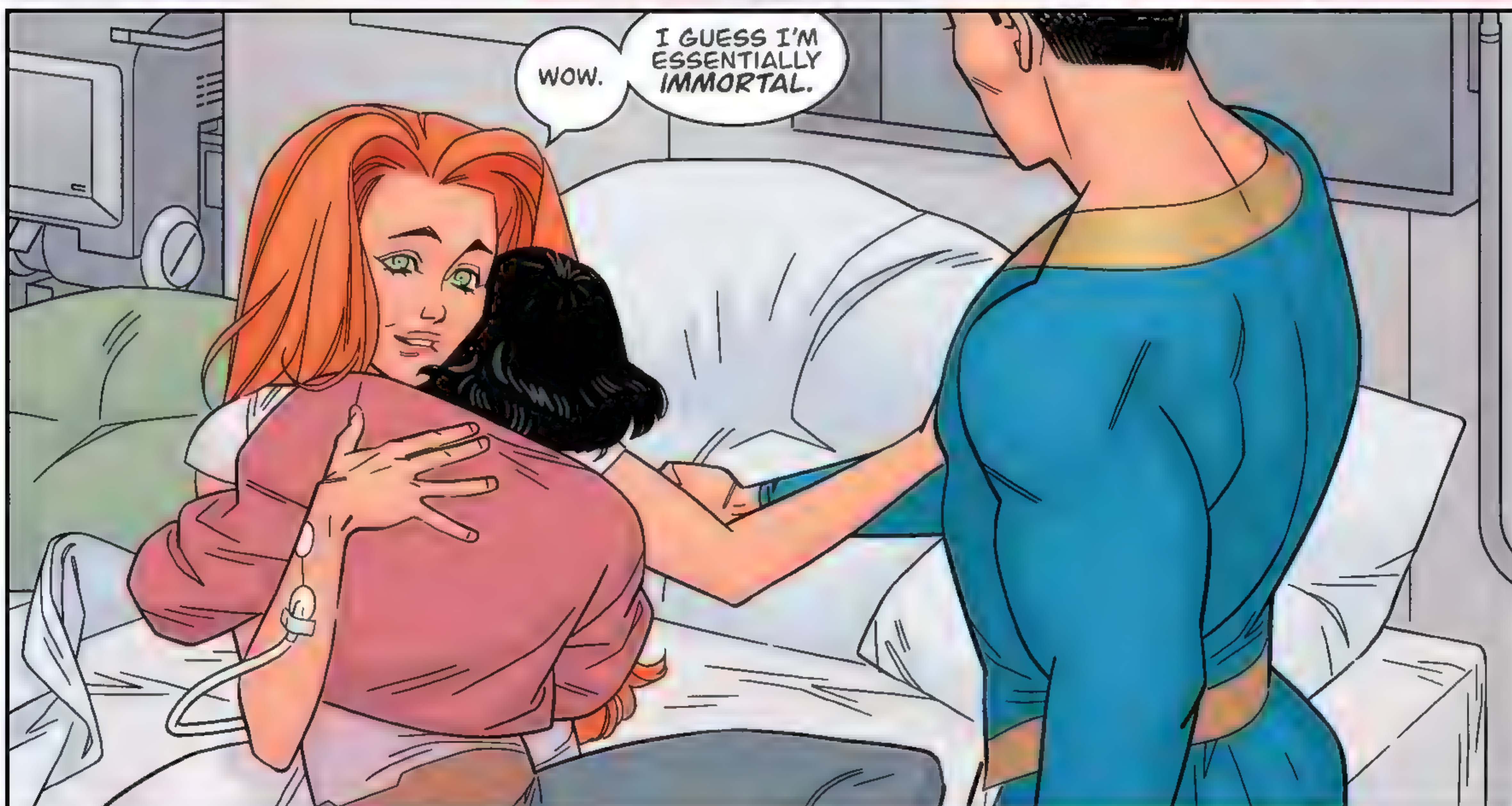
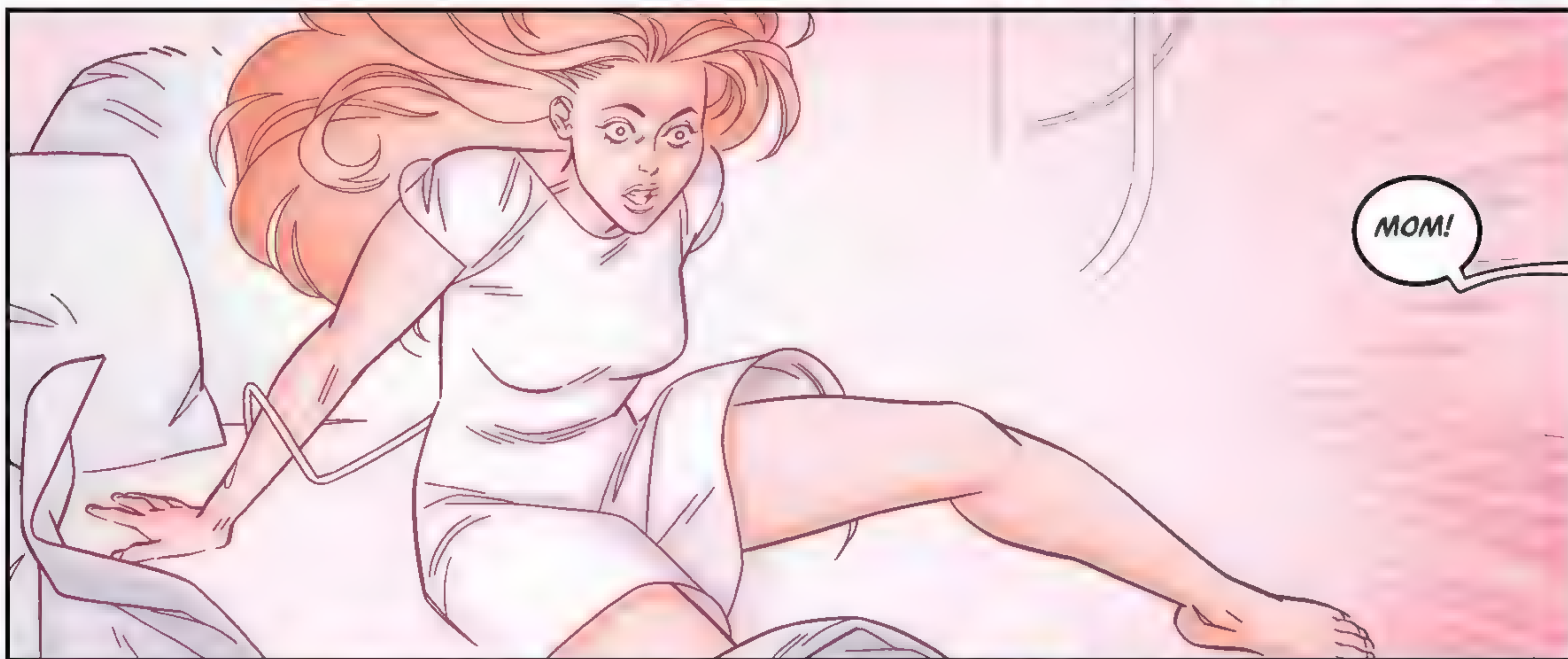
MY FATHER NEEDS TO KNOW--



WHAT IS IT?

IT'S MY MOTHER...



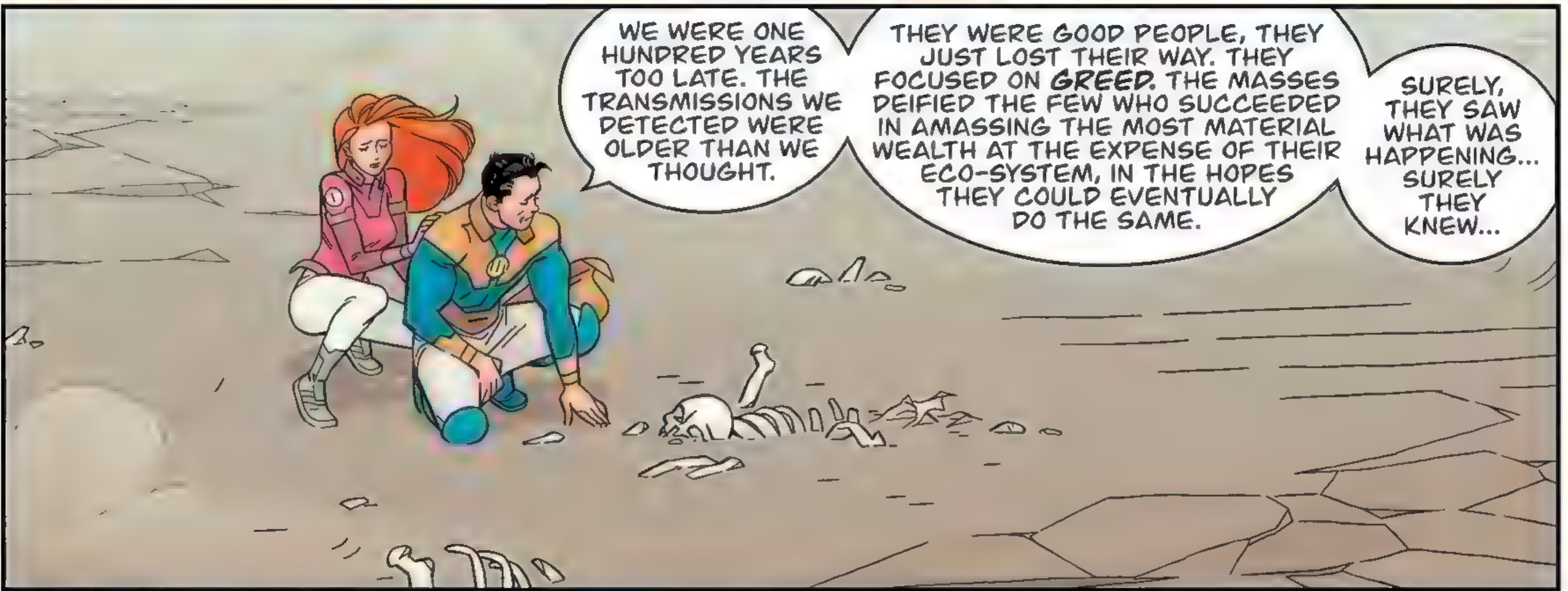




THINGS WILL GROW HERE NOW.

BEFORE THE PROVISIONS WE'RE LEAVING RUN OUT--YOU'LL HAVE MORE FOOD THAN YOU CAN EAT. NOW YOUR PEOPLE HAVE NO REASON TO FIGHT.

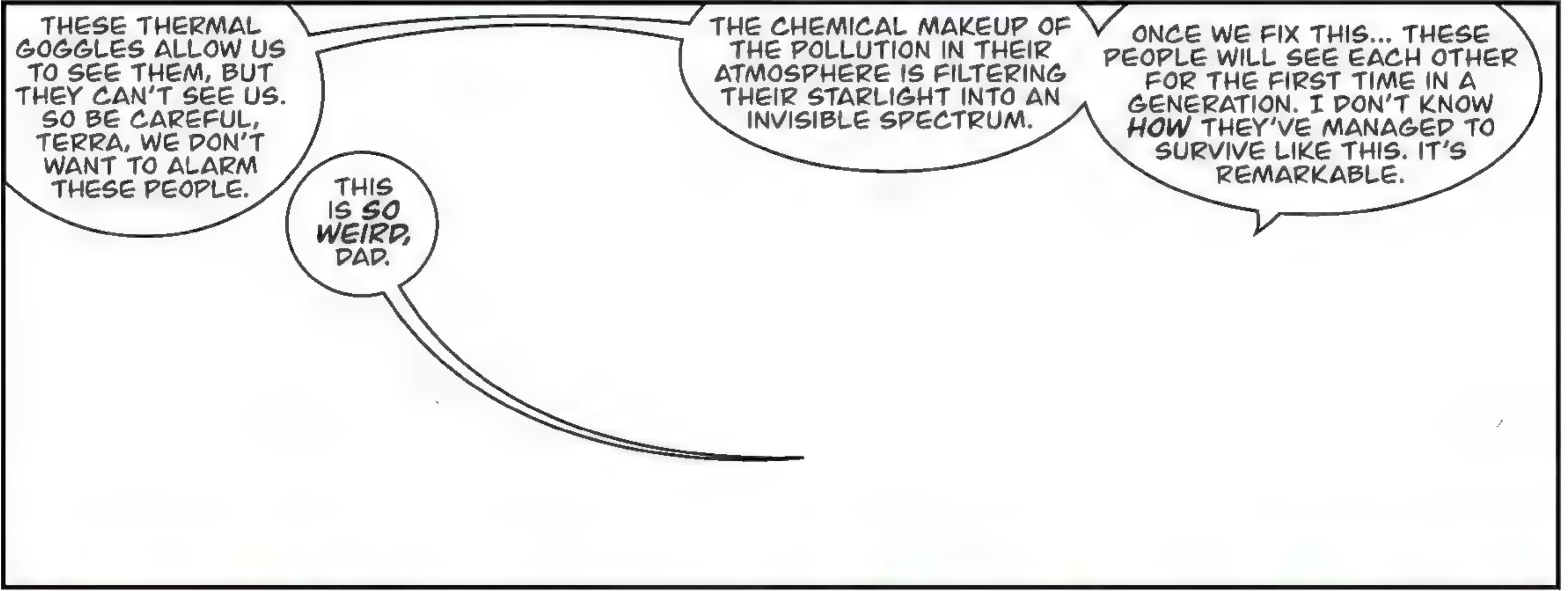
WHEN WE RETURN, WE EXPECT TO RETURN TO A WORLD AT PEACE.



WE WERE ONE HUNDRED YEARS TOO LATE. THE TRANSMISSIONS WE DETECTED WERE OLDER THAN WE THOUGHT.

THEY WERE GOOD PEOPLE, THEY JUST LOST THEIR WAY. THEY FOCUSED ON GREED. THE MASSES DEIFIED THE FEW WHO SUCCEEDED IN AMASSING THE MOST MATERIAL WEALTH AT THE EXPENSE OF THEIR ECO-SYSTEM, IN THE HOPES THEY COULD EVENTUALLY DO THE SAME.

SURELY, THEY SAW WHAT WAS HAPPENING... SURELY THEY KNEW...



THESE THERMAL GOGGLES ALLOW US TO SEE THEM, BUT THEY CAN'T SEE US. SO BE CAREFUL, TERRA, WE DON'T WANT TO ALARM THESE PEOPLE.

THIS IS SO WEIRD, DAD.

THE CHEMICAL MAKEUP OF THE POLLUTION IN THEIR ATMOSPHERE IS FILTERING THEIR STARLIGHT INTO AN INVISIBLE SPECTRUM.

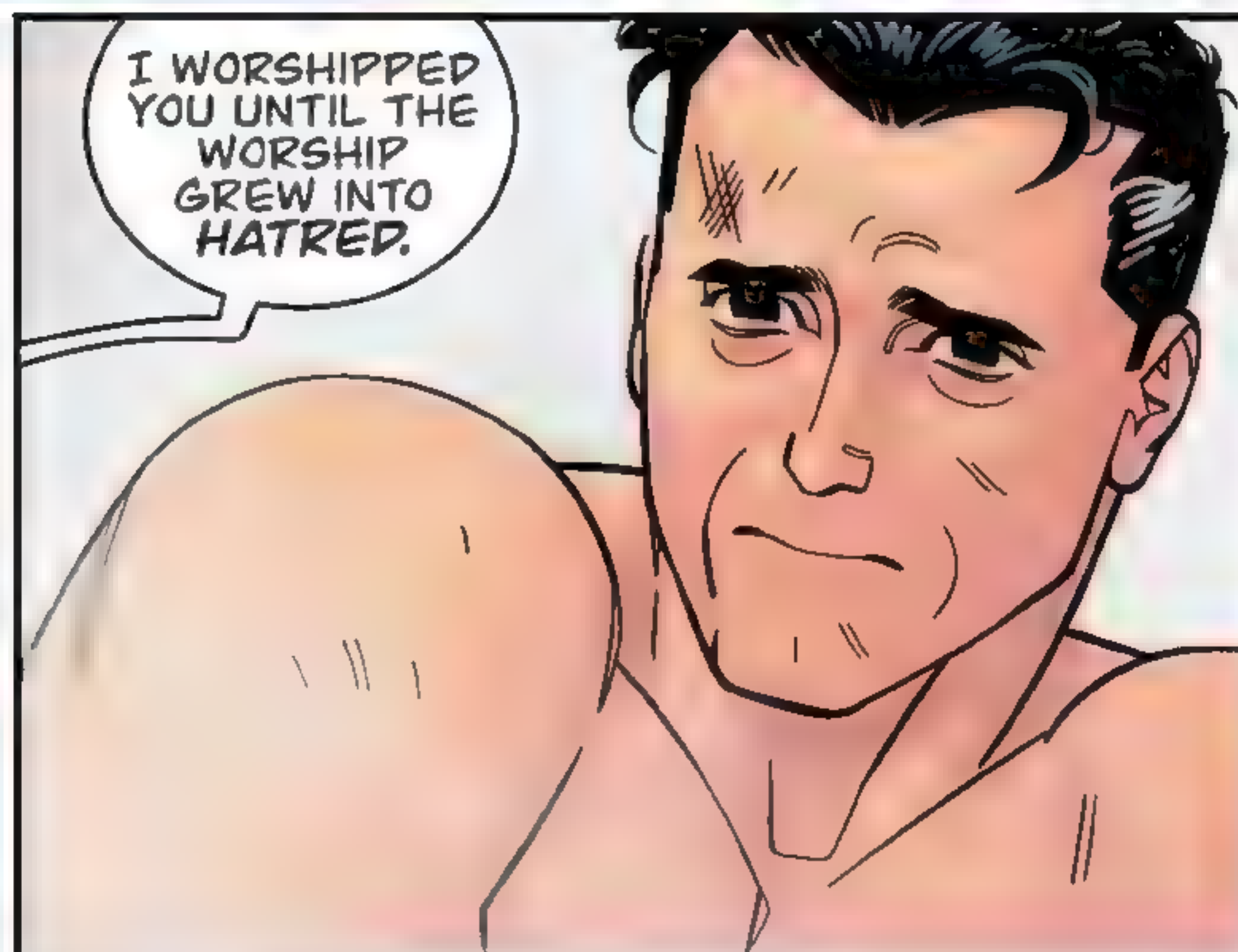
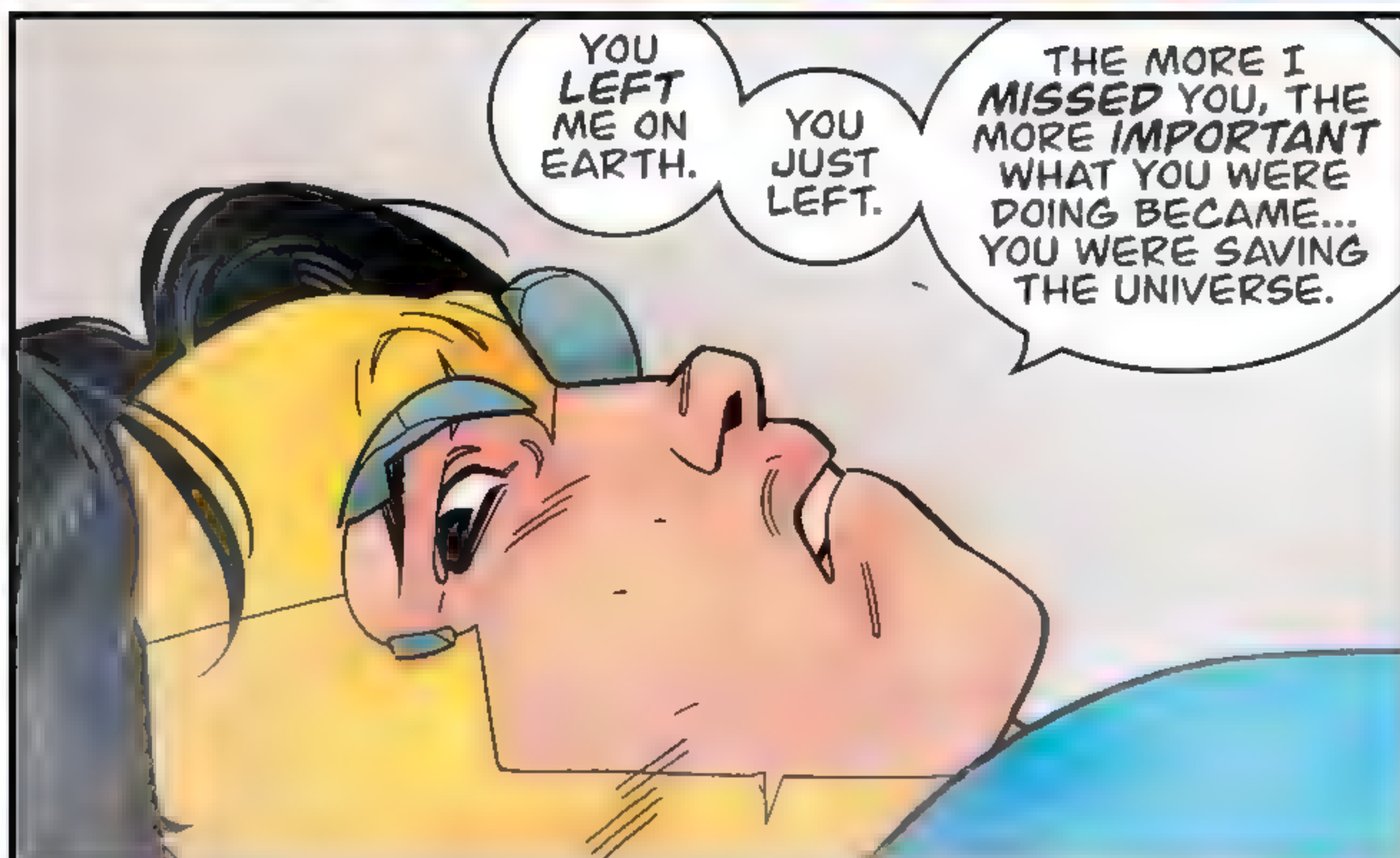
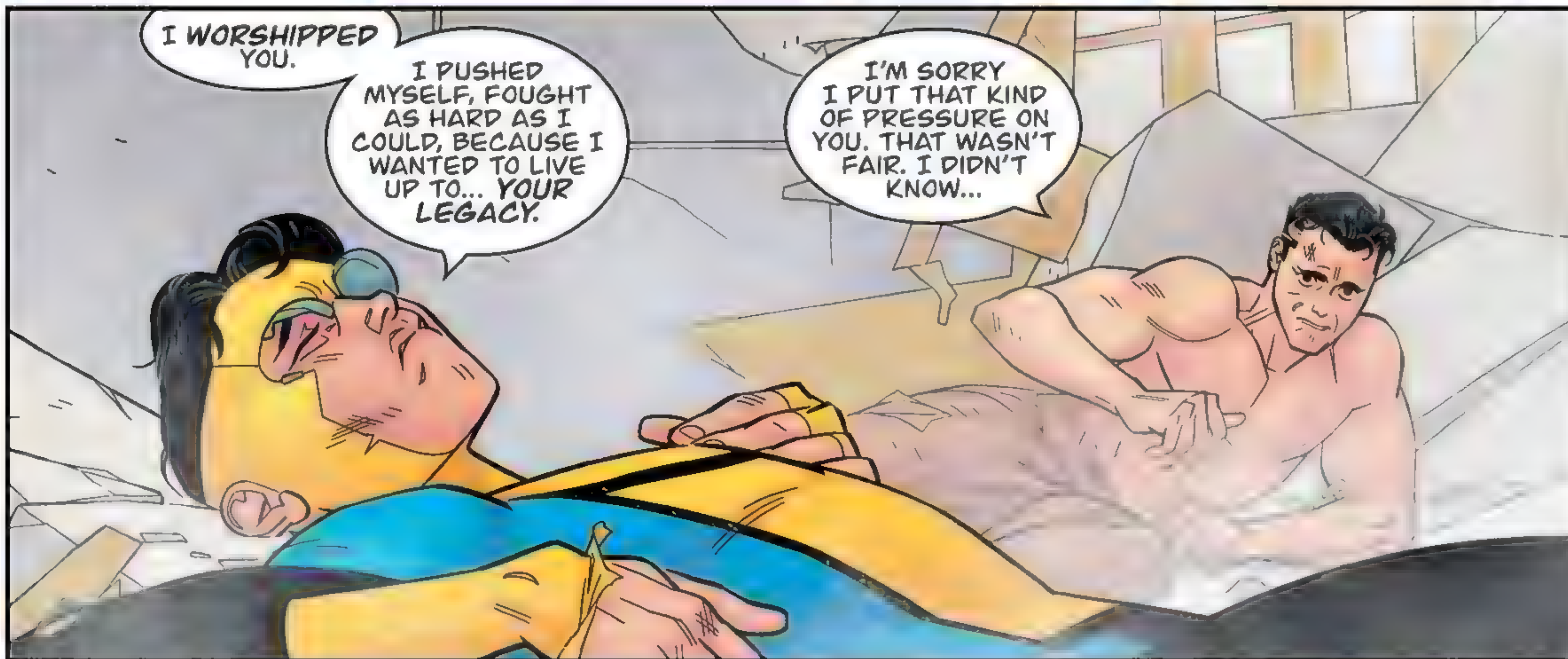
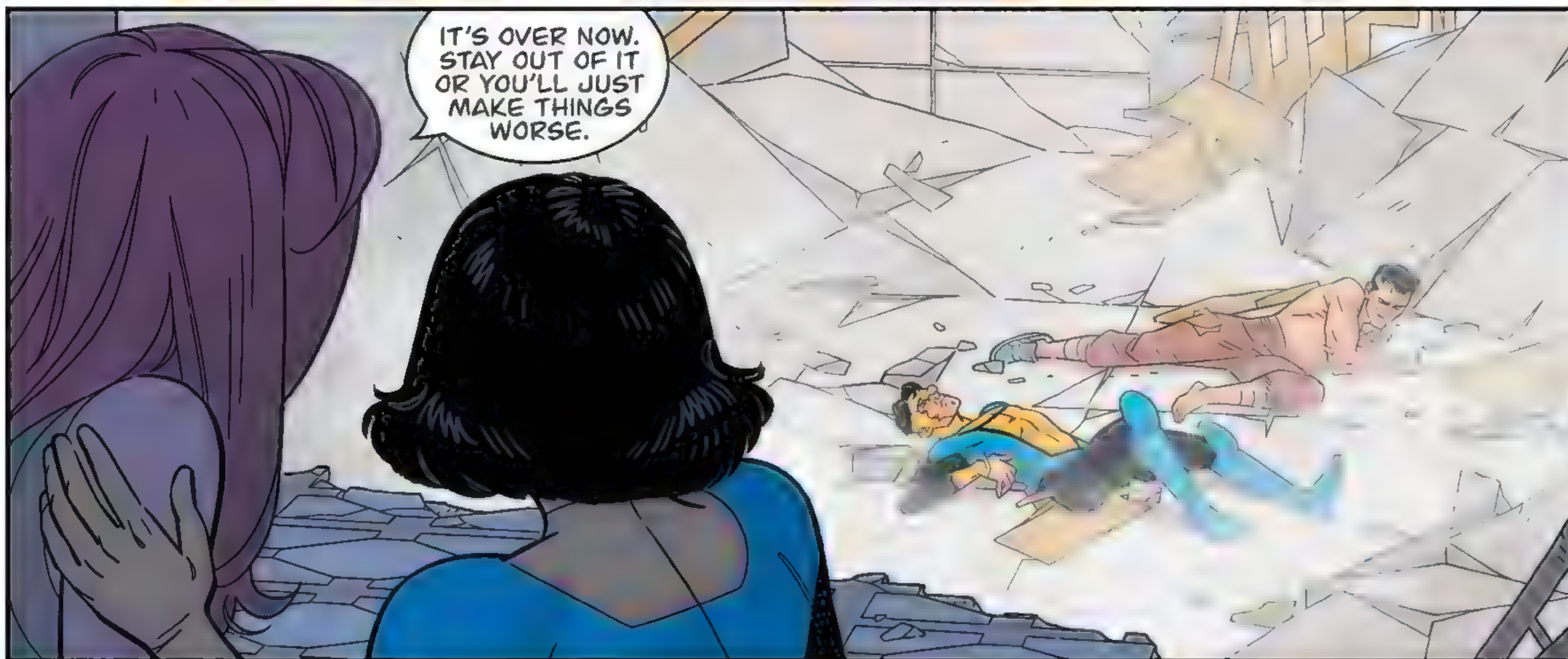
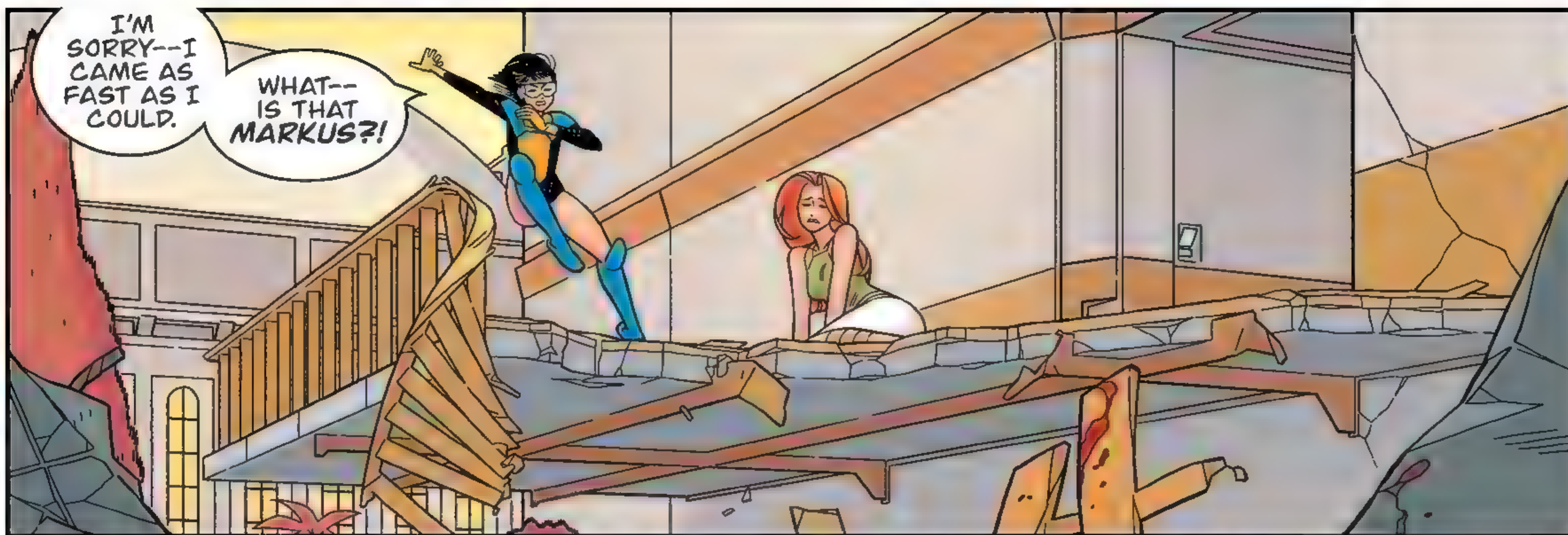
ONCE WE FIX THIS... THESE PEOPLE WILL SEE EACH OTHER FOR THE FIRST TIME IN A GENERATION. I DON'T KNOW HOW THEY'VE MANAGED TO SURVIVE LIKE THIS. IT'S REMARKABLE.

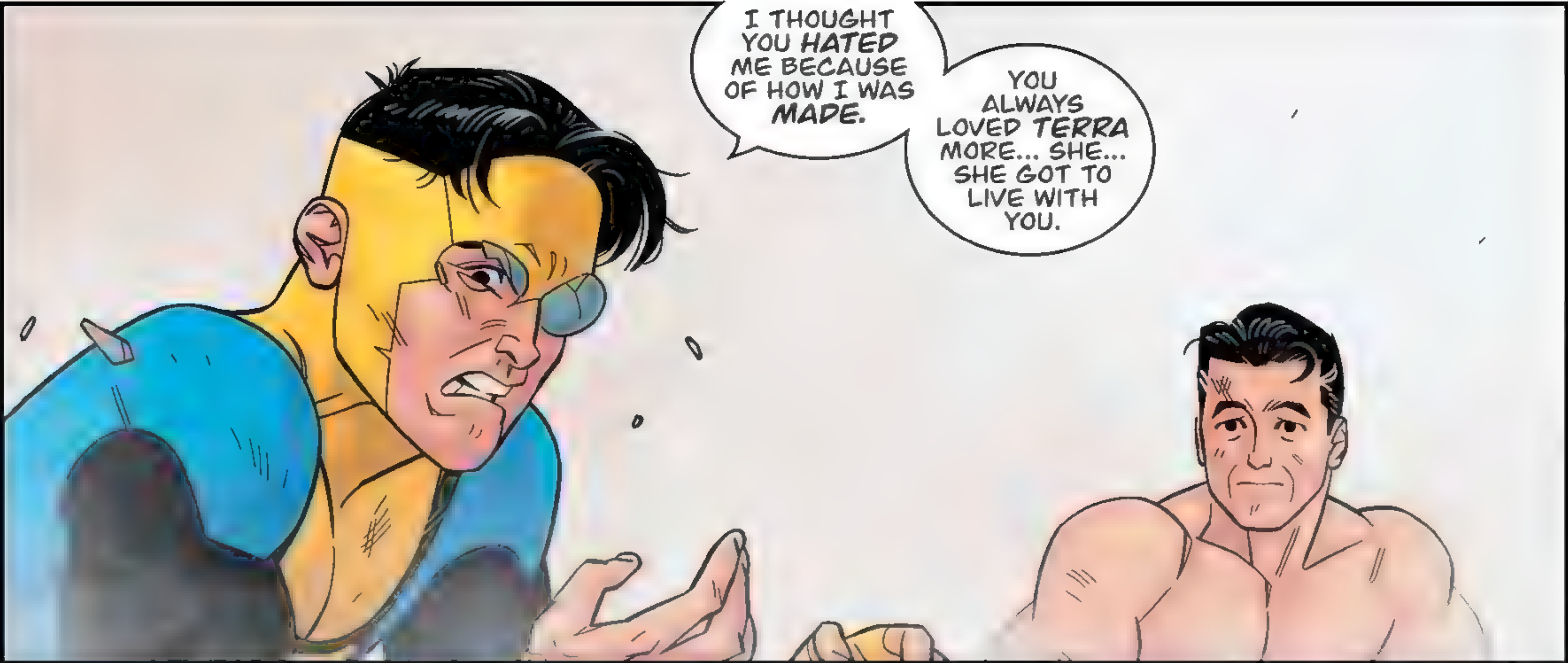


THE DAYS ARE APPROXIMATELY TWO HOURS LONGER, BUT THE TEMPERATURES ARE THE SAME. THE SEASONS WILL TAKE SOME GETTING USED TO... BUT IT'S A NEAR COMPLETE MATCH TO YOUR HOME PLANET.

THE MAIN DIFFERENCE IS THE STAR IT ORBITS IS COMPLETELY HEALTHY.

YOUR PEOPLE WILL THRIVE HERE.





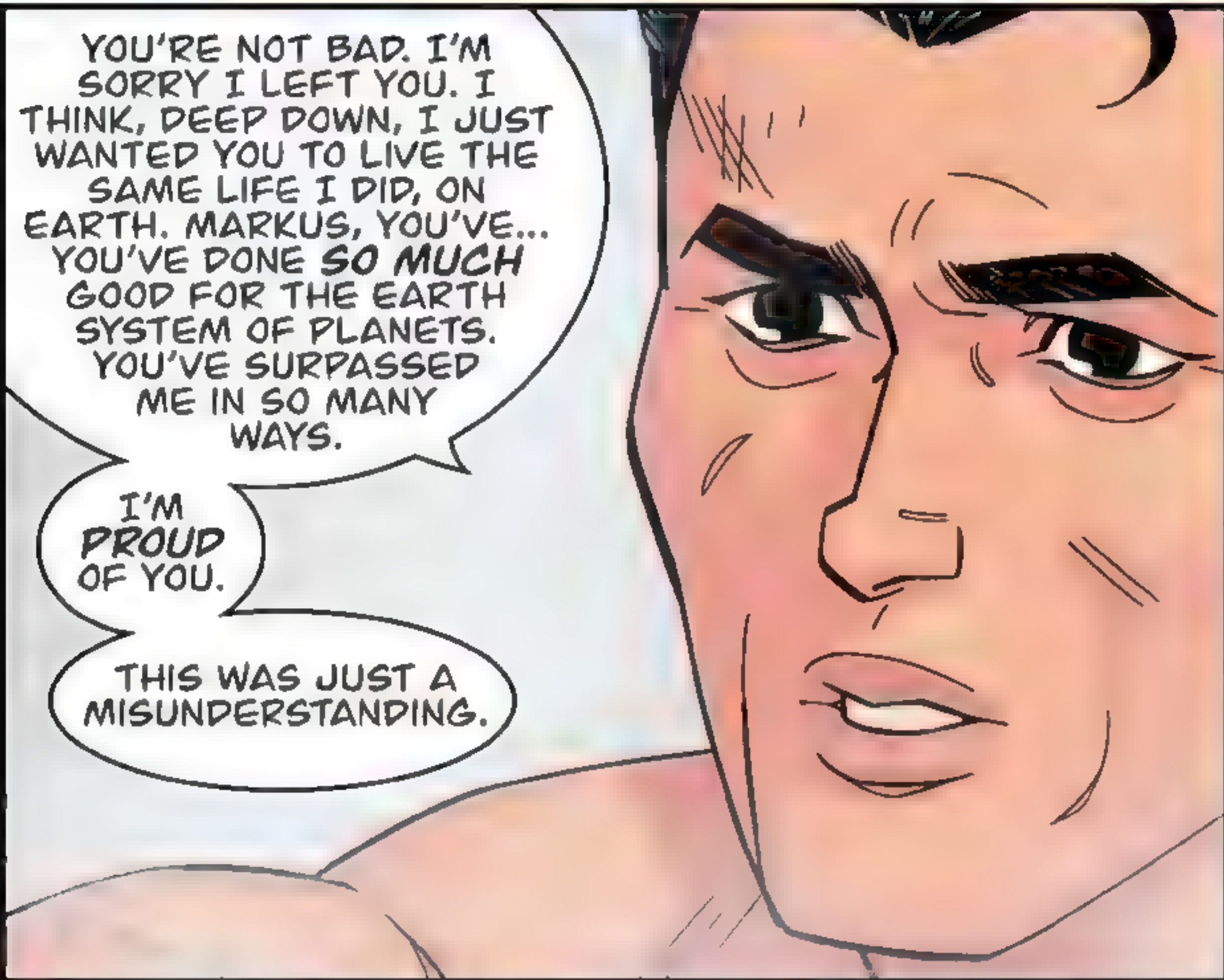
I THOUGHT YOU HATED ME BECAUSE OF HOW I WAS MADE.

YOU ALWAYS LOVED TERRA MORE... SHE... SHE GOT TO LIVE WITH YOU.



I HATED MYSELF... BECAUSE I WASN'T GOOD ENOUGH. I USED TO THINK... YOU MADE TERRA WITH LOVE... BUT I WAS MADE WITH HATE.

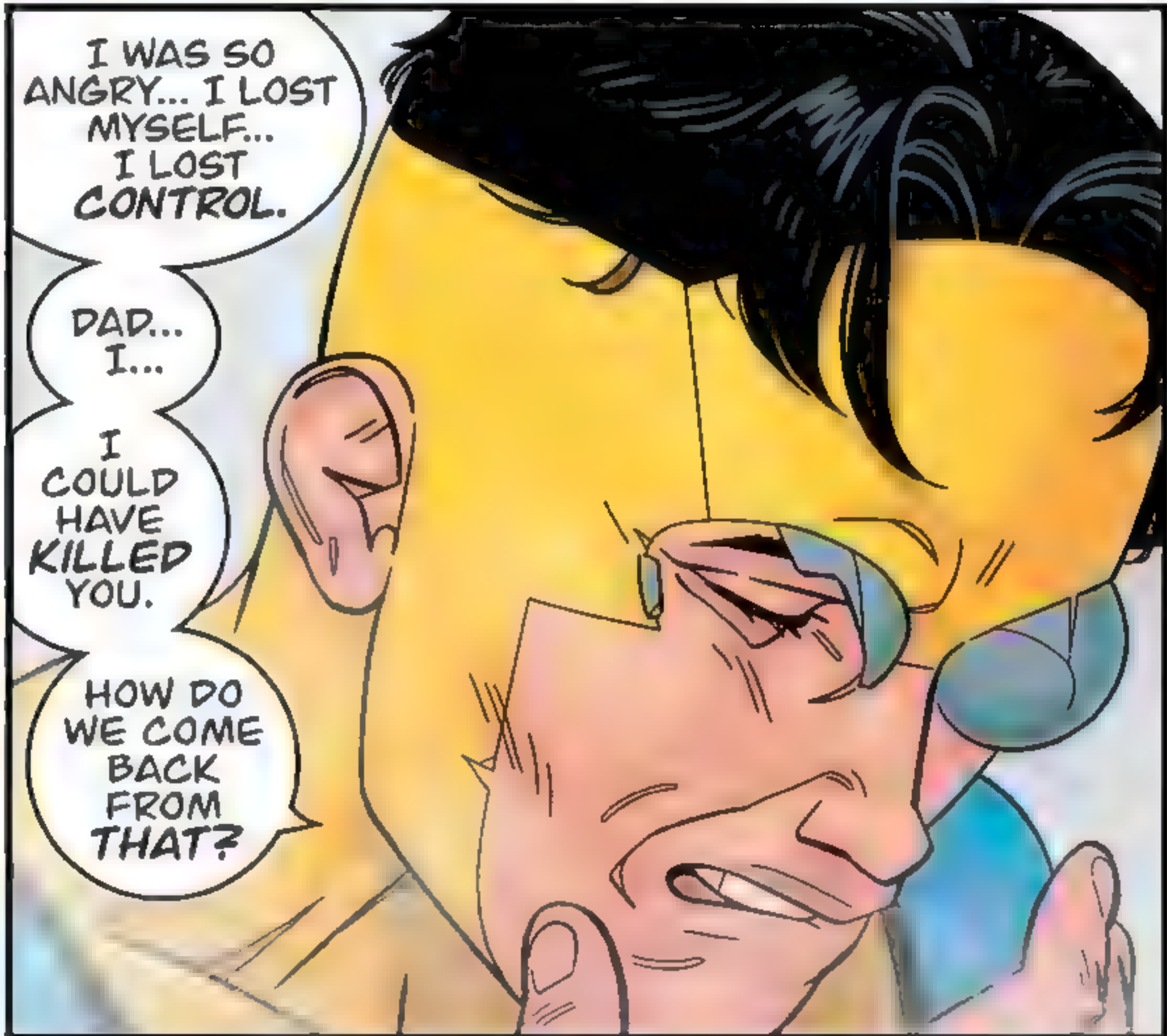
MY MOTHER... SHE... SHE DOOMED ME TO BE THIS... TO BE LESS... TO BE... BAD.



YOU'RE NOT BAD. I'M SORRY I LEFT YOU. I THINK, DEEP DOWN, I JUST WANTED YOU TO LIVE THE SAME LIFE I DID, ON EARTH. MARKUS, YOU'VE... YOU'VE DONE SO MUCH GOOD FOR THE EARTH SYSTEM OF PLANETS. YOU'VE SURPASSED ME IN SO MANY WAYS.

I'M PROUD OF YOU.

THIS WAS JUST A MISUNDERSTANDING.

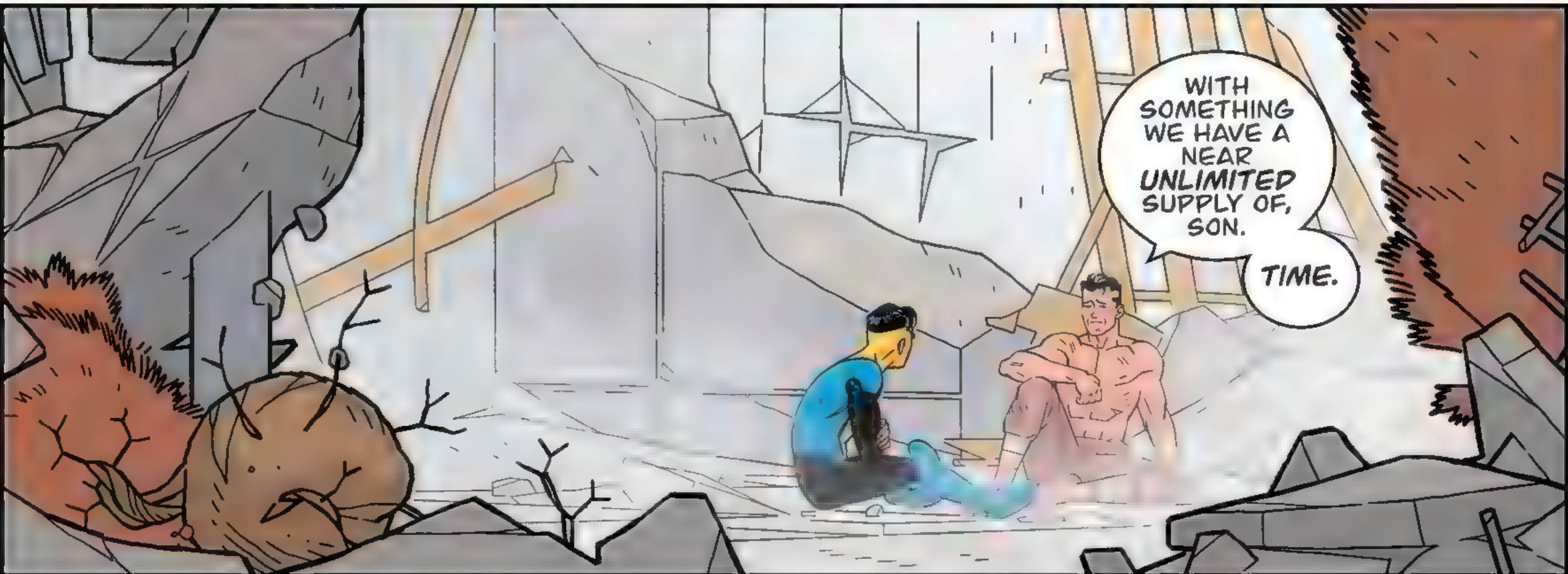


I WAS SO ANGRY... I LOST MYSELF... I LOST CONTROL.

DAD... I...

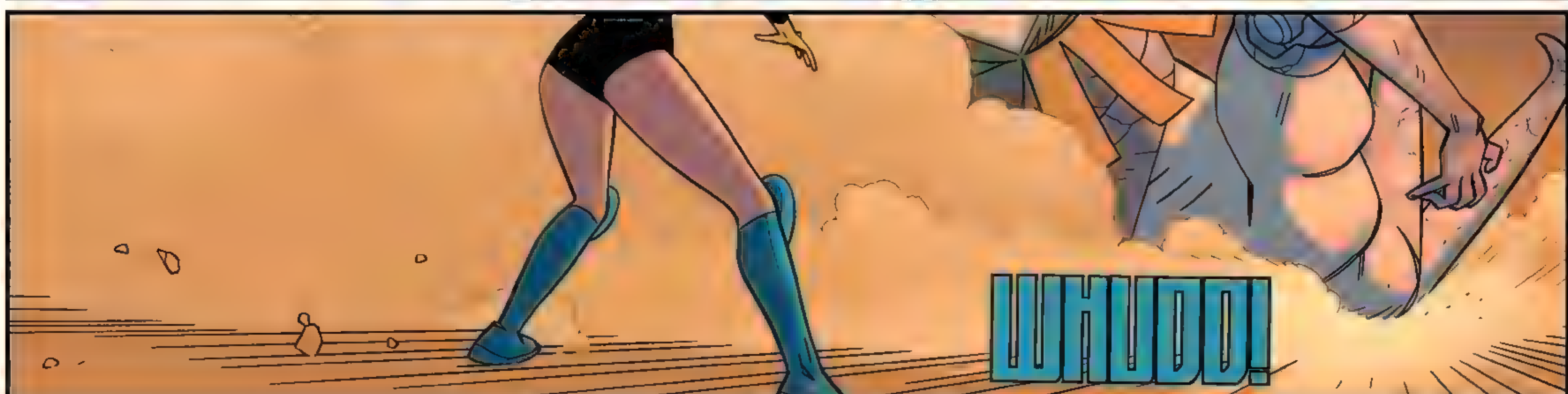
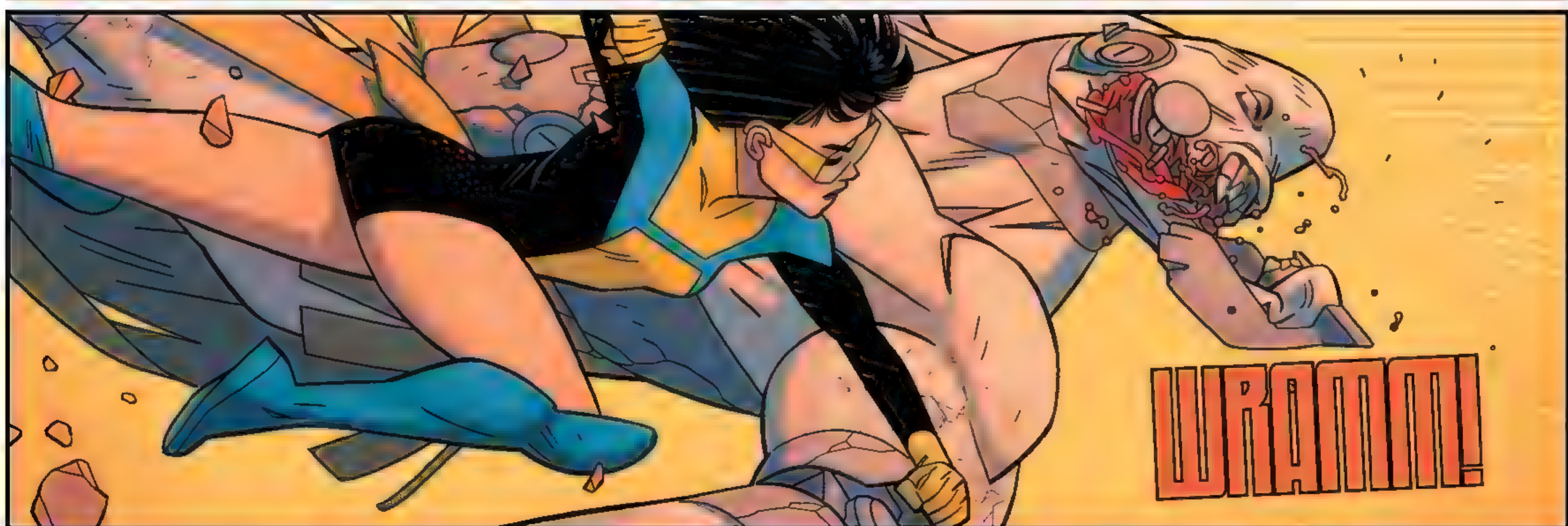
I COULD HAVE KILLED YOU.

HOW DO WE COME BACK FROM THAT?



WITH SOMETHING WE HAVE A NEAR UNLIMITED SUPPLY OF, SON. TIME.



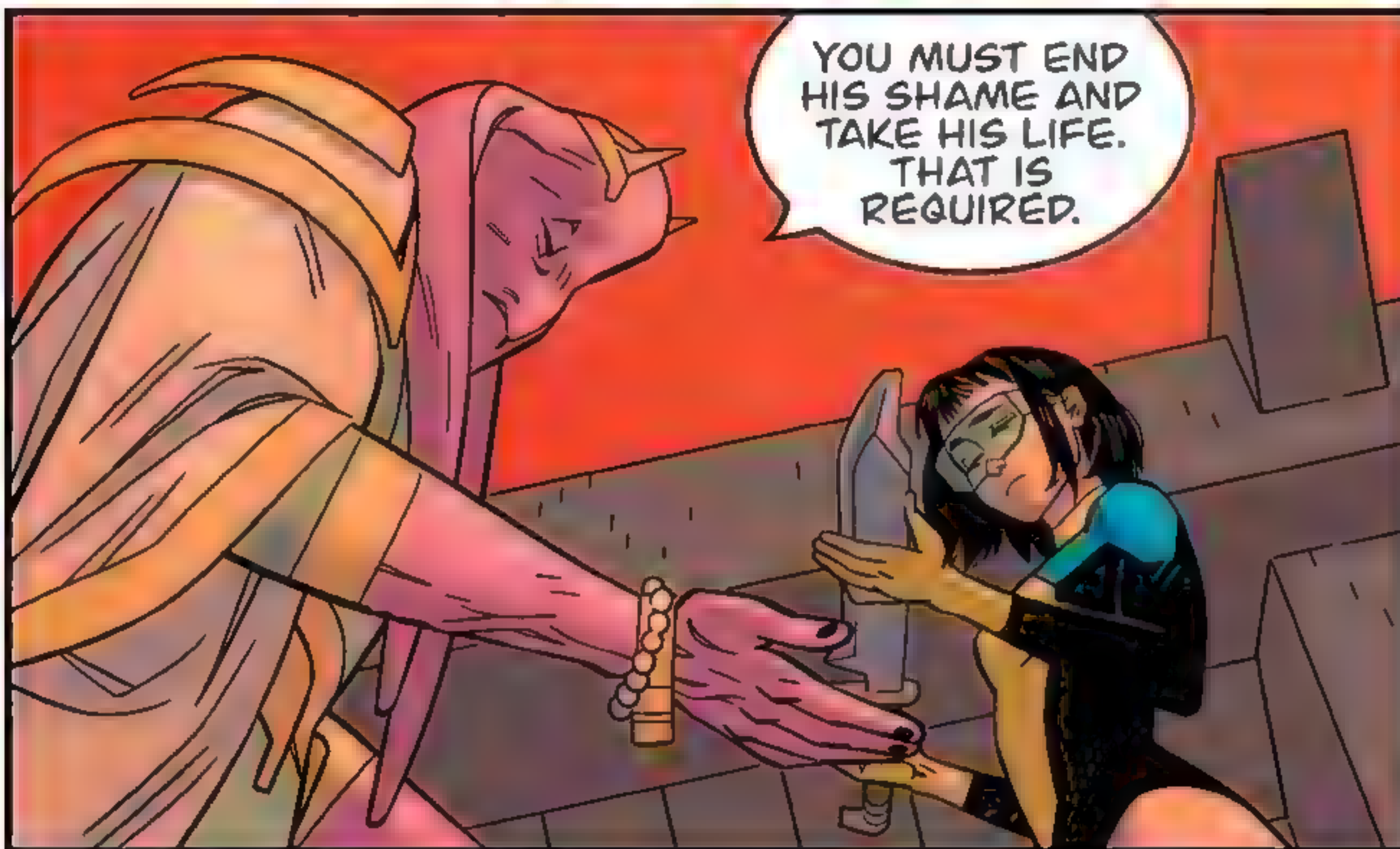




NO,
NO!

THIS IS
IMPOSSIBLE!

YOUR
CHAMPION
IS SO
SMALL...



YOU MUST END
HIS SHAME AND
TAKE HIS LIFE.
THAT IS
REQUIRED.



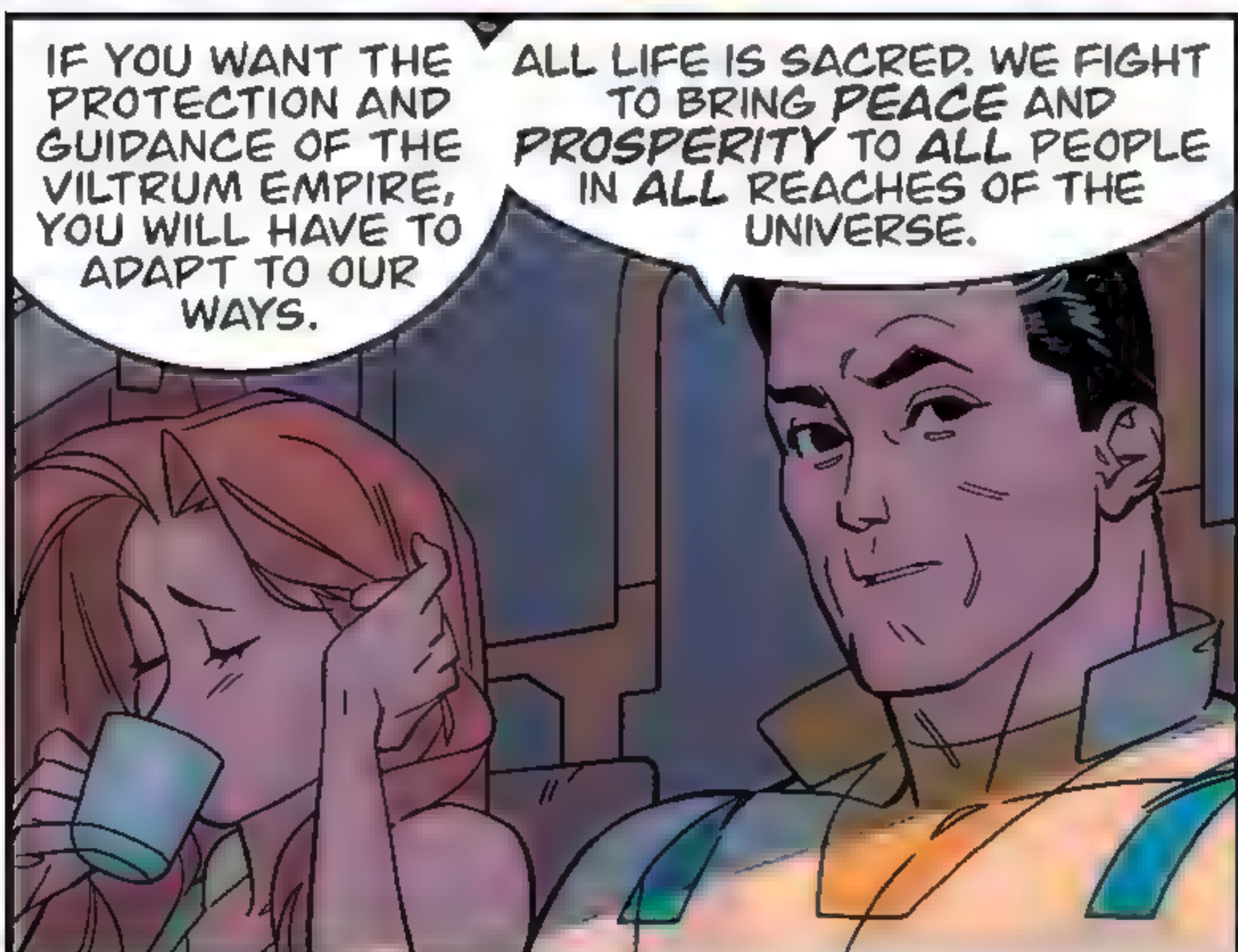
NO.



WHAT?!
SHE ALLOWS
HIM TO LIVE
IN SHAME?!

THIS IS AN
OUTRAGE!

IF YOU
WANT PEACE
BETWEEN OUR
PEOPLE, YOU
WILL FOLLOW
OUR WAYS AND
COMMAND YOUR
CHAMPION TO
KILL HIM AT
ONCE!



IF YOU WANT THE
PROTECTION AND
GUIDANCE OF THE
VILTRUM EMPIRE,
YOU WILL HAVE TO
ADAPT TO OUR
WAYS.

ALL LIFE IS SACRED. WE FIGHT
TO BRING PEACE AND
PROSPERITY TO ALL PEOPLE
IN ALL REACHES OF THE
UNIVERSE.



PEACE?!

THIS IS
WHAT WE
THINK OF
PEACE!





ALL?

ALL OF YOU HAVE THIS STRENGTH? HOW CAN THAT BE? WITH SUCH POWER, YOU COULD CONQUER THE KNOWN UNIVERSE WITH EASE.

YOU COULD RULE ALL THAT LIVE... AND YET... NOT ONLY HAVE YOU NOT DONE THIS, BUT YOU HAVE TREATED US AS **EQUALS** WHEN YOU COULD HAVE SIMPLY CONQUERED US AND **COMMANDED** US TO DO AS YOU WISH.



I'M SORRY FOR THE DISRESPECT I HAVE SHOWN YOU. PLEASE... PLEASE DO NOT KILL MY FAMILY, SPARE THEM...

...KILL ONLY ME.

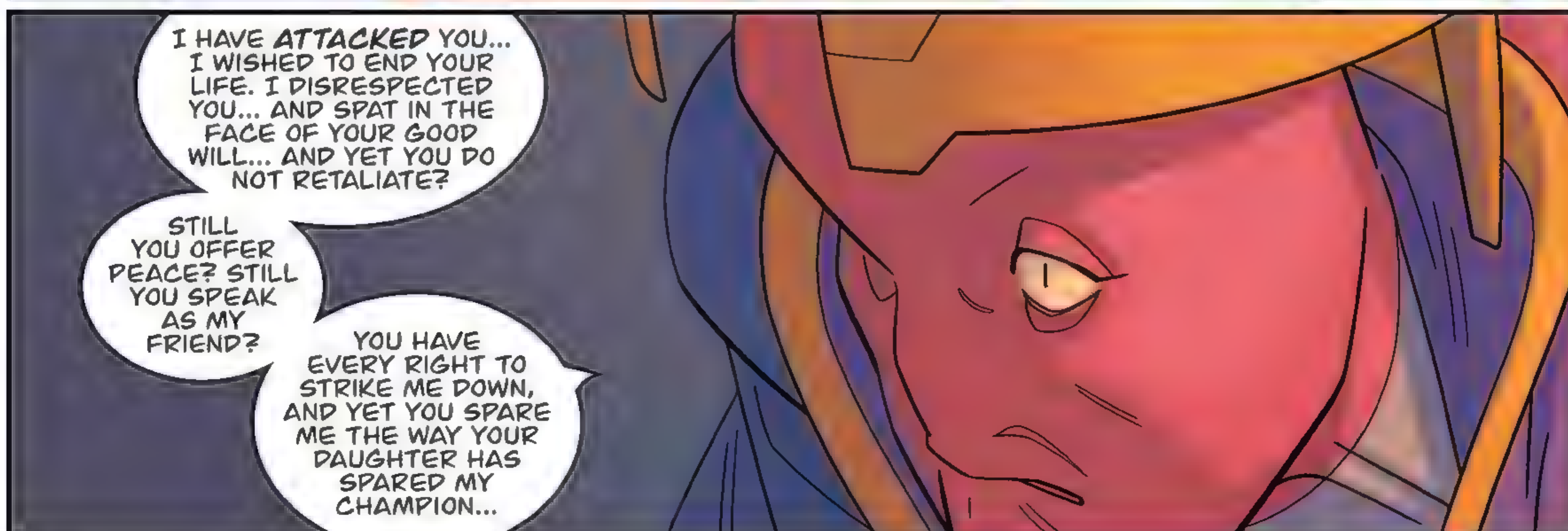
YOUR MAJESTY, PLEASE. **STAND**. THIS IS UNNECESSARY. I AM NOT GOING TO KILL YOU.



AGES AGO, MY PEOPLE WERE CONQUERORS. OUR RAGE AND FURY PROVE US TO ENSLAVE PLANET AFTER PLANET AS WE BUILT AN EMPIRE OF FEAR AND MISERY.

BUT WE GOT BETTER. WE TURNED AWAY FROM OUR RAGE AND SET OUT TO USE OUR STRENGTH FOR THE GOOD OF ALL.

WE ONLY WISH TO WORK TOGETHER WITH YOU TO IMPROVE THE LIVES OF YOU AND YOUR PEOPLE.



I HAVE **ATTACKED** YOU... I WISHED TO END YOUR LIFE. I DISRESPECTED YOU... AND SPAT IN THE FACE OF YOUR GOOD WILL... AND YET YOU DO NOT RETALIATE?

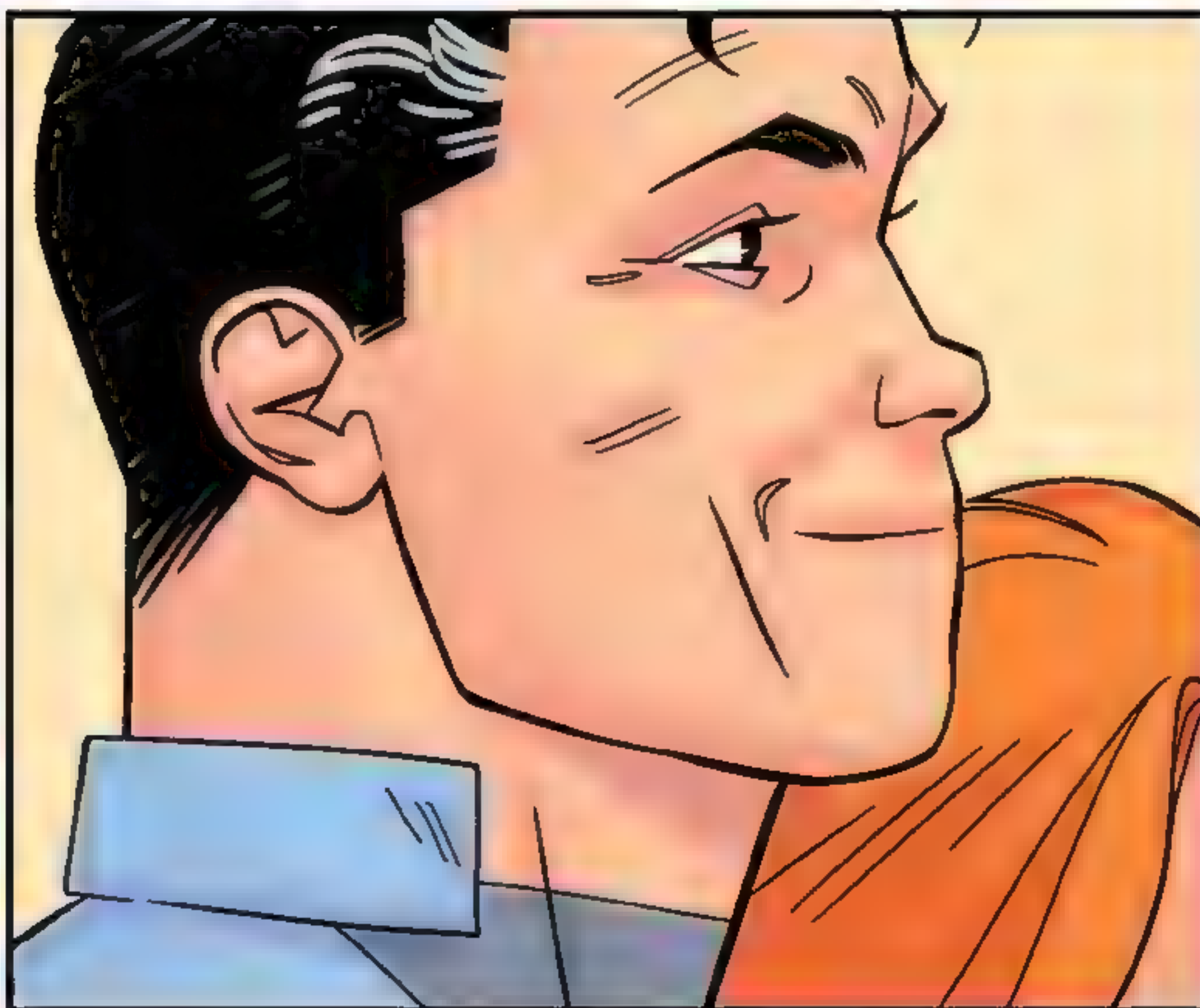
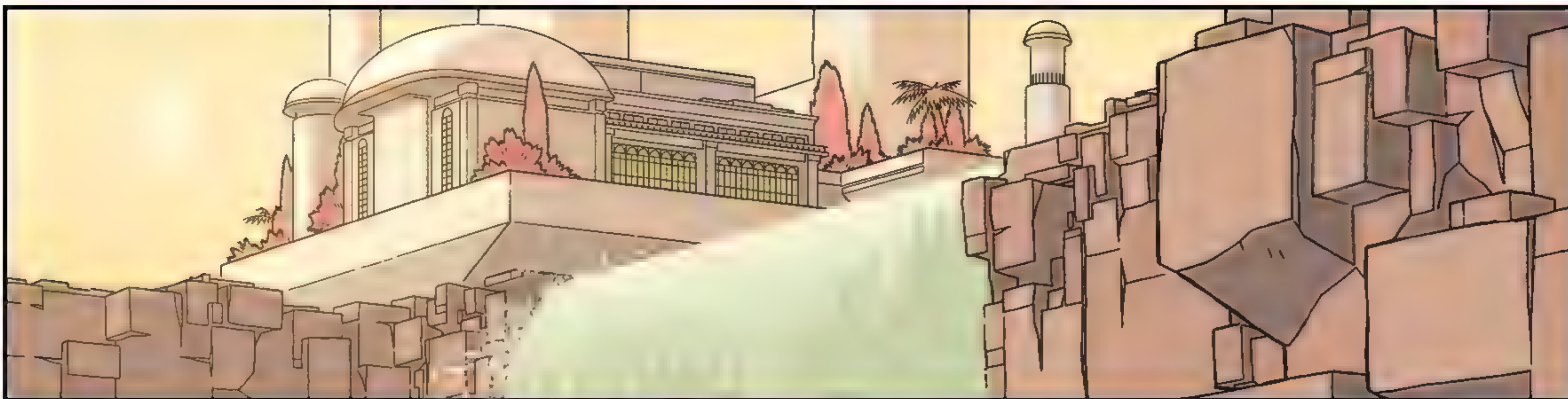
STILL YOU OFFER PEACE? STILL YOU SPEAK AS MY FRIEND?

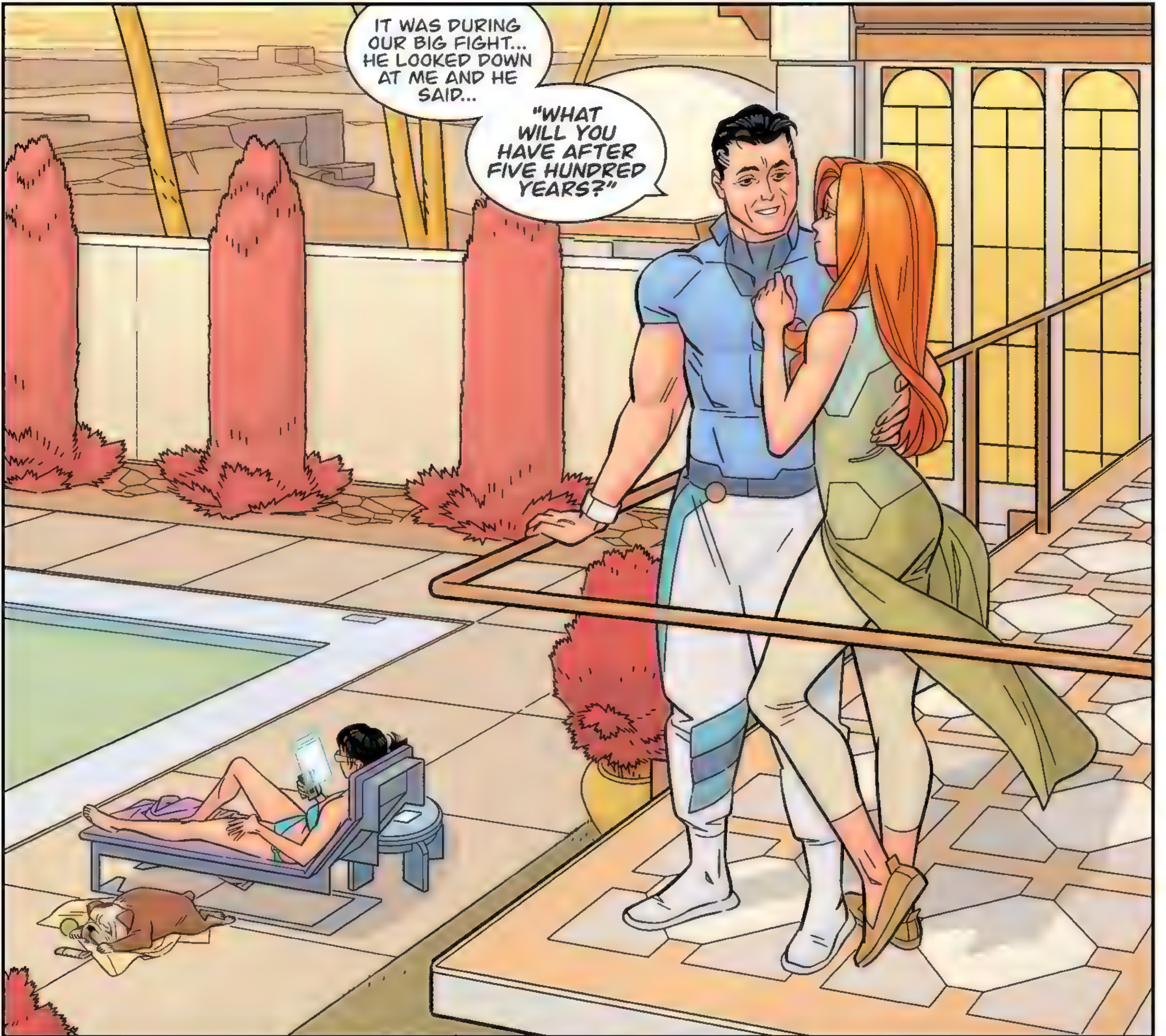
YOU HAVE EVERY RIGHT TO STRIKE ME DOWN, AND YET YOU SPARE ME THE WAY YOUR DAUGHTER HAS SPARED MY CHAMPION...

YES.

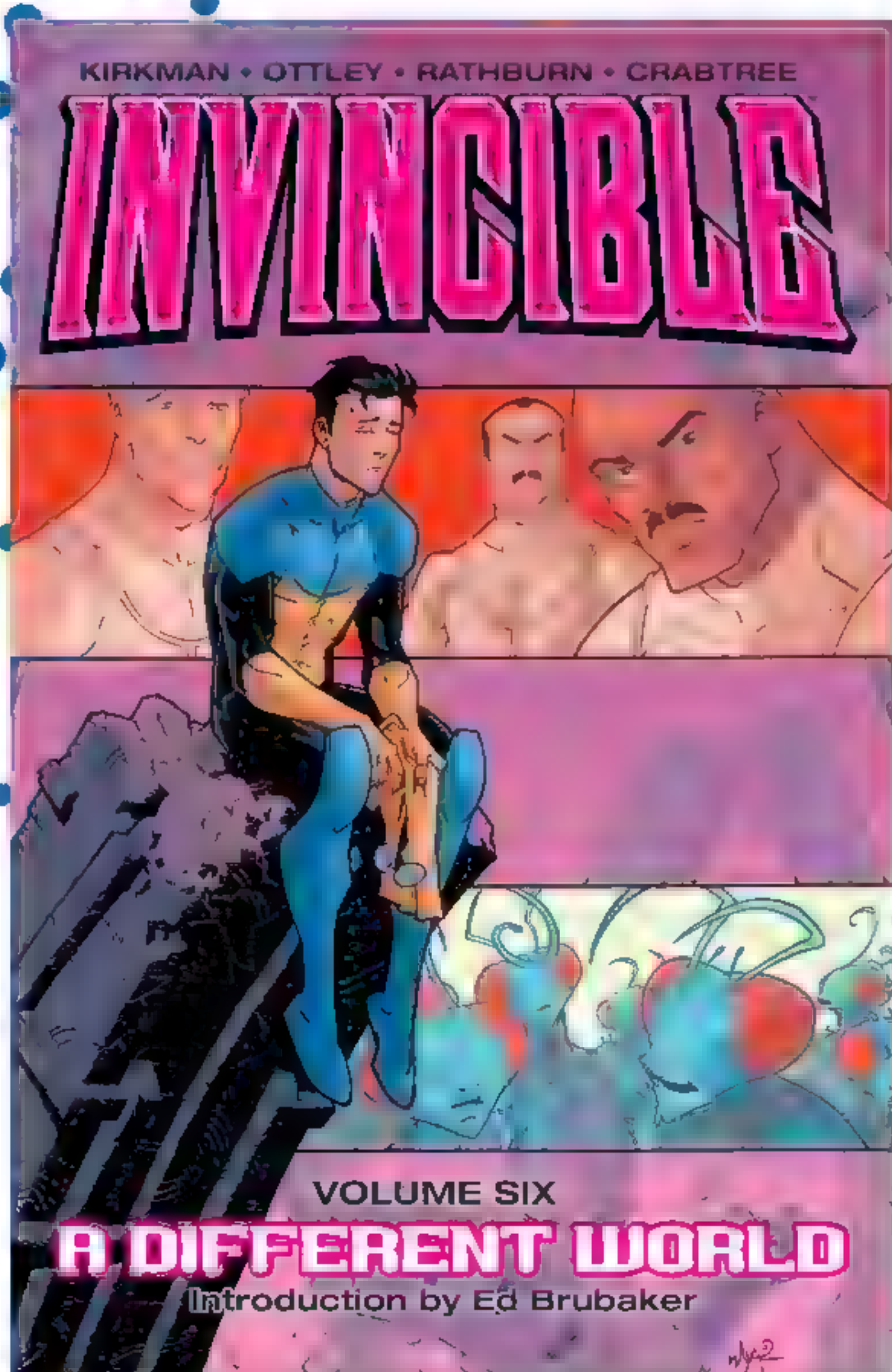
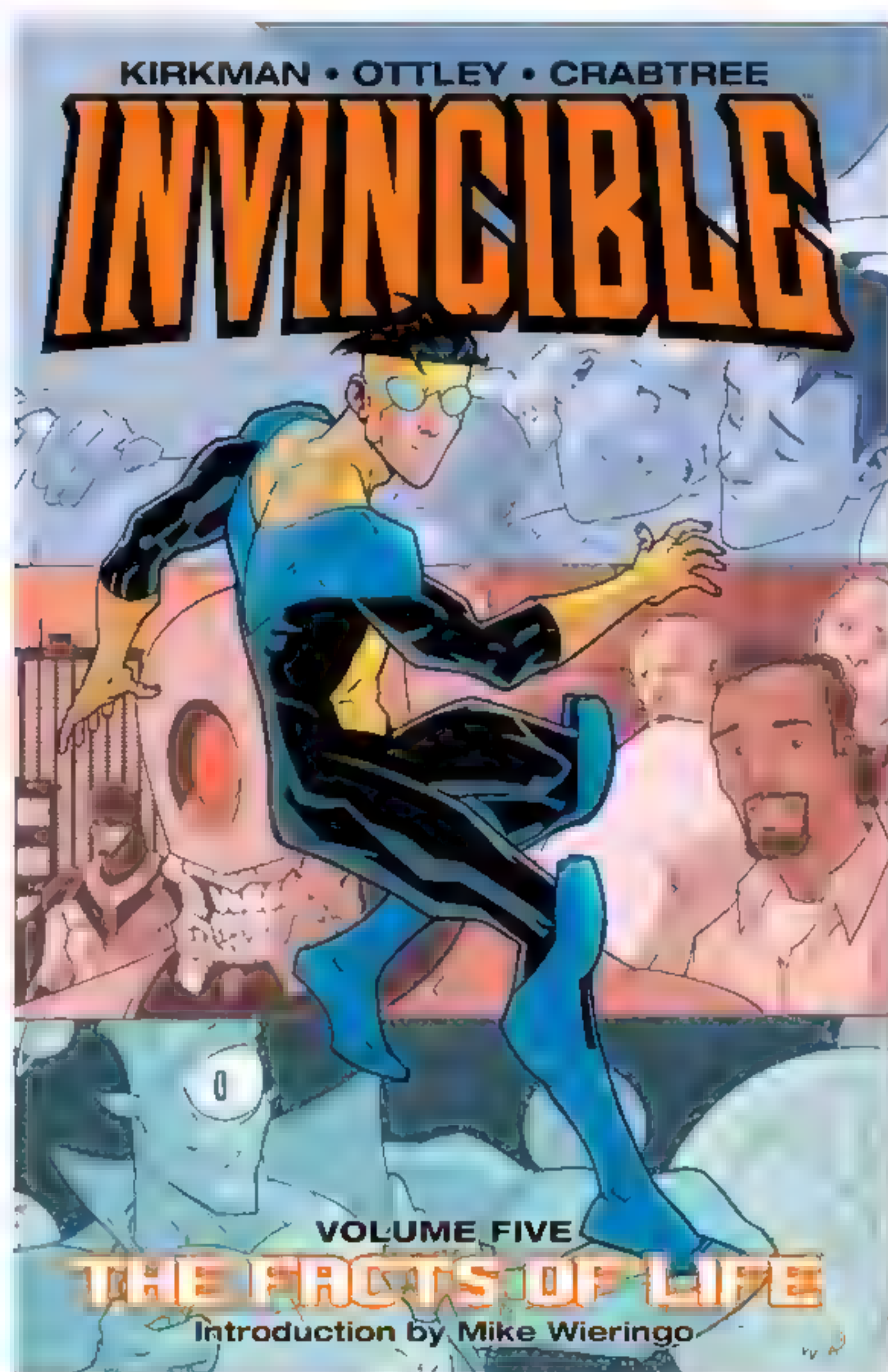
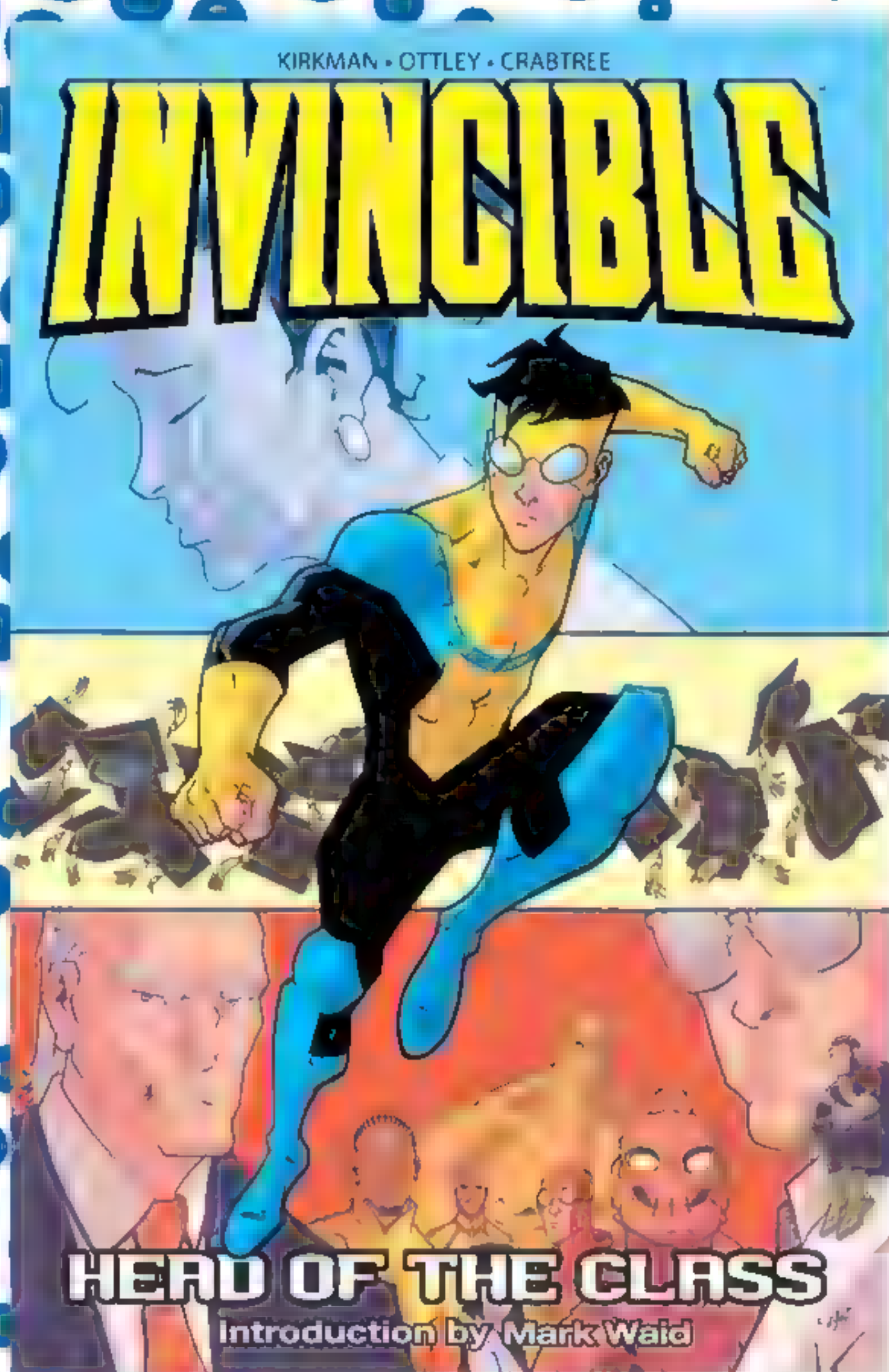
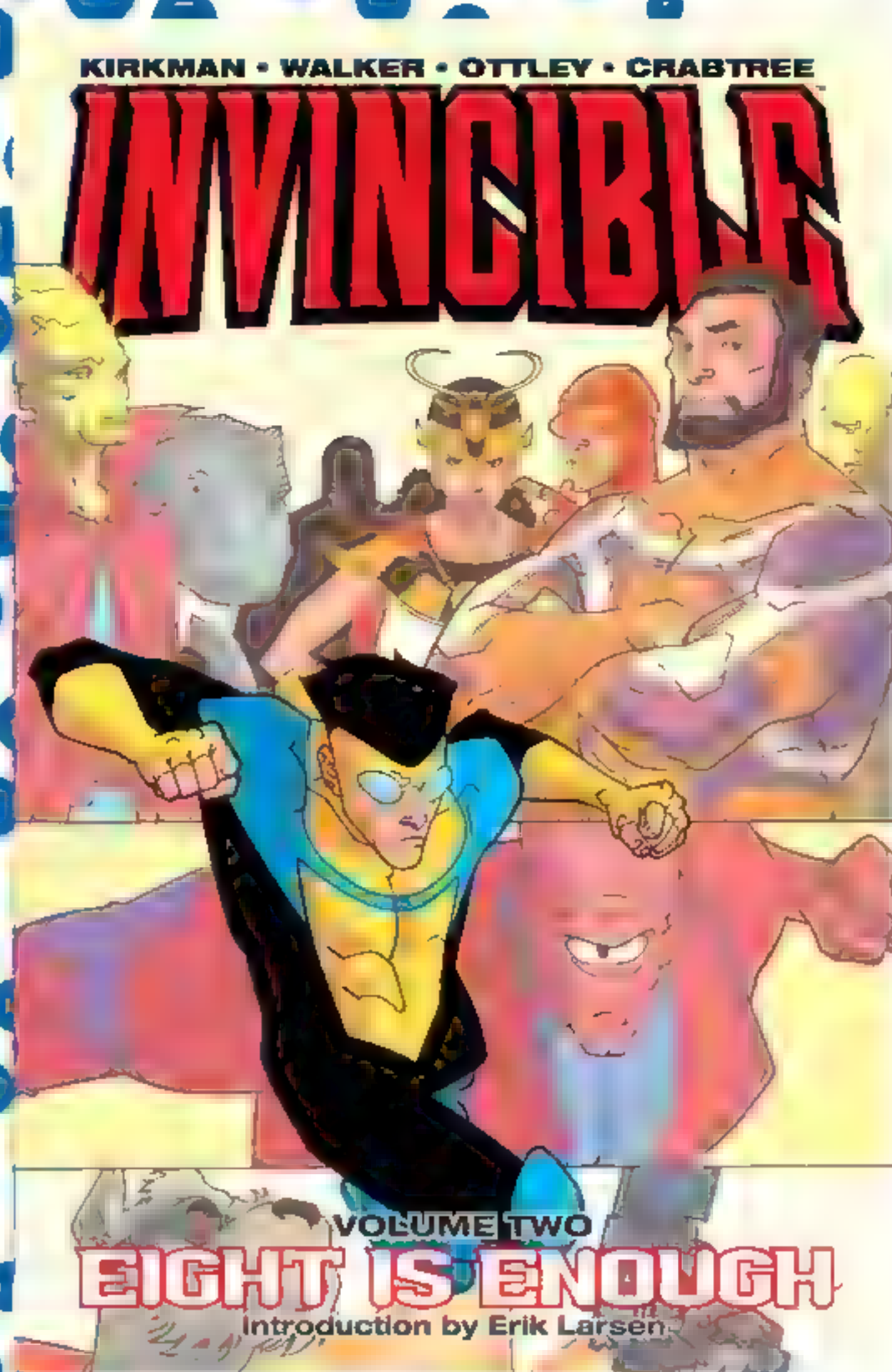
THAT
IS THE
VILTRUMITE
WAY.

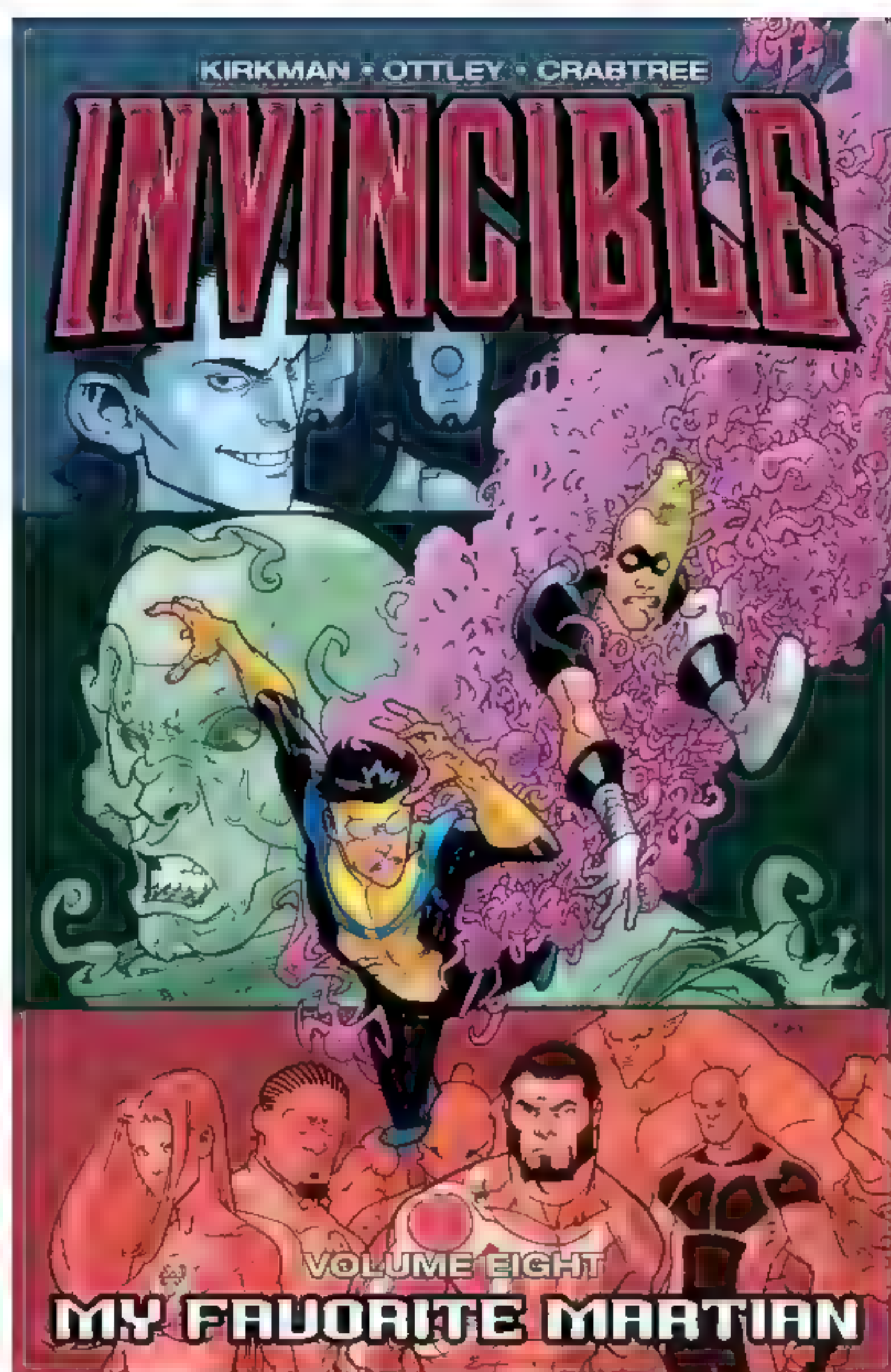


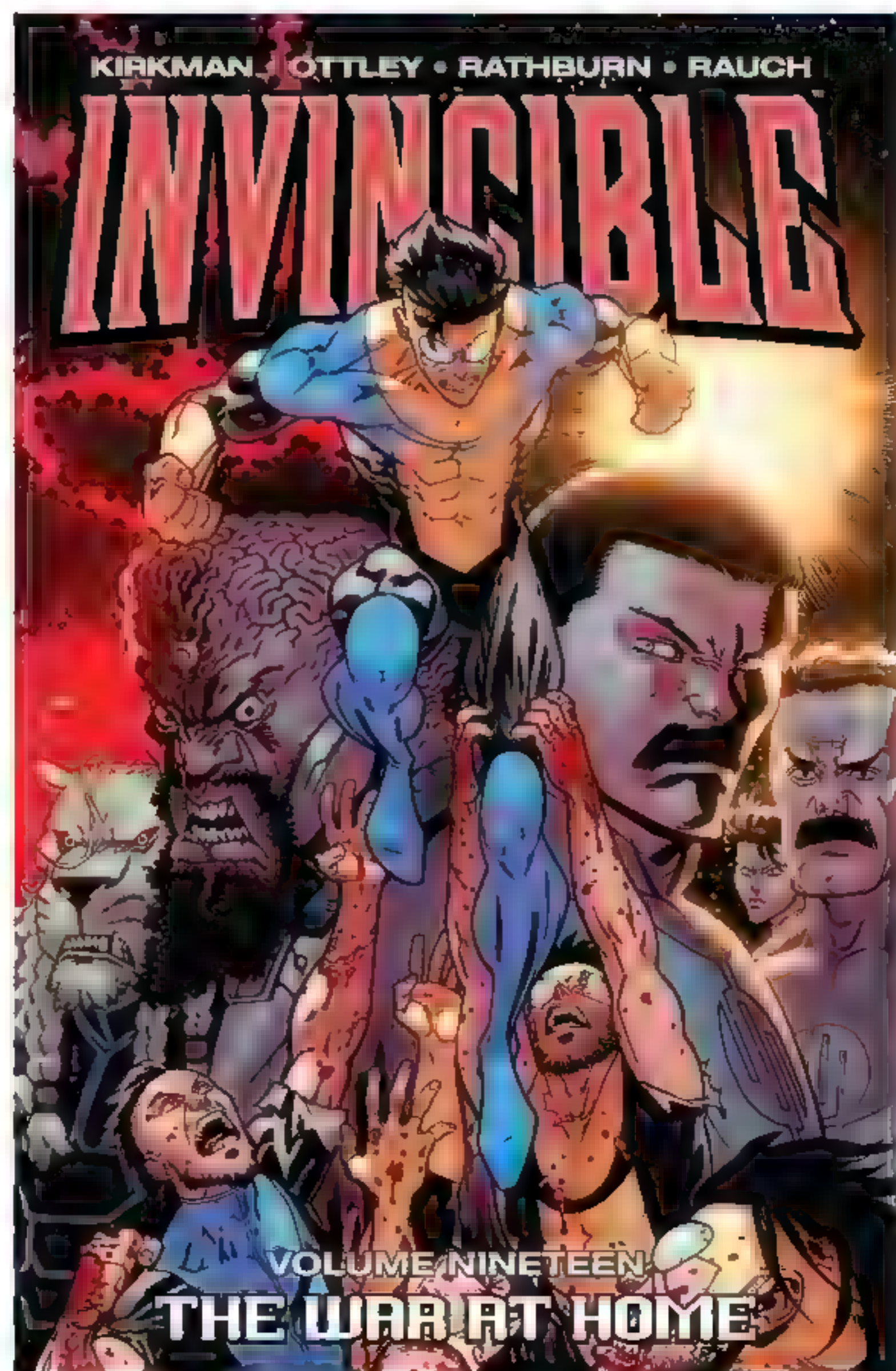
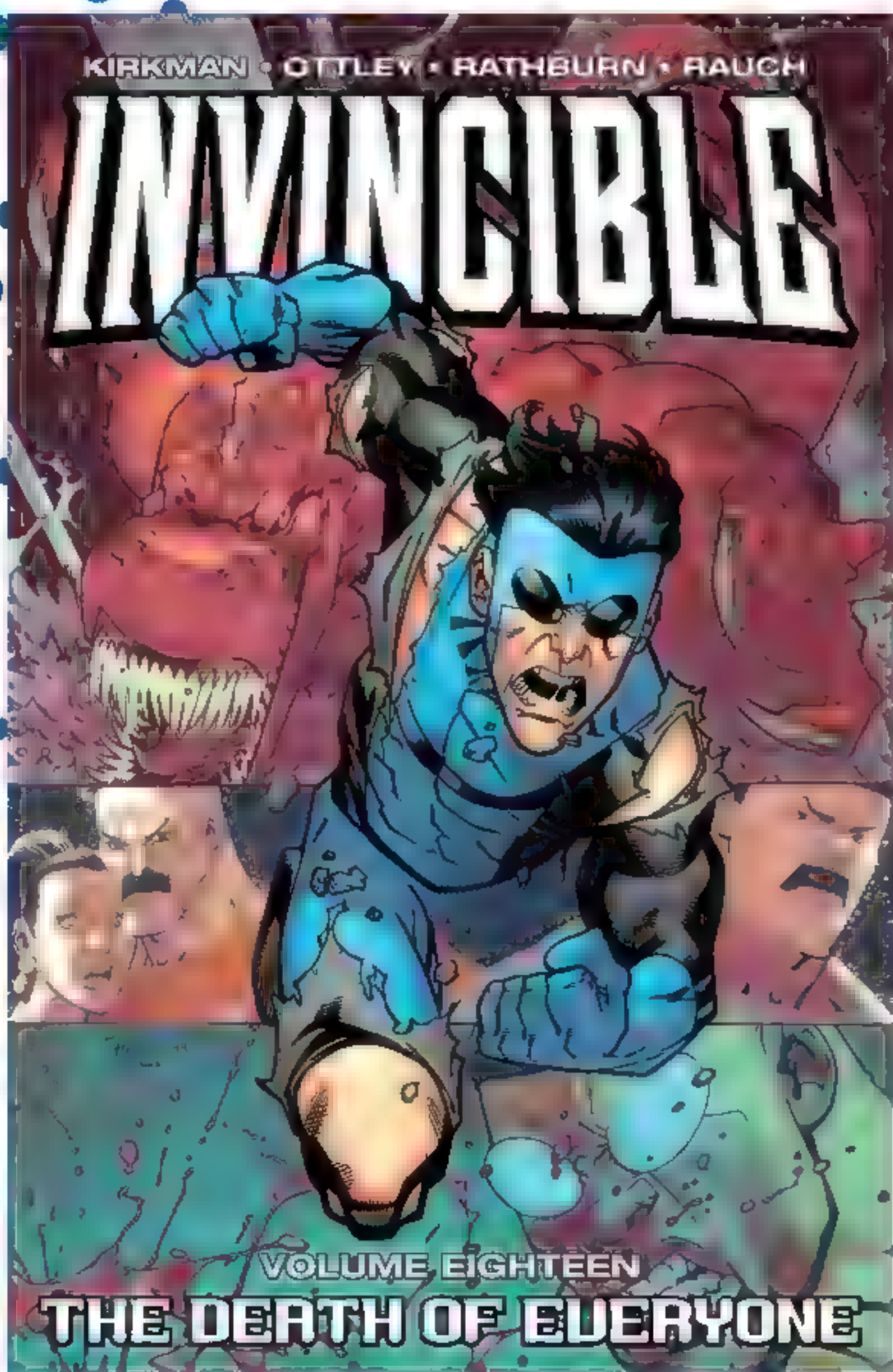
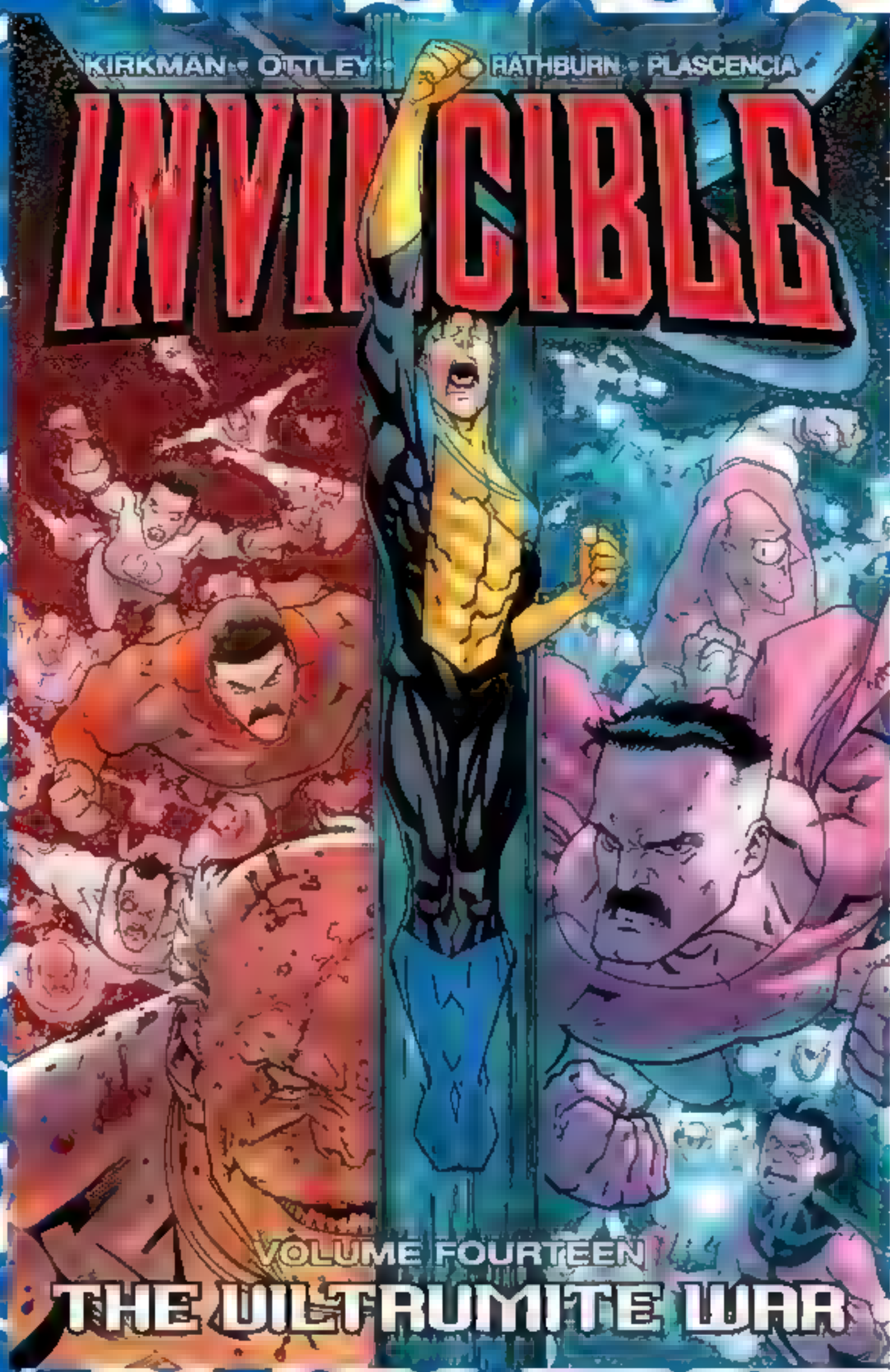


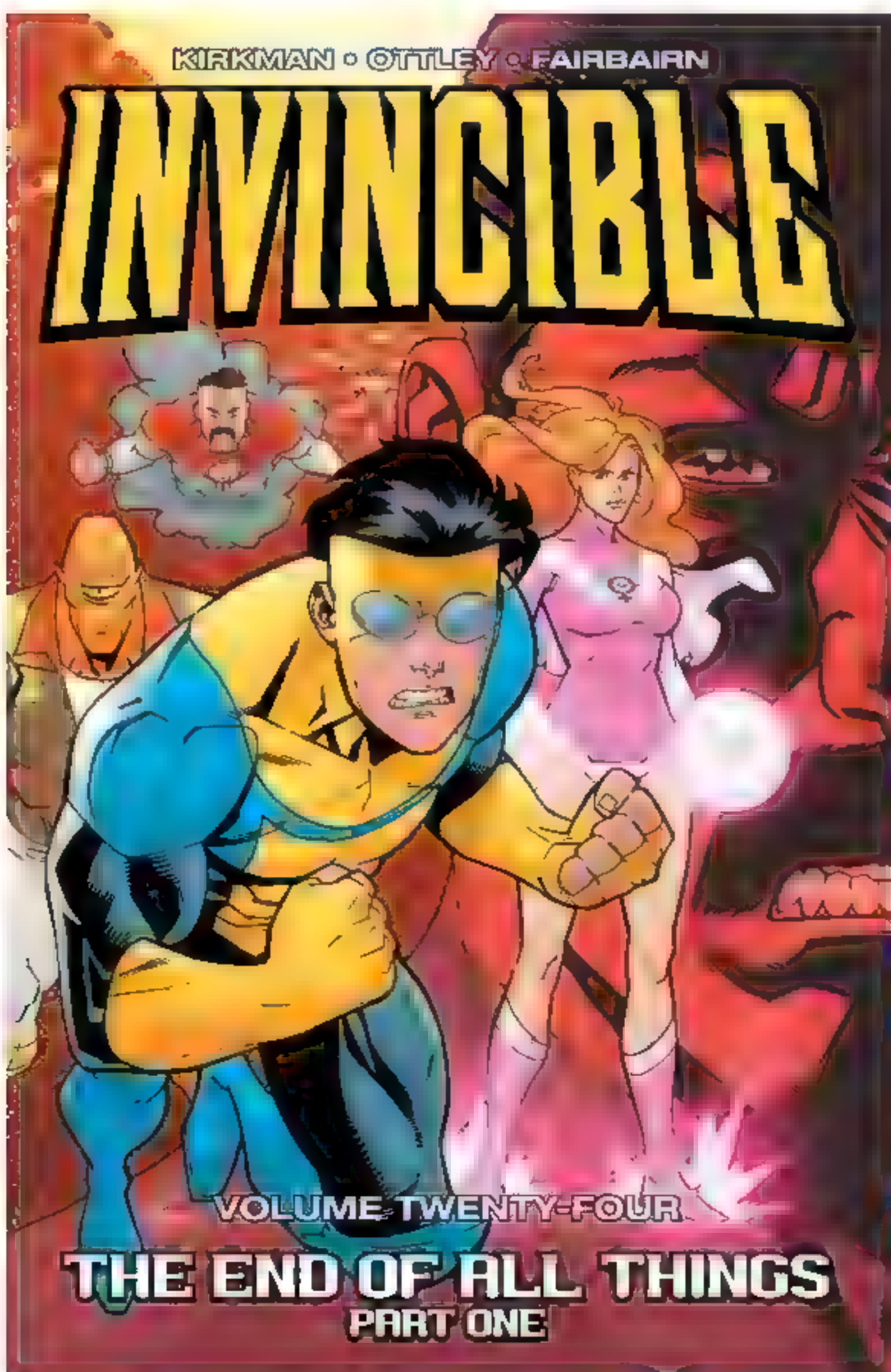












And there you have it, the end of INVINCIBLE. I hope it was everything everyone wanted. I know I'm satisfied with where we ended up.

When we started this series FIFTEEN years ago, I had high hopes that it would last a good, long time and be a memorable series, but I never could have imagined a fifteen-year, one hundred and forty-four issue run! You may not know this, but there was a time I was pretty sure issue #13 was going to be the last issue. Then, miraculously, sales on issue #12 spiked up a teeny tiny bit, and sales continued to spike until the book was healthy, and we were able to go as long as we wanted... which is, sadly, until now.

This series is everything I've ever loved about superhero comics crammed into one series. I think it's fulfilled that promise, and while there's certainly other things I love about superhero comics, I think our story is told. Mark Grayson radically changed his alien race from a warring scourge of the galaxy to the saviors of the galaxy. His story is told. His mission, that he didn't even fully realize he was on, has been completed... and he got to live happily ever after.

I wonder how many of you thought this series would end with everyone dying a horrible death?

It's been such a gift to be able to write this series for this long, to be allowed to explore this world fully, dig into these characters, and, y'know... torture them for as long as we have. I thank you for the YEARS of support you've given us. We could never have done this without you. This series is a dream come true for me, and I will never be able to thank you properly for allowing me to do it.

I want to thank Ryan and Cory for joining me on this journey. Cory, even though he didn't draw all the issues, was a continued presence, helping to guide things by designing new characters here and there, and griping at me when he didn't like where the story was going or whatever dumb thing I'd told him I was planning. Ryan has been the heart and soul of this book since issue #8. While I've spent the better part of a week out of every month writing scripts for this series... Ryan has been chained to a table slaving away non-stop for that entire time! He still managed to squeeze in some *Haunt*, a DC annual, *Space Grub*, *Grizzly Shark*, a bunch of covers, and a few odds and ends in that time. It's been remarkable seeing him grow into one of the best artists in comics in that time. This book would never have survived without Ryan pulling all of our weight.

I want to thank Cliff Rathburn for pitching in on inks for more than half of Ryan's issues. Cliff has long been my secret weapon, working on all kinds of Skybound books. Is it okay to reveal that Cliff will be working with Ryan on the project he has lined up for after this? I'm excited about it! It's going to be amazing! Also, big thanks to Mark Morales and Dexter Vines for helping out during this final run.

I want to thank the elite team of colorists who brought us here. Bill Crabtree, FCO Plascencia, Nikos Koutis, John Rauch, Jean-Francois Beaulieu and Nathan Fairbairn! Each one brought their own style and take to these characters, and

kept the book looking fresh and new as we marched through the years.

Rus Wooton! He's lettered this book since I threw in the towel after issue #13. (Lettering is hard, people.) It's a thankless job that doesn't get a lot of attention in comics, but it's oh-so essential, and Rus has become one of the best of the best in his field. You see his name in almost every great comic being published today. Thanks for lending your talents to this book for so long, Rus!

I'd like to thank Aubrey Sitterson, Sina Grace and, of course, the esteemed Mr. Sean Mackiewicz for stepping into the editor role when I got too big and important to keep track of all the behind the scenes stuff, and keeping the trains running on time. We definitely would have never made it this far without them.

Huge thanks to Eric Stephenson, Jim Valentino and Erik Larsen for helping this book land at Image Comics, giving it the platform it's had, and also for a ton of help and advice along the way. Jim Valentino, when I told him Omni-Man was going to kill the Guardians of the Globe in issue #25 and reveal that he's a bad guy, responded, "Move that up or there's not going to be an issue #25!" And when I told him I might be able to push it to issue #12, said, "Can you get it in issue #5?" And that got me to put it in issue #7. The series DEFINITELY wouldn't have made it to issue #25 if he hadn't done that. Thanks, Jim!

Erik Larsen deserves to be called out separately, as my love for Savage Dragon could be pointed to as my main source of inspiration for this comic. So, if you're reading this and haven't read that series, fix that! Erik also helped out with cover designs in the early days and talked me off a ledge or two more than once. He's been a great mentor, and if you're struggling to break into comics, he's a good friend to have.

Eric Stephenson remains, to this day, the best advocate for new ideas in comics. He championed this book from day one, and was also instrumental in helping a little-known zombie series find its audience. It's no wonder he's risen through the ranks to become the best publisher Image Comics has ever had.

Lastly, I'll thank David Alpert, my Skybound partner. He's been there since damn near day one, always pushing me to not suck. Without him, you wouldn't have all the cool upcoming INVINCIBLE non-comics stuff... like the movie we're currently developing at Universal with Seth Rogen and Evan Goldberg... or all the other stuff we haven't announced yet. This comic is most certainly NOT the end.

Also, a huge thank you to all the other people who got us here, but didn't leave enough of an impression (heh!) to get a thank you here in this column! I still love you. It was just an oversight. If it makes you feel better, you're one of the only people actually reading this.

—ROBERT KIRKMAN

ROBERT KIRKMAN is the creator of many popular comic books, including the Eisner Award-winning *THE WALKING DEAD*, *INVINCIBLE*, *SUPER DINOSAUR*, *OUTCAST BY KIRKMAN & AZACETA*, and *OBLIVION SONG*. In 2008, Kirkman became a partner at Image Comics, and in 2010, he opened Skybound, his own imprint at Image, which publishes his titles as well as other original work. That same year, he became a creator, executive producer and writer on *The Walking Dead* television show. Kirkman is also the executive producer of AMC's *Fear the Walking Dead* and Cinemax's *Outcast*.

Starting with issue #8, **RYAN OTTLEY** has not only made *INVINCIBLE* his home, but he has made it his own as well. For years, the artist has joined forces with Robert Kirkman in detailing the ongoing adventures of young Mark Grayson. Not only is Ottley a talented storyteller, but he also boasts an unparalleled work ethic. He's drawn over 100 issues of *INVINCIBLE*, becoming one of the best artists in the business, while still having time to create *Sea Bear & Grizzly Shark* with Jason Howard.

The co-creator of *INVINCIBLE*, **CORY WALKER** was also the series' original artist, drawing issues #1-7 and setting the tone for the title. Since then, he's drawn for Marvel and DC Entertainment, including issues of *Marvel Team-Up*, *The Irredeemable Ant-Man*, *Punisher War Journal*, and *Shadowpact*, in addition to drawing the critically acclaimed *Destroyer MAX*, alongside writer Robert Kirkman. Walker has never forgotten his creation however, and has contributed frequent guest spots on *INVINCIBLE* issues, covers and back-ups.

CLIFF RATHBURN began inking *Invincible* with #52. He also works on *THE WALKING DEAD*, *SUPER DINOSAUR* and *GREEN VALLEY* for Skybound, and created, wrote and illustrated *Reaper* for Image Comics.

A longtime comics pro, **MARK MORALES** has worked for many companies including Image, Dark Horse, Chaos, DC Comics and Marvel Comics, mostly as an inker. Past projects from him include *Thor*, *Daredevil*, *Batman*, *X-Men*, *Justice League*, *Avengers vs X-Men*, *Spider-Man/Deadpool* and *Astonishing X-Men*. Currently he is working on *The Avengers* for Marvel Comics.

JOHN RAUCH is an American comic book colorist whose credits include *INVINCIBLE*, *The Darkness*, *Teen Titans: Year One*, *Patsy Walker: Hellcat*, and a bunch of other stuff not worth bragging about. He enjoys speaking about himself in the third person and pretending he is more talented and relevant than he really is in order to help fight off bouts of depression.

JEAN-FRANCOIS BEAULIEU is a Canadian comic book colorist whose credits include *INVINCIBLE*, *GREEN VALLEY*, *KILL THE MINOTAUR*, *Rocket Raccoon*, Marvel's *Oz* series, and *I Hate Fairyland*.

NATHAN FAIRBAIRN is an award-winning colorist whose work on titles such as *Scott Pilgrim*, *Batman Incorporated*, and *Wonder Woman: Earth One* has frequently topped the New York Times Best Sellers list. He is the writer and co-creator of *Lake of Fire*, available now from Image Comics.

Anyone who looks at the credits of their favorite comic books is likely familiar with the name **RUS WOOTON**. With his work on *INVINCIBLE*, *THE WALKING DEAD*, *OUTCAST BY KIRKMAN & AZACETA*, *Black Science*, *Manhattan Projects* and more, a case could easily be made for Wooton being the go-to letterer for creator-owned comics.

SEAN MACKIEWICZ is the Editor-in-Chief of Skybound Entertainment. Choosing his favorite title to work on is like picking your favorite child...if all your children were covered in blood.



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